



Ref.: 85189

The Reverend Beth Hayward and Co-signers
Senior Minister
Canadian Memorial United Church
1825 West 16th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 2M4

Dear Reverend Hayward and Co-signers:

Premier Christy Clark has asked me to respond to your May 12, 2014 open letter regarding the proposed new coal transfer facility at Fraser Surrey Docks and the *Mines Act* permit amendment for the Texada Island quarry. As Minister of Energy and Mines, I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Clark, Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, Honourable Dr. Terry Lake, Minister of Health, and Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Province's approach to exporting coal is about balance. British Columbia produces primarily metallurgical (steelmaking) coal from mines in the southeast and northeast of the Province. In addition, thermal coal (used for power generation) is transported through British Columbia from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming and from northwest Alberta. Exports and trade of this commodity, both coal that is produced in our Province and coal which originates elsewhere, support thousands of jobs in communities across British Columbia. According to an economic impact analysis prepared by PwC for the Coal Association of Canada, the coal supply chain is responsible for more than 26,000 jobs in British Columbia from direct mining to supply company to terminal jobs. As our Province's ports work to expand their capacities to handle more products bound for Asia, the provincial government remains committed to addressing climate change.

Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) is currently reviewing a permit application submitted by Fraser Surrey Docks for the development of a Direct Transfer Coal Facility on the lower mainland to handle up to four million metric tonnes of coal per year. Port Authorities are under the jurisdiction of the federal government. PMV is the regulator responsible for reviewing the Fraser Surrey Docks proposal to ensure that environmental, safety and community impacts are appropriately identified and addressed.

**Ministry of
Energy and Mines and
Minister Responsible
for Core Review**

Office of the Minister

**Mailing Address:
PO Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2**

**Telephone: 250 387-5896
Facsimile: 250 356-2965**

As part of the permit application process, Fraser Surrey Docks submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS). The EIS includes project studies about the environmental effects of the project, effects on human and ecological health, and information on mitigation measures. For further information on the review process, please visit PMV's website at <http://portmetrovanancouver.com/en/projects/OngoingProjects/Tenant-Led-Projects/FraserSurreyDocks.aspx>.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines issued a *Mines Act* permit amendment in March 2014 to provide for additional storage capacity at the Texada quarry. The quarry must adhere to the environmental standards and safeguards as set in place by the Health, Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in British Columbia and in permit conditions. Numerous conditions of the permit amendment relate to coal dust control, coal stockpile management, and protection of the land and watercourses.

In the future, the Province will continue to take a responsible, balanced approach to resource and economic development while taking action on climate change at the same time.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Bennett
Minister

pc: Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Honourable Mary Polak
Minister of Environment

Honourable Dr. Terry Lake
Minister of Health

Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training

Honourable Todd Stone
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure