September 23, 2013

## **Community and Media Update**

Coalmont Energy Corp. and Triton Environmental Consultants have been in discussions with Ministry of Environment staff regarding the September 8 Action Plan. After a review and follow up discussions with Triton, the Ministry of Environment approved the Action Plan.

As part of the Action Plan, Polaris Applied Science, one of the leading expert firms in North America on shoreline cleanup techniques, has recommended that the silt in Collin's Gulch that has been captured behind the temporary silt control dams, silt fences, and in locations along the gulch be removed using vacuum trucks. This work is scheduled to take place on September 23. Polaris' analysis of the Tulameen River identified the extent of the impacted area to be 580 metres from the confluence of Collin's Gulch. They further identified that the sediment has already experienced significant effects from water movement and that "natural dispersion processes are active". It is their further recommendation that the sediment is "best left to the processes of natural attenuation".

Triton staff continues field analysis at numerous locations along Collin's Gulch and the Tulameen and Similkameen Rivers collecting various water, fish, soil, and habit samples. It is expected that field work will continue over the next few weeks while laboratory tests are being conducted and results coming back over the next few months. The Environmental Impact Assessment is extremely comprehensive and testing and analysis will continue into the fall of 2014.

Coalmont has worked closely with the Ministry of Energy and Mines to address the concerns identified by the Chief Inspector of Mines. Eight orders were issued by the Chief Inspector, including a professional engineer's review of the water impoundment structures and an investigation study into the events leading up to the spill event. Coalmont began working on these items immediately and provided the Chief Inspector with reports and various other required documents. Ministry of Energy and Mines staff reviewed the submitted documentation, requested some clarification and additional information, and will be conducting a site visit this week and has advised Coalmont Energy Corp. that the submitted documents comply in most respects to the intent of the Orders. Coalmont Energy Corp. is anticipating Ministry of Energy and Mines approval for re-start of operations this week and once that approval is received Coalmont will be able to finalize the requirements for the resumption of full mine operations.

Coalmont is committed in its efforts to work effectively and collaboratively with provincial ministries, local community members, First Nations, and all other stakeholder groups.

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