

Environmental Protection Notice—Notice of Filing

Teck Coal Ltd Fording River Operations–North Saturated Rock Fill—Phase 2

Application for Permit Amendments under the Provisions of the *Environmental Management Act* and *Mines Act*.

Teck Coal Limited (Teck) at 116 Centennial Street, Sparwood, B.C., V0B 2G0, has submitted a joint application to the Director of the British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) and to the Chief Permitting Officer of the British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) to authorize the commissioning and operation of the Teck Fording River Operations North Saturated Rock Fill Phase 2 (FRO-N SRF P2) Project. Fording River Operations (FRO) is an open pit steelmaking coal mine operation in the Elk Valley. The primary purpose of the Project is to treat mine-influenced waters in the FRO North area at a hydraulic capacity of up to 31,580 m³/d (25,900 m³/d estimated average annual throughput) to reduce downstream nitrate and selenium concentrations. The FRO-N SRF P2 forms an important component for meeting Teck's commitments under the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan and addresses provincial and federal requirements under the FRO *Mines Act* C-3 Permit, the *Environmental Management Act* Permit 107517 and the October 29, 2020, Direction from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

The EMLI Major Mines Office is leading a joint review of the application submitted to amend the following authorizations:

1. *Environmental Management Act* Permit # 107517 issued November 19, 2014, and last amended December 1, 2021, which authorizes the discharge of effluent from five steelmaking coal mine sites in the Elk Valley.
2. *Environmental Management Act* Permit # 424 issued December 6, 2016, and last amended May 13, 2022, which authorizes the discharge of effluent to land, the Fording River and its tributaries from FRO.
3. *Mines Act* C-3 Permit Issued January 20, 1970, and last amended April 14, 2022, which authorizes mining activities at Fording River Operations.

The land upon which the facility is situated and the location where discharge occurs are within FRO's *Mines Act* C-3 Permit boundary in the Fording River Valley, 20 km northeast of Elkford on Crown coal leases 389282, 389275, 389285, 389311 held by Teck. The lease land in this area comprises District Lots 3454, 6639, 6641, 6642, 6696, 6697, 6699, 6700, 6701, 6709, 6710, 16964 within the Kootenay District.

The proposed maximum rate of effluent discharge from this facility will be 31,580 m³/d. The operating period for the facility will be 24 hours/day and 7 days/week. The water treatment process at the FRO-N SRF P2 is based upon saturated rock fill technology, which is a biological treatment that utilizes the natural microbial communities present in the saturated zone of mined-out and backfilled pits, supplemented with the addition of a carbon source and micro-nutrients.

The maximum predicted concentrations for the effluent discharge are as follows:

Parameter	Unit	Maximum Predicted Concentration	Location
Ammonia	mg/L	1.1	E4_BPO
Biological oxygen demand	mg/L	13	E4_BPO
pH Range	pH Units	6.5 – 9.0	E4_BPO
Effluent Toxicity ¹	% mortality	50	FR_CC1
Antiscalant ²	mg/L	25	FR_CC1
Selenium	µg/L	29	E4_BPO3
Nitrate	mg/L	20	E4_BPO3

E4_BPO = Outlet of the E4 Effluent Retention Pond (Buffer Pond), FR_CC1 = E102481 Clode Creek downstream of Clode Settling Ponds decant

1. The effluent must not cause greater than 50% mortality in 96-hour rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) single concentration toxicity tests (EPS 1/RM/13 2nd edition, December 2000) or greater than 50% mortality in 48-hour *Daphnia magna* single concentration toxicity tests (EPS 1/RM/14 2nd edition, December 2000).

2. Based on a two-minute time weighted average.

3. Proposed performance metric.

A copy of the Technical Assessment Report is available upon request by contacting Simon Kearney at simon. Kearney@teck.com. Any person who may be adversely affected by the proposed amendment and wishes to provide relevant information may, within 30 days after the last date of posting, publishing, service or display, send written comments by mail or email to the applicant, with a copy to the Statutory Decision Maker(s) c/o Jolene Jackson (Jolene.Jackson@gov.bc.ca), Senior Project Lead, Major Mines Office, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, PO Box 9320 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C., V8W 9N3.

The identity of any respondents and the contents of anything submitted in relation to this application will become part of the public record.

For more information regarding Teck's operations in the Elk Valley, please contact Teck's social responsibility office in Sparwood (116 Centennial Street) or leave a message on the toll-free community feedback line at 1.855.806.6854 and your call will be returned.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2022.

Teck Social Responsibility Office
116 Centennial Street
Sparwood, BC, V0B 2G0

Contact person: Rory O'Connor
Email address: Feedbackteckcoal@teck.com
Phone: 1.855.806.6854

Teck