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November 6, 2015

To the Editor,

In response to your November 3 article, "State's Plan to Assess Upstream Mining Impacts to Kooconusa 'Fatally Flawed'", I wanted to share some additional context on the scope of the work being undertaken to maintain aquatic health in the region.

There is no question that addressing water quality impacts related to mining activity is an important challenge that requires all stakeholders - government, First Nations, scientific experts, communities and others – to work together to find solutions. Teck is committed to continuing to support efforts underway to identify and implement the necessary measures to support the long-term health of the entire watershed.

A key part of this effort is the implementation of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, which outlines the approach being taken to improve water quality throughout the Elk Valley and in Lake Kooconusa. Under the plan, an extensive program of monitoring, treatment and research is underway that is aimed at a wide range of substances related to mining, including selenium, nitrate, sulphate and others, throughout the aquatic ecosystem.

Teck is also working collaboratively through initiatives like the Lake Kooconusa Monitoring and Research Working Group and the Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework, which bring together key stakeholders with the shared goal of protecting the environment.

The fact is, our employees live, work and raise their families in this shared watershed, and they are committed to working in cooperation to take the steps needed to ensure it remains healthy now and for future generations.

Sincerely,

Marcia Smith  
Senior Vice President, Sustainability and External Affairs  
Teck