Project Description
Fording River Extension Project

About the Fording River Extension Project

Teck is proposing an extension of Teck’s existing Fording River Operations that will maintain the jobs and economic benefits generated by the operation in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. Fording River Operations is a steelmaking coal mine in the East Kootenay Region of southeast B.C., and currently produces steelmaking coal from existing permitted reserves. Within the next few years, less economic coal will be available from these areas.

The proposed Fording River Extension Project, or FRX, will extend mining to provide a new source of mineable steelmaking coal. The FRX area is adjacent to and south of the existing operations, and its extensive deposits of mineable steelmaking coal make it a logical extension of the Fording River Operations. The Project will make use of existing equipment and infrastructure in order to minimize the footprint of the new activities.

Over time, Teck anticipates that all steelmaking coal for Fording River will come from the FRX area. This will extend the life of Fording River Operations by several decades, and therefore also extend the economic and social benefits of the operation in the Elk Valley.

Project Components and Activities

The Fording River Extension (FRX) will use existing infrastructure at Fording River Operations. The Project will also require some new infrastructure, including satellite components near Fording River Operations. The Project will connect to regional roads, rail, power and utilities through the existing connections at Fording River Operations.
The Fording River Extension (FRX) is currently in the **design stage**. During this stage, Teck is defining specific aspects of the Project design using feedback gathered from local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and government agencies.

The nature of the steelmaking coal reserves in the FRX area are being studied through an ongoing drilling program. Drilling results will give Teck a better understanding of where the reserves are located.

Baseline environmental and social information is being collected. Teck has engaged specialist consultants to gather the data that will be needed for an environmental assessment.

Teck’s mine planners and engineers are evaluating different options for the mine design. This includes various factors such as location of the mine pit(s), plans to store waste (including waste rock and tailings), and needs for supporting infrastructure.

Safety, environment, and community sustainability are important factors as Teck develops the design of the Project.

To align with the need for additional steelmaking coal at Fording River Operations to extend the mine life and maintain employment and regional economic benefits, Teck anticipates that pre-construction activities for FRX will begin in 2023 in order to start production in 2026. By the early 2030s, all steelmaking coal for Fording River would come from the Project.

The Fording River Extension Project will benefit from Teck’s extensive steelmaking coal mining experience in the Elk Valley and relationships with communities throughout the region. In developing the Project, Teck will evaluate the use of new and innovative technologies, wherever practicable. New technologies and practices can improve safety and help avoid or reduce environmental impacts. Teck will consider how these and other opportunities can be integrated into the Project design from early on.
Conceptual Design
Teck has developed the conceptual design of the Project as the basis for engagement and further studies. The conceptual design outlines the main components of the Project, some of which are well understood, and others require further investigation.

Detailed Design
Teck will develop the detailed layout and design for the Project, considering inputs from drilling and environmental studies, as well as early engagement with regulators, agencies, Indigenous Peoples, communities, and the public. This will be summarized in the Detailed Project Description, which will be the basis for an Environmental Assessment.

Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Approvals
Teck will work with its consultants to understand the potential environmental, social, economic, cultural and health effects of the Fording River Extension (FRX). This will be compiled in an Environmental Assessment report, and submitted to government regulators for review.

Pre-construction
This stage involves constructing local access and supporting infrastructure, salvaging soil and non-mineable rock, and connecting to power and utilities. Pre-construction activities will not begin until all permits and approvals have been received. Where necessary, activities will occur during appropriate seasonal windows to minimize impacts on the environment.

Operations
Coal from FRX will be taken to the existing facilities at Fording River Operations for processing. The planned rate of coal production will be the same as currently seen at Fording River. The Project is expected to supply coal to Fording River Operations for several decades and ensure the continuation of existing jobs.

Active Closure and Reclamation
Closure and reclamation activities will be ongoing throughout the operations phase. Active closure will address water management, closure of waste facilities, and decommissioning of infrastructure. Reclamation activities will include re-vegetation of the landscape, and will be detailed in a reclamation plan for the site.

Post-closure
After the site is closed and the land is reclaimed, Teck will continue to monitor environmental conditions including water quality. Results will be regularly reported to authorities and further actions will be taken if needed.