



309B Macleod Trail SW
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May 19, 2021

ACTION REQUIRED

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

VIA E-MAIL

Sturgeon County
Ms. Alanna Hnatiw
9613 - 100 Street
Morinville, AB T8R 1L9
Email: sturgeonmail@sturgeoncounty.ca

Attention: Mayor Alanna Hnatiw & Members of Council

RE: Proposed Alberta Coal Restriction Policy

Dear Your Worship & Members of Council:

Your input on the future of the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies is important to the long-term health of our water resources and their ability to provide clean drinking water to all communities in the Province. The Town of High River remains concerned about the negative impacts coal mining will have on our communities, landscapes, water resources, and future generations. We are requesting your support for our version of a new policy that reflects our desire to protect the Eastern Slopes and our water resources in perpetuity.

The Town of High River has met with the Coal Policy Committee and agreed to prepare a framework that would see coal exploration and development banned along the Eastern Slopes. At our May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting, Council unanimously supported the wording outlined below and we are requesting all Alberta Municipalities join us in supporting the proposed policy.

Specifically, the Town's proposed **Alberta Coal Restriction Policy** would be effective November 15, 2021 and has three key principles:

1. No further coal exploration or development will be permitted on the Eastern Slopes of Alberta. There will no longer be categories within this area and, instead, there would only be one area defined today as the Eastern Slopes.
2. Existing coal mining operations in the Hinton/Grande Cache areas will be permitted to retire gracefully.
3. Reclamation of lands disturbed by coal exploration activities with coal exploration permits issued prior to February 8, 2021 must be reclaimed no later than December 31, 2025.

Our rationale for the three principles of the Alberta Coal Restriction Policy are as follows:

1. The inherent value of the Eastern Slopes only exists with the landscape remaining intact.
2. The headwaters and landscapes of the Eastern Slopes are critical to the future of our province. Our communities, agriculture production, food production, tourism, and recreation all rely on these landscapes existing and their watersheds producing clean water. Water is a limited resource that we all require to exist. The Town is strongly opposed to any activity that increases the likelihood of water contamination. Once a waterway has been contaminated by coal mining, this action cannot be reversed. Our future generations depend on us protecting this resource.
3. The negative impacts on the environment, human health, animal health and existing economies far outweigh the new jobs, taxes, royalties or economics that may be generated as a result of coal development in this area.

The Town will collect all feedback received and report back to the Coal Policy Committee in July 2021.

If you are in support of the proposed policy wording, please send a signed letter to myself or acknowledge your support utilizing the endorsement below. Please send all letters and feedback to csnodgrass@highriver.ca, with a copy to legislativeservices@highriver.ca no later than July 15, 2021.

I will then present this policy to the Coal Policy Committee along with the feedback received. If you are interested in participating in the presentation of this policy to the Coal Policy Committee, please contact me at the above noted email address.

Thank you for considering supporting this important initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Craig Snodgrass
Mayor
Cell: 403.652.9489

CS/cp/kr

Endorsement of Support

On behalf of the City/Town/Village of

I, _____

, can advise that the City/Town/Village of

supports the proposed Alberta Coal Restriction Policy as prepared above.

Signature