



MAY 27 2026

Darf Johnson  
Deputy Director  
Montana Environmental Information Center  
[djohnson@meic.org](mailto:djohnson@meic.org)

Darf Johnson:

Thank you for your letter of April 15, 2026, concerning your request that the Fording River Extension Project (the project) proposed by EVR Operations Limited (the proponent) be assessed by a review panel.

The project does not meet the expansion criteria for a coal mine under the *Physical Activities Regulations* of the *Impact Assessment Act*, meaning that a federal impact assessment of the project was not required. However, in 2020, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, exercised his authority to designate the project pursuant to section 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, to ensure that effects within federal jurisdiction, including those noted in your letter, be assessed.

I am confident that a rigorous and comprehensive coordinated impact assessment process jointly led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office, supported by the expertise of federal and provincial authorities, is an effective approach for the assessment and management of the effects of the project. Concerns raised by the public and Indigenous communities can be addressed in a coordinated assessment through the opportunities for participation and collaboration outlined in the [Joint Assessment and Engagement Plan](#), and the requirements of the proponent set out in the [Federal Appendix](#) to the Application Information Requirements.

.../2

In addition, a Technical Advisory Committee will be used to examine concerns received on environmental and socio-economic matters and Indigenous rights and interests. The Technical Advisory Committee will include representatives from Indigenous groups, federal and provincial experts, United States federal and state agencies and tribes, and the proponent. The Technical Advisory Committee will be mandated to identify issues, present and share information, and collaborate on the identification of solutions.

Please be assured that your submission, along with all information received to date, has been carefully considered. Taking into consideration the information available, including potential adverse effects that the project may have on transboundary waters and fish and fish habitat, and opportunities for cooperation with the Province of British Columbia, I have not referred the impact assessment of the project to a review panel under subsection 36(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Fraser Ross, IAAC's Project Manager at 604-562-5665 or by email at [fording@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:fording@iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

Thank you for your continued participation in the impact assessment for the project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julie Dabrusin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.