



## COAL VALLEY MINE - Proposed Mine Expansion Mercoal West and Yellowhead Tower

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### Summary Report of Open House Format and Record of Results June 12 (Edson) and June 14 (Edmonton), 2007 PREPARED JULY 16, 2007

#### Background

The Coal Valley Mine (CVM), owned by Coal Valley Resources Inc. (CVRI), is located 90 km south of Edson and has operated since 1978 with over 50 million tonnes of coal sold across Canada and around the world (primarily for electric power generation). Luscar intends to proceed with mining in three new areas adjacent to the existing Coal Valley Mine operations. The areas are within Categories 3 and 4 lands in the eastern portions of the Eastern Slopes Region<sup>1</sup> which are suitable for coal exploration and development, subject to meeting Alberta's regulatory requirements.

The proposed expansion projects have been disclosed to the public at the same time. However, proposed scheduling for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and application indicates the expansion of the Mercoal West and Yellowhead Tower areas will proceed first, with the Robb Trend area following shortly thereafter.

Public involvement for the proposed mine expansion began in early 2006 with:

- Early 2006 - Preparation and verification of an initial public contact list
- May 2006 - Open houses in Robb and Edson
- Late June/early July 2006 - Public notification (through direct mail out to the project contact list and through newspaper advertisements in local and regional papers) of the availability of the final Environmental Impact Assessment Terms of Reference (EIA TOR) and Public Disclosure Document (PDD)
- December 2006 - Distribution of a project newsletter update

#### Open Houses

This set of open houses, the second since the project was announced, was intended to provide an opportunity for interested people to meet one-on-one with Coal Valley Mine representatives and selected consultants to discuss the proposed mine plan, including an update on the status of Pit 29.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined in the Policy for Coal Development in Alberta.

## **Purposes**

- Continue to create company profile and links to the community by putting a “face” to the project, provide information about opportunities for ongoing contact with representatives (who they are and how they can be reached) and allow people to speak directly with them one-on-one.
- Provide information to clearly describe and differentiate the Mercoal West/Yellowhead Tower and the Robb Trend mine expansion proposals indicating that the principle focus for the open houses is on the Mercoal West/Yellowhead Tower application.
- Provide an update on the activities related to Pit 29 mine plan (focussed on but not limited to people who have properties at Coalspur).
- Allow people to learn about the project proposal, mine plan, EIA and application preparation including: general location, technical requirements, proposed mining activity locations, regulatory approval process, anticipated schedule, baseline information on water, air, soils, wildlife, industrial traffic, public safety and access to public land for recreation and how these are being considered in mine planning including an assessment of initial potential impacts of mining and some proposed mitigation needs.
- Continue to identify issues, needs and questions stakeholders/public feel must be addressed in the regulatory applications submitted to AENV and the EUB.
- Encourage people to identify individual and specific issues, needs and interests that will have to be addressed with the appropriate and focused response provided in the mine expansion application documents.
- Define the timing and methods that will support public involvement in the project review and application preparation.
- Indicate where and how issues, needs and concerns will be considered in the preparation of the mine expansion application, prior to submission to the Government of Alberta.

## **Dates and Locations**

	<b>Edson</b>	<b>Edmonton</b>
<b>Dates:</b>	June 12, 2007	June 14, 2007
<b>Locations:</b>	Best Western High Road Inn 300 – 52 Street, Edson	Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre 11834 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton
<b>Times:</b>	4:00 – 9:00 pm	4:00 – 8:00 pm

## **Notification**

Consistent with the previous open houses, anyone interested was encouraged to attend and participate. The focus was on those people and communities who are resident or have a direct interest in the area where the mine expansion is proposed.

People were made aware of the open house opportunities using two methods:

Direct mail invitation to (approximately 375) people on the project contact list representing interests including:

- First Nations/Aboriginal
- Business
- Residents of Coalspur, Mercoal, Robb and the area including trappers and ATV/OHV users
- Government/regulatory
- Selected non-government organizations); and

Advertisements in local newspapers (weekly) for the weeks beginning May 28, June 4 and June 11, 2007 (3 placements each) in:

- Hinton Parklander
- Edson Leader
- Weekly Anchor

See appendix 1A for a copy of the invitation and appendix 1B for a copy of the newspaper advertisement.

