

2021 ABAER 006

Proceeding 408

Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd.

Vista Coal Project

Applications 1929395, 1929396, 1929397; Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA) application 010-00301345; and Water Act (WA) applications 007-00311969 and 006-00311965

Decision

[1] The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) hearing panel presiding over this proceeding (the panel), noting that all filers have withdrawn their statements of concern, for the reasons set out in this decision has decided that a hearing is no longer necessary. Therefore, the panel returns applications 1929395, 1929396, 1929397; *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* application 010-00301345; and *Water Act* applications 007-00311969 and 006-00311965 (the Applications) to the AER's Regulatory Applications Branch for further processing.

Discussion

[2] On August 14, 2020, Coalspur Mines (Operations) Ltd. applied under the *Coal Conservation Act*, *EPEA*, and *WA* for amendments to approvals within the existing mineral surface lease boundary for its Vista Coal Project. The Vista mine currently consists of two parallel open pits, a coal processing plant, and various mine infrastructure located east of the town of Hinton, in Townships 50 and 51, Ranges 22–24, West of the 5th Meridian.

[3] A fuller description of the amendment applications can be seen in the [notice of hearing](#).

[4] On September 17, 2020, Louis Bull Tribe (Louis Bull) filed statement of concern 31794 regarding the applications. On September 17, 2020, Gunn Métis Local #55 filed statement of concern 31795. The AER referred the applications to hearing on January 19, 2021, and the notice of hearing was issued on February 11, 2021.

[5] On January 25, 2021, Gunn Métis Local #55 filed a letter withdrawing their statement of concern pursuant to section 6(4) of the *Alberta Energy Regulator Rules of Practice* and stated that they no longer had any concerns with respect to the Applications.

[6] The panel received requests to participate in the hearing from mine employees, their partners, and their extended families; local businesses and organizations in Hinton; Indigenous groups; and members of the public.

[7] On March 19, 2021, the AER received a withdrawal of Louis Bull's statement of concern and request to participate in the hearing.

[8] The panel has issued participation decisions to all request to participate filers. None of the filers were granted the right to participate.

[9] As there were no participants, the panel decided it was appropriate to return the Applications to the AER's Regulatory Applications Branch for further processing.

[10] Considering the above, the public hearing is cancelled.

Dated in Calgary, Alberta, on March 23, 2021.

Alberta Energy Regulator

Parand Meysami, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Presiding Hearing Commissioner