

August 5, 2015

Ms. Jennifer Steber  
Executive Vice President of Stakeholder and Government Relations  
Alberta Energy Regulator  
Suite 1000, 250 5<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 0R4

Mr. Cal Hill  
Executive Vice President of the Strategy and Regulatory Division  
Alberta Energy Regulator  
Suite 1000, 250 5<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Calgary, Alberta  
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Dear Ms. Steber and Mr. Hill:

We have reviewed the response to the supplementary information request (SIR) questions previously posed by Alberta Health (AH) and Health Canada on the May 2015 version of the Obed Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA).

Overall, the responses to the SIRs were satisfactory. The responses were detailed, clear and contained documentation and cross references to other relevant documents. We encourage Westmoreland Coal and Millennium EMS to include the cross-referencing and rationale presented in the SIR responses within the next version of the HHRA. These additions were very helpful to the reviewers and will also be valuable to members of the public that are interested in the response to the Obed incident and the interpretation of monitoring results.

Both AH and Health Canada were pleased to see the commitment expressed to long-term monitoring and to development of a future version of the HHRA that will incorporate new monitoring results. We are also supportive of the proposed addendum to the Environmental Protection Order that will incorporate edible vegetation sampling into the long-term monitoring plan.

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Health Canada (First Nations Inuit Health Branch) was especially interested in the process and documentation associated with the ongoing engagement of First Nations and Métis communities in the area. Health Canada is open to providing review and comments on the engagement log when it is ready and if that is helpful to Westmoreland Coal. Health Canada encouraged continued engagement with communities to inform the long-term monitoring program and determine exposure pathways.

We have an improved understanding of the risk to human health in the area of impact as delineated by Westmoreland Coal because of the May 2015 version of the HHRA and the response to our SIR questions. A few remaining technical questions/comments will be forwarded directly to our liaison at the Alberta Energy Regulator (Mr. Ken Dahl) from AH technical staff. We are interested in hearing the details of how future monitoring results will be communicated to AH and the timeline for incorporation of new results into the next version of the HHRA. AH technical staff will work with Mr. Dahl to understand these timelines and complete any further necessary follow-up.

We want to thank everyone that has been involved for their work on developing the Obed HHRA document.

Sincerely,



Linda Mattern  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Health System Accountability and Performance

cc: Brian Olson, Obed EPO Director, Manager Mining West, Enforcement and Surveillance,  
Alberta Energy Regulator  
Ken Dahl, Regional Coordinator Mining West, Environment and Operational Performance,  
Alberta Energy Regulator