### **Attendance**

In total, 39 people signed the attendance record: 20 in Edson and 19 in Edmonton. The project mailing list has been checked against the sign in sheets and updated as appropriate.

The following interests were represented among those who attended:

- First Nations/Aboriginal
- Residents of Mercoal/Robb/Coalspur
- Recreational users (hunting, fishing, ATV)
- Municipal/provincial elected officials and administrators
- Forestry/oil and gas industry
- Trappers
- Coal reserve owners
- Non-government community organization

The following staff or consulting team members were also in attendance:

Les Lafleur	Coal Valley Mine
Rolfe Timm	Coal Valley Mine
Tanya Keyowski	Coal Valley Mine
Dave Brand	Coal Valley Resources Inc.
Jason Roe	Lifeways of Canada
Dan Meyer	Lifeways of Canada
Dane McCoy	Millenium EMS Solutions Ltd.
John Boorman	Pisces Consulting (Edson only)
Jim Gendron	LTG Consulting
Paul Ross	CP Ross Consulting Group

## **Organization and Information Presented**

At each open house, information stations provided easy to read and understand print and graphic information with brief, focussed information points. CVM representatives (i.e. Mine staff and selected project consultants) were available at each station to answer questions.

An area was also set aside for small meetings with people who wished to review and discuss the project materials in more detail with CVM representatives. (This was quite helpful to discussions with First Nation representatives who attended in Edson and with Mercoal residents who attended in Edmonton.)

Project and public involvement information was presented at the following five stations:

### **1. Welcome and Orientation**

People were greeted, welcomed and oriented to the open house format and offered information that included copies of:

- Final EIA Terms of Reference, approved by Alberta Environment, May 29, 2007
- Project Public Disclosure Document prepared and made available starting May 2006
- Project Update Newsletter produced in December 2006 and sent to the people on the contact list at that time
- Brochure describing End Pit Lake construction and management
- Sherritt International Employee Newsletter for April – May 2007

An exit interview was conducted with a sample of participants as they left the events to both monitor whether or not the open house met their and the project's needs and to provide an additional opportunity for participants to identify any outstanding needs, issues or concerns. The results are provided later in this report.

### **2. Proposed Mine Expansion Plan**

Maps and graphics showed the proposed plan for mine expansion into the Mercoal West/Yellowhead Tower area with information highlighted that would be of likely interest to participants (e.g. boundaries for active mining; transportation routes; water bodies).

### **3. EIA Baseline Results**

Highlights of the baseline assessment gathered from the EIA process including:

- Resource Assessment for air, water, land, wildlife and historical resources, and
- Human and Land Use Assessment for noise, dust, public health and safety, and access to public land for recreation.

### **4. Mine Reclamation and End Land Use**

Reclamation/end land use proposals were displayed with discussion encouraged about public access during and following mining and how the reclamation plan and activities will ensure the landscape is planned, reclaimed and managed to meet these uses.

### **5. Public Involvement and Aboriginal Consultation/Project Application Process**

Information was provided on how people can be involved and how results will be used in decision making during the preparation of the mine expansion application.

Information was also provided on:

- Highlights of what the application will contain
- Anticipated schedule for application preparation
- How to contact Government regulators and what decisions they make
- Anticipated project schedule

## ***Participants' Needs, Issues or Concerns***

At each open house, CVM staff and consultants encouraged open house participants to view detailed map and project information and to identify and discuss any needs, issues or concerns. A number of methods were used to capture this information from participants so that CVM could ensure the identified needs, issues or concerns are addressed in the project application and that any follow-up required was addressed.

During their one-on-one conversations with participants, CVM representatives actively solicited and recorded comments and either recorded them on the flip charts posted at each open house information station or noted them on a contact record form (used particularly when contact information was provided by the open house participant, usually for the purposes of follow up). A copy of the contact record is included as appendix 2

In addition, exit surveys were completed with a sampling of the people who attended each open house. The survey is used to both monitor whether or not the open house met participants' needs for information and to provide an additional opportunity for them to comment on or identify any additional outstanding needs, issues or concerns.

