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File: 30200-20/RUCP-05-08

Ref: 99861

April 26, 2010

Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Island Trust Council
200-1627 Fort St.
Victoria BC V8R 1H8

Dear Ms. Malcolmson:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 2010, addressed to the Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier, the Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and the Honourable John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action regarding the proposed Raven Underground Coal Project (proposed Project). Your letter was forwarded to me by the Honourable John Yap, Minister of State for Climate Action as the proposed Project is currently undergoing an environmental assessment (EA) as required by the *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) works with federal, provincial, local governments and First Nations to find ways to avoid, mitigate or compensate for potential effects such as those identified in your email.

The proposed Project is in the pre-Application stage of the EA process and Compliance Coal Corporation (Proponent) is currently drafting their Application Information Requirements (AIR). The draft AIR document sets out the information, such as baseline studies and the assessment methodology for potential air quality impacts, which will be required in their application for an EA Certificate.

On March 5, 2010, the EAO issued a section 11 Order under the *Environmental Assessment Act* for the proposed Project. This Order established the formal scope, procedures and methods concerning the proposed Project's EA, and included the specification of a 40 day public comment period for the proposed Project's draft AIR document. We have posted this Order on our electronic Project Information Centre (e-PIC) on our website at www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

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During the public comment period on the draft AIR document, EAO will provide the draft AIR to the public, hold open houses in nearby communities, and request public comments on the draft AIR. If you have concerns about the proposed Project, I encourage you to submit them to EAO during EAO's public comment period so that they can be considered during the EA of the proposed Project.

There will also be a formal public comment period on the Proponent's Application for an EA Certificate if it is accepted for review by the EAO.

The EAO is committed to conducting a thorough EA for the proposed Project. To stay current with the EA of the proposed Project, I recommend that you sign up for EAO's RSS feed on its website or periodically check EAO's website for updates. If you have any further questions about the EA process or the EA of this proposed Project, please contact me at 250-387-2174 or Rachel.Shaw@gov.bc.ca or contact Andrei Whitaker at 250-387-2206 or Andrei.Whitaker@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Shaw". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Rachel Shaw
Project Assessment Manager

cc: Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier

Honourable Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Honourable John Yap
Minister of State for Climate Action