



To the Editor,

In response to your April 3 article, "Teck Mitigation plan changes cause concern in Elk Valley", I wanted to clarify the facts around the work we are undertaking in partnership with stakeholders to ensure the health of the watershed is maintained.

Teck has recognized for years that there are water quality challenges in the Elk Valley related to the long history of mining in the region, and that action is required. That is why we have worked closely with First Nations, communities, governments and leading water experts to develop and implement the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan (EVWQP) approved in 2014.

Updates to the EVWQP such as the Implementation Plan Adjustment (IPA) mentioned in the Free Press article have always been part of the Plan as we adapt to new information, new challenges and new technologies. Contrary to what is stated in the article, Teck is absolutely not requesting less stringent targets or limits than set out in the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, and it is irresponsible of Wildsight to suggest otherwise.

The fact is, the EVWQP is the most comprehensive water management program of its kind ever developed. The goal of the plan is to stabilize and reverse the trend of selenium and other mine-related water substances in the Elk Valley watershed. To achieve this, we are carrying out an ambitious program of research, monitoring, and water treatment. This work includes constructing major water treatment facilities across our operations. The first of these is now operating at Line Creek Operations, and the second is under construction at Fording River. In addition, we are carrying out extensive monitoring and studies. It is important to note, this regional monitoring indicates that current levels of selenium and other substances are not impacting populations of fish or birds.

We are also conducting an extensive research and development (R&D) program with the goal of improving the technologies and practices available to manage water quality. Through that program we have developed a new form of water treatment, called Saturated Rock Fill, which can help to achieve water quality objectives in the region more quickly and efficiently. Our first full-scale Saturated Rock Fill trial is successfully achieving near-complete removal of selenium and nitrate in up to 10 million litres of water per day. This new form of treatment has the potential to augment our suite of treatment options in the region, and is just one of the many projects underway to improve how we manage and protect water quality in the Elk Valley. For example, we are aggressively pursuing a second phase of this technology that would double the capacity to treat 20 million litres of water per day at the Elkview operation.

We know that solving the water quality challenge in the Elk Valley is not easy or simple. It is a complex issue, but at the end of the day, Teck is absolutely committed to putting in the hard work and resources needed over the long-term to meet this challenge and to ensure the watershed is maintained for future generations.

For more information on how we are working to improve water quality, visit [www.teck.com/elkvalley](http://www.teck.com/elkvalley).

Sincerely,  
Robin Sheremeta  
Senior Vice President, Coal  
Teck