### Needs, Issues or Concerns from Contact Records

Fourteen (14) contact records were completed: 12 at Edson and 2 at Edmonton. Needs and issues identified through use of the contact record included:

- The need to account for historical resources, particularly their preservation and enjoyment by future recreational users (e.g. ATV/OHV trail users, local residents).
- Support for the preservation of the cemetery at Mercoal.
- Placement of the historic mine hoist at Mercoal (currently at another location on the CVM lease).
- Access to Lovatt and Silkstone Lakes for the elderly and disabled upon request to CVM mine managers.
- Reclamation and return of areas previously disturbed by mining in a timely fashion ensuring reclamation immediately follows mining disturbance.
- CVM financial and sponsorship support of the 2007 Coal Branch Reunion.
- Access for recreational use (ATV, hunting, fishing).
- Inclusion of all area First Nations in TLU studies.
- Probable noise.
- Affect of mining on Mercoal community.
- Affect of mining on traplines in area.
- Affect of mining on wildlife migrations (recommended "land bridges").

## Needs, Issues or Concerns from Exit Surveys and Flip Charts

A total of 16 exit surveys were completed: 9 in Edson and 7 in Edmonton. From a suggested list, survey respondents indicated the following needs or issues are important to them:

Stakeholder and public involvement	13
Access to public land	12
Reclamation and end land use	12
Human health	9
Contamination of ground and surface water	8
Wildlife and domestic animal health	8
Property value	6
Traffic	5
Noise, dust, odour	5

*Note: Respondents could indicate all that apply. Table indicates the times a topic was chosen, in priority order.*

Respondents also identified the following additional issues or needs as important: (*Note: includes issues or needs captured on flip charts at open house information stations.*)

### *EDSON*

- Water: Mercoal Creek; Dummey Creek; Embarras River.
- To see if the Coal Branchers could have two or three acres around the Mercoal Cemetery with picnic tables, toilets, etc.
- Trapping: length of mining is too long. Would like to see “land bridges” left every 5 kilometres so that fur bearers/wildlife (Moose) can move across disturbed areas into trapping area.
- What are the plans for elk hunting when Robb Trend is being mined and reclaimed?
- Keep access open for hunting during mining – access to the area between existing mine and proposed Robb Trend mine for bow hunting.
- Plan mining in stages for Robb Trend to allow hunting access.
- Pipelines (Conoco and Talisman) – What is the plan – Move? Avoid them? Other?
- Coal Valley Mine should join the Synergy – Edson Area (Talisman, CNRL, Conoco Phillips, Encana plus 4-5 people from the community). Contact: Phyllis Roberto, Facilitator, Edson Area.

### *EDMONTON*

- Assistance in convincing government that the Mercoal townsite will not be mined and could be sold to the present leaseholders.
- Ongoing future plans.
- Are you mining Pit 29 in 2007? Drove through area and didn't see any activity.
- How close will Mercoal West expansion come to Mercoal?
- How are First Nations consulted and what are their interests regarding the mine expansion?
- What is the accommodation/rule for access to Silkstone and Lovett lakes – is it only by foot?
- How do you get a permit for vehicle access to Silkstone and Lovett?
- Mercoal leases 2012 are not being renewed by County – being told it is because of mining?

### Follow up

A separate file has been provided to Coal Valley Mine with the contact information of those respondents who indicated they would like a CVM representative to follow up.

From the exit surveys, specific issues for follow up were noted as:

- Schedules and final plans
- Coal lease holder
- Land use
- ATV access
- Wildlife travel corridors, clean water, access for trapping, fast reclamation
- Hoist move from D1 to Mercoal
- Mercoal Cemetery

### ***Additional Results from Exit Surveys***

The following additional information was gathered from the results of the exit surveys:

#### Interests of respondents

A total of 16 exit surveys were completed: 9 in Edson and 7 in Edmonton. From a suggested list, respondents indicated their interest as follows:

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Resident	6
Recreational user	3
Other	2
Government	1
Industry	1
<i>Did not indicate</i>	3

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The two respondents who described their interest as “Other” noted “former resident” and “trapper.”

It should be noted that the Edson open house was attended by eight members of First Nations communities. They spoke with Coal Valley Mine representatives specifically to arrange field work dates for Traditional Use Studies being contracted by Coal Valley Resources Inc. on behalf of the Coal Valley Mine. Their interests and needs focussed on consultation requirements and arrangements to ensure that traditional use assessments were completed as part of the EIA.

### Future Stakeholder and Public Involvement

From a suggested list, respondents indicated how they would like to participate or learn about the application preparation and review process in the future:

Opportunities for direct, individual contact with project staff (e.g. meetings, telephone, email, update letters)	11
Open houses/information sessions	11
Send information to me at home (e.g. newsletters)	11
Stakeholder group meetings on request	5
Stakeholder group meetings during application preparation	5
Newspaper articles and advertisements	5
Other	2

*Note: Respondents could indicate all that apply. Table indicates the times a topic was chosen, in priority order.*

“Other” was described as “to meet the staff involved!” and “Future plans to have access routes noted to us for usage after mining completed.”

### Participant Satisfaction

Respondents indicated whether or not the open house met their needs to learn about the proposed mine expansion:

	Overall	
	%	N
<i>% = Percentage of respondents who indicated “yes.” N = Total number of respondents</i>		
Did you get the information you needed?	88%	16
Was the open house helpful?	94%	16
Were the materials easy to understand and use?	73%	15
Were the staff helpful in explaining material so you could respond?	100%	16
Were your questions answered fully?	75%	16
Did you comment on those areas of greatest interest/need/concern to you?	100%	16
Did staff listen and record your comments?	93%	15
Did the open house/information session demonstrate that environmental management plans have considered community interests and needs?	79%	14

Respondents provided the following comments regarding future public involvement activities:

#### *EDSON*

- The Mercoal Cemetery was not on any maps, etc.

#### *EDMONTON*

- Just keep up the good work that is now being done.
- Continued information and progress reports concerning Mercoal area.
- Having the open house presentations at two locations and dates is great. Thanks.



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## **Appendix 1A – Invitation Letter**

## Invitation to Attend Open Houses on the proposed Coal Valley Mine Expansion

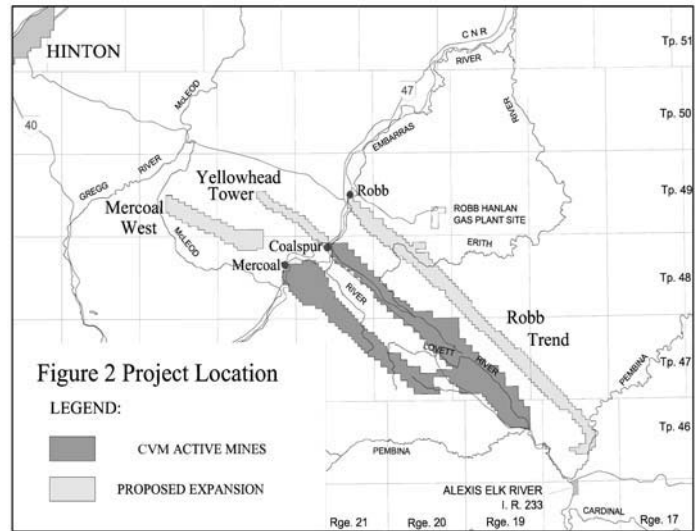
Two open houses, on June 12 and 14, 2007 in Edson and Edmonton, respectively, will be held to update, inform and discuss the proposed Coal Valley Mine (CVM) expansion – see **OPEN HOUSES**, below.

In May 2006, Coal Valley Resources Inc. (CVRI) issued a project newsletter which reported on CVM's current activities for the proposed mine expansion areas. A second newsletter and project update was provided in December 2006. Since that time environmental impact assessment baseline information has progressed and a draft mine plan has been prepared.

**The focus of this series of open houses is on the Mercoal West and Yellowhead Tower areas** which will be part of the first expansion applications prepared for the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board and Alberta Environment. **There will also be update information on our Pit 29 mining activities.**

*Mercoal West Area* is located west of the community of Mercoal. Coal occurs in a NW/SE trend. Terrain is rolling with topography controlled by structural ridges and valleys draining to the McLeod River. Mercoal Creek and McCardell Creek drain from the area into the nearby McLeod River.

*Yellowhead Tower Area* is located between the community of Coalspur and the forestry tower (Yellowhead Tower). The land consists of steep ridges oriented in a NW/SE trend. The proposed mine area drains to the south by Chance Creek, a tributary of the Embarras River.



*Figure 2 from the December 2006 Newsletter shows the general location of the proposed expansion areas.*

### OPEN HOUSES

CVM Project Managers invite area residents and stakeholders to attend Open Houses on:

- Tuesday, June 12, 2007 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Best Western High Road Inn, 300, 52 Street, Edson, AB, Heatherwood Room

Or, if it's more convenient

- Thursday, June 14, 2007 from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre, 11834 Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton, AB, Wildrose Room #3

Staff will be available to discuss proposed mining plans and highlights of the mine permit applications based on studies conducted during 2006 and early 2007. The open houses will be set up so people can drop by anytime to speak one-on-one with CVM representatives.

Yours truly,

Les Lafleur, Manager, Mine Permit  
Coal Valley Mine  
Bag Service 5000  
Edson, AB T7E 1W1

Phone: (780) 794-8176  
Fax: (780) 794-8150  
Email: llafleur@coalvalley.ca





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**Appendix 1B – Newspaper Advertisement**





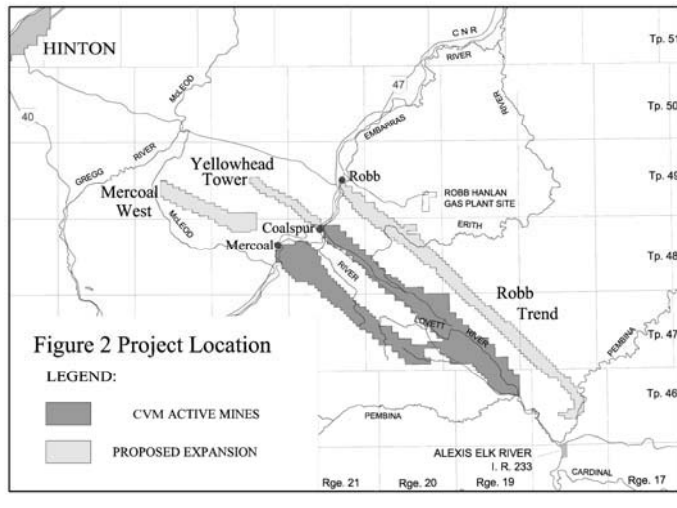
**COAL VALLEY MINE**

# OPEN HOUSE

Coal Valley Mine staff invite area residents and stakeholders to attend an Open House where staff will be available to discuss proposed mine expansion plans.

**When: Tuesday, June 12, 2007  
4:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Where: Best Western High Road Inn  
300 – 52 Street, Edson, AB**





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## **Appendix 2 – Contact Record**



# COAL VALLEY MINE

## CONTACT RECORD

<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Project Name:</b>	PROPOSED MINE EXPANSION
<b>Contact Name:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>Received by:</b>	
<b>Nature of Request:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Safety</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Environment</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sponsorship</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>General Community</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Land Management</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Employment</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other</i> <i>(additional notes see over)</i>
<b>Follow-up Req'd:</b>	
<b>Req'd by (date):</b>	
<b>Coord. Req'mts:</b>	

Please return completed form to: Dane McCoy, Millennium EMS Solutions Ltd.  
208, 4207 - 98 Street, Edmonton, AB T6E 5R7  
Fax: 780 496-9049 Email: dmccoy@mems.ca