

# Notice

**NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS  
COALSPUR MINES (OPERATIONS) LTD.  
VISTA COAL PROJECT  
MCLEOD RIVER COALFIELD, HINTON AREA**

**ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD  
APPLICATION NO. 1726915, 1726923, 1726927**

**ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
*ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT*  
APPLICATION NO. 001-301345  
WATER ACT FILE NO. 00311965  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB/Board) has received Applications No. 1726915, 1726923, and 1726927 and Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) has received *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* Application No. 001-301345 and *Water Act* File No. 00311965 (collectively the “Applications”) from Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd. (Coalspur) for approval of the proposed Vista Coal Project. This notice is to advise interested parties that the Applications are available for viewing and that the ERCB, ESRD, and other government departments are now undertaking a review of the Applications and associated environmental impact assessment (EIA).

## **Description of the Project**

Coalspur has proposed the construction and operation of a surface coal mine known as the Vista Coal Project (the Project) in the Hinton area of Alberta. The Project would be located in portions of townships 050-23, 051-22, 051-23, and 051-24, all West of the 5th Meridian, over a proposed permit area of about 5 995 hectares (ha). Coalspur is the permittee and approval holder of the following, which were previously approved:

- ERCB Coal Mine Permit No. C2011-5, which modified and replaced Coal Mine Permit No. C82-60 and designated the McPherson Creek Mine No. 1815;
- ERCB Coal Processing Plant Approval No. C2011-3, which modified and replaced Coal Processing Plant Approval No. C82-2 and designated Coal Processing Plant No. 8.

The existing aforementioned permit and approval would each be amended by the applications listed below. In addition, new pit and dump licenses would be required in order to conduct mining activities.

The mine location has not previously produced marketable coal, but Coalspur plans to sell 5 million tonnes of thermal coal per year to overseas and domestic markets. Mining is proposed to

be completed by both truck/shovel and dragline methods for a 20-year mine life. Much of the applied-for area does not affect other public facilities, but a permit extension is required for a coal conveyor to cross Highway 16 to the CN rail line. Further mine development has not been applied for, but planning is underway for continuing this proposed Project and developing other projects in the vicinity.

**Coalspur has prepared and submitted the following:**

- Applications No. 1726915, 1726923, and 1726927 to the ERCB, pursuant to
  - Sections 13 and 21 of the *Coal Conservation Act* and Section 5 of the *Coal Conservation Regulations*, for a coal mine permit to construct, operate, and reclaim a coal mine and associated infrastructure;
  - Section 11 of the *Coal Conservation Act* and Section 8 of the *Coal Conservation Regulations* for coal mine licenses to construct, operate, and reclaim pits and dumps;
  - Section 23 of the *Coal Conservation Act* and Sections 14 and 17 of the *Coal Conservation Regulations* for a coal processing plant approval to construct and operate a plant and associated infrastructure for Coalspur's Project, described above.
- Application No. 001-301345 to ESRD, under Part 2, Division 2, and Section 66 of the *EPEA*, for an *EPEA* approval for the construction, operation, and reclamation of Coalspur's Project. The proposed Project requires about 2 649 ha of disturbance. Soil material would be conserved for reclamation. The disturbed areas would be reclaimed to primary production forest, wildlife habitat, and riparian features, including one end pit lake feature with a total area of about 318 ha, and 13 pond and wetland features with an area of about 33 ha.
- An application under File No. 00311965 to ESRD, pursuant to Sections 36 and 49 of the *Water Act*, for:
  - approval to construct water management works required for the construction, operation, and reclamation of Coalspur's Project, including settling ponds and other water storage facilities/dams, drainage ditches, stream realignment and flow augmentation, end pit lakes, and the removal of wetlands;
  - a licence for the diversion of up to 422 050 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of surface water annually for industrial purposes from various points within the mine Project boundary; and
  - a licence for the diversion of up to 2 679 500 m<sup>3</sup> of groundwater annually for industrial purposes from groundwater dewatering wells and other water supply wells within the mine project boundary. The wells will be up to 350 metres in depth.
- An EIA report associated with the above applications. The EIA forms part of the application to the ERCB.

