

**Applications 1929395, 1929396, 1929397, EPEA 010-00301345, WA
007-00311969, WA 006-00311965**

Alex Bolton, P.Geo.
Chief Hearing Commissioner

January 19, 2021

By email only

Coalspur Mines Operations Ltd. (Coalspur)

Attention: Martin Ignasiak

**Applications for amendments to Coalspur's existing approvals under the *Coal Conservation Act*,
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and *Water Act* at the Vista Coal Mine
approximately 10 kilometres east of Hinton, Alberta**

Dear Sir:

The Alberta Energy Regulator has determined that applications **1929395, 1929396, 1929397, EPEA 010-00301345, WA 007-00311969, and WA 006-00311965** should be set down for a [hearing](#) and has requested that I assign a hearing panel to conduct a hearing. A hearing will be held unless the issues are resolved in some other manner, such as by alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Hearings are led by hearing commissioners who are independent from the day-to-day operations of the AER. I assign one or more hearing commissioners to sit on hearing panels to decide matters sent to them by the AER. Their decisions may only be reviewed by the Court of Appeal of Alberta and they must adhere to the [Hearing Commissioner Code of Conduct](#).

This is not a notice of hearing. Once a hearing panel is assigned they will decide any procedural matters related to the hearing such as issuing a notice of hearing and determining who may participate in the hearing. Before a notice of hearing can be issued AER staff must compile the application file consisting of all application materials filed with the AER. The hearing coordinator will contact you shortly to verify the contents of the application file. Once the application file is complete it will be placed on the public record. The hearing panel will then decide the timing of a notice of hearing after reviewing the application file and statements of concern.

When a notice of hearing is issued it will give directions to interested parties about how to view the application file and explain how to request to participate. For more information about the AER hearing process please see [Manual 003: Participant Guide to the Hearing Process](#). This manual provides an overview of the hearing process and tries to answer common questions. The requirements for hearings are set out in the [Responsible Energy Development Act](#) and the [Alberta Energy Regulator Rules of Practice](#).

I may also assign a hearing commissioner who is not on the hearing panel to explore [alternative dispute resolution](#) (ADR) with you. The [ADR by Hearing Commissioner brochure](#) and [Manual 004: Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs and Guidelines for Energy Industry Disputes](#) have information on ADR. Parties may also request ADR.

Tammy Turner is the Hearing Coordinator for this proceeding and will be your main point of contact during this process. Once the AER assembles the application file, Tammy will contact you to verify its contents. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy at 403-297-3232 or by e-mail at Hearing.Services@aer.ca.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Alex Bolton

Chief Hearing Commissioner

cc: Meaghan Conroy, Louis Bull Tribe
Tarlan Razzaghi, Gunn Metis Local #55-Lac Ste. Anne Metis
Alana Hall and Karen Lilly, AER
Steven Van Lingen, AER
Irene Chia, AER
Karen McCallion, AER
Jonathan Toews, AER
ADR, AER
Field Operations West, AER