



Town of Nanton

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January 20th 2021

Honourable Jason Kenney, MLA, Premier of the Province of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

E-mail: premier@gov.ab.ca

Dear Premier:

RE: Community engagement on future applications for open pit coal mining in southwest Alberta

I would like to take the opportunity to thank both you and Minister Savage for the announcement on Monday January 18, 2021, announcing the cancellation of eleven recently issued coal leases and a subsequent pause in future coal lease sales in former 'Category 2' lands. Whilst both revenue and employment from the development of our province's mineral resources in the southwest is desirable for many (and understandably so), communities like Nanton require an opportunity to evaluate the information available and provide informed feedback, primarily to seek assurances that the watersheds that support our own jobs and growth are in no way threatened by such developments.

At its regular meeting on January 18th, Council carried a resolution to convey to your office its concerns over the safety and quality of the regional water resources that supply Nanton's water license allocations, requesting:

- a new and comprehensive consultation process subsequent to the Government of Alberta's rescindment of the 1976 Coal Policy on June 30, 2020;
- further information or a more thorough analysis concerning the local hydrological, environmental and economic impacts of any watershed changes from this kind of resource development; and
- further local public presentation and discussion prior to any further consideration or action regarding applications for open pit mining to the Alberta Energy Regulator.

Council would like to stress that it has not taken a position with respect to whether it considers such coal lease development positive or negative for the local region. We do want to be on record, though, that watershed contaminants as well as future water allocation availability are significant concerns for this community. Council is desirous of considerably more information and reassurance concerning potential development impacts and an opportunity to engage provincial ministries and industrial stakeholders on these matters.

I look forward to hearing more from the Province as it works on next steps concerning this challenging resource development file.

Yours sincerely,
Town of Nanton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Handley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jennifer" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Handley".

Jennifer Handley
Mayor

:NS

cc: Honourable Sonya Savage, Minister of Energy
Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of the Environment
MP John Barlow
Roger Reid, MLA Livingstone