**To obtain a copy of the applications,** contact

Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd.

114 Jasper Avenue

Hinton, Alberta T7V 1X5

Attention: Curtis Brinker, RPF  
 Telephone 780-865-7955  
 E-mail: community@coalspur.com  
 Website: www.coalspur.com (for link to electronic version of applications)

**To view a copy of the Applications, EIA, and supporting documents, contact**

ERCB Information Services Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4 Telephone: 403-297-8311 (Option 2) (toll free: 1-855-297-8311) Viewing hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Alberta Government Library Great West Life Building 6th Floor, 9920 – 108 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4 Telephone: 780-427-5870 (toll free: 780-310-0000)
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**Copies of the Applications are also available for viewing at**

Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd. #880 – 550 11 Avenue SW Calgary, Alberta T2R 1M7 Attention: David Leslie, P. Eng. Vice President, Corporate Development Telephone: 403-261-9971 Fax: 403-767-6378 E-mail: dleslie@coalspur.com	Alberta Environment, Central Region Suite 1, 250 Diamond Avenue Spruce Grove, AB T7X 4C7 Telephone: 780-960-8600
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Hinton Public Library 803 Switzer Drive Hinton, Alberta T7V 1V1 Telephone: 780-865-2363 Fax: 780-865-4292	Edson Public Library 4726 – 8 Avenue Edson, Alberta T7E 1S8 Telephone: 780-723-6691 Fax: 780-723-9728
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**To File a Statement of Concern**

Under Section 73 of *EPEA* and Section 109 of the *Water Act*, any person who may be directly affected by the *EPEA* application or the *Water Act* application may submit a written statement of concern. Statements of concern under the *EPEA* and *Water Act* must be submitted by **September 24, 2012**. Please quote Application No. 001-301345 (*EPEA*) or File No. 00311965 (*Water Act*) when submitting a statement of concern. If no statements of concern are received, the *EPEA* and *Water Act* applications may be approved without further notice. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeal Board.

Please submit statements of concern to

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development  
 Regulatory Approvals Centre  
 Main floor, Oxbridge Place  
 9820 – 106 Street  
 Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6  
 Attention: Director, Northern Region

Telephone: 780-427-6311

Fax: 780-422-0154

The ERCB also receives and reviews statements of concern sent to ESRD. Once reviewed, the ERCB may register a statement of concern as an objection to the ERCB applications for the Project, depending on the nature of the concerns expressed and further correspondence with the concerned party. Any interested party can file a separate objection with the ERCB if its concerns with the Project only relate to the ERCB applications. The filing deadline stated above does not apply to objections to be filed with the ERCB, unless stated otherwise in a notice or other direction of the ERCB.

### **Applications for Confidentiality**

Section 13 of the *Energy Resources Conservation Board Rules of Practice (Rules of Practice)*, Section 35(1) of the *EPEA*, and Section 15(1) of the *Water Act (Ministerial) Regulation*, require that all documents filed in respect of this proceeding be placed on the public record. However, any party may apply for confidentiality of information. For the ERCB, any application under Section 13(2) of the *Rules of Practice* must be copied to the other parties to the proceeding. For the purposes of ESRD, such requests can be filed according to Section 35(4) of the *EPEA* and Section 15(4) of the *Water Act (Ministerial) Regulation*.

### **For information about ERCB procedures, contact**

Oil Sands and Coal Branch  
Coal and Major Applications Section  
Attention: Curtis Evans, Coal Geologist  
Telephone: 403-297-8386  
E-mail: [curtis.evans@ercb.ca](mailto:curtis.evans@ercb.ca)

Issued at Calgary, Alberta, on August 13, 2012.

ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD  
Patricia M. Johnston, Q.C., General Counsel