

RAVEN COAL



The end of the Baynes Sound shellfish industry?

Heavy metal leakage and acid rock drainage would have a negative impact on the Baynes Sound watershed as a whole, threatening aquatic life and putting the important Baynes Sound aquaculture industry at risk. This industry employs over 600 people and produces 39% of the oysters and 55% of the manila clams in British Columbia. This mine could wipe out those jobs.



Heavy Metal Pollution

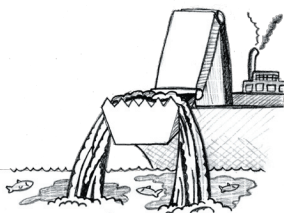
Up to 17 million tonnes of waste rock would be dumped into the Cowie Creek Watershed. Heavy metal leakage and acid rock drainage from this waste rock is a very serious and long-term problem. When waste rock is exposed to the air sulphides turn into sulphuric acid. When this substance gets into water it can have devastating consequences on wildlife. Testing done in the Quinsam River watershed has shown high levels of the heavy metal arsenic downstream from the Quinsam Coal Mine facilities. It is expected that the Raven Coal Mine would have a similar effect on sensitive watersheds.



52,000 trucks a year

Traffic from the Raven project would add three Giant B-Train trucks a hour, round trip, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That will add over 52,000 trucks a year travelling on the dangerous Port Alberni highway. With increased traffic there is an increased possibility of traffic accidents, and diesel exhaust and coal dust air pollution. The trucks would put major wear and tear on our roads, and the company has already stated they won't pay for road upkeep.

Some people say rail is a better option, but not according to John Tapics, President of Compliance Energy owner of the Raven Coal Mine, who says trucking is the desired choice for transporting coal.



Our marine environment

Huge coal transport ships would be going in and out of the waters of Barkley Sound and the Broken Group islands, which are part of the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. The ocean bottom in the Alberni Inlet would have to be dredged to make room for the ships; this would stir up sediment seriously contaminated from years of pulp mill pollution and impact the sensitive species that rely on the ocean floor. This inlet is also an integral part of a key salmon spawning and migration route. Any spills, coal dust pollution, or accidents would impact salmon and other marine life.



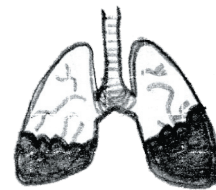
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Wildlife impacts

The 200 hectares of surface disturbance of the Raven Coal project would be built right on top of tributaries to Cowie Creek, and would wipe out breeding habitat for cutthroat trout in the process. The toxins and heavy metal leakage associated with the project would impact four creeks and rivers, including the Tsable River. This salmon-bearing river is spawning ground for Coho and Chinook salmon, and a critical watershed for protection as identified by the Nature Without Borders Regional Conservation Strategy. The area is also home to threatened species like the Roosevelt Elk, water shrews, and Purple Martin.



Coal dust is dangerous

Mining, storing, loading and transporting coal has caused serious issues with coal dust in many communities. Coal dust has been linked to a variety of respiratory illnesses, kidney disease and other health problems. Coal trucks would roll by senior citizens homes and the Port Alberni hospital before coming to rest a just a few hundred metres from a residential area. Coal dust is highly volatile, and there are risks of fires and explosions in coal mining, transport and storage facilities.

10 reasons to be concerned



Drinking water at risk

Coal needs a lot of water to be processed and to minimize the chance of spontaneous fires. The water used to do this would be drawn from the same sources of groundwater that supplies the drinking water used by residents of Fanny Bay. There is no mapping of the underground water supply, and limited understanding of how the overall watershed would be affected by this project. It is critical that full and comprehensive aquifer and groundwater mapping and modeling be completed as part of the environmental assessment process.



Climate Change

The coal from the mine would add over 52 million tonnes of climate-change-causing greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. Currently, the Environmental Assessment process does not consider the impacts that projects like this would have on climate change. With climate disruption leading to wild fires, heat waves and flooding, a process that cannot assess this deeply concerning environmental impact is simply unacceptable!

VACANCY

Coal keeps away tourists

Tourism is a staple of the Vancouver Island economy. Tourists from all over the world flock to see Cathedral Grove, drive to Tofino, and to see beautiful Denman Island. The footprint of Raven Coal Mine would severely impact accessibility and safety from increased traffic. The proposed mine site would be visible from the top of Denman Island, and the coal shipping facilities would be visible from the Port Alberni farmers market. Local communities that rely on tourism will feel the impacts of coal on their bottom line.

We can stop it

People working together stop bad projects from damaging our communities. Attending meetings, writing letters and speaking to your neighbours are key actions to take to stop this coal mine. Thousands of British Columbians have stood up and stopped "done deal" projects, from the Fish Lake Copper Mine to the Georgia Straight Natural Gas Pipeline to the private power project at Bute Inlet, and we'll do it again at Raven Coal.

take action! Visit us online at

wildernesscommittee.org

Proposed Raven, Bear, Anderson Lake and Quinsam 7 South Expansion Coal Mine Projects

