



United States Department of State

*Washington, D. C. 20520*

February 23, 2007

Mr. Garry Alexander  
Director, Strategic Policy and Planning  
Environmental Assessment Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 836 Yates Street  
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 0V1  
CANADA

**Re: U.S. Government Comment on the Draft Terms of Reference for  
the Environmental Assessment of the Lodgepole Coal Mine Project**

Dear Mr. Alexander:

Thank you for this opportunity for the Government of the United States to comment on the Draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessment of the Lodgepole Coal Mine and for your extension of time to file our comments until February 28, 2007. We also appreciate your inclusion of various regional U.S. Government representatives in working group meetings on the project.

For a number of months, the State of Montana and regional U.S. government agency representatives have expressed to the officials of British Columbia serious concerns about the environmental impact of this project on the North Fork of the Flathead and on Flathead Lake. The North Fork of the Flathead forms the western border of Glacier National Park, and the Flathead basin is an area of unique and internationally recognized environmental importance.

As your office reviews the draft terms of reference, the United States urges you to weigh carefully the environmental and socioeconomic impact that the proposed mining project could have on both sides of the border, as well as to assess its consistency with the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 and the Canada - United States Air Quality Agreement.

We believe that significant adverse environmental effects may occur in the United States should the Cline Mining Company project move forward as proposed. These merit consideration of the transboundary impacts of the project. Some of these potential impacts are identified in the attached comments prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior.

The United States will continue to pursue this matter both with your office and through discussions with Canadian federal authorities.

We would be grateful if you would forward copies of the Application and other public documents relevant to the environmental assessment of the proposed project, when available, to the following U.S. Government officials in Washington, in addition to those U.S. Government officials already participating in your working groups. If possible, we would prefer to receive the relevant documents via email attachments.

Department of State:

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Sincerely,



Edward Alex Lee  
Director  
Office of Canadian Affairs

Attachments:

- a) US EPA Letter of February 22, 2007
- b) Dept. of Interior Letter of February 21, 2007

cc: Mr. Tobias Nussbaum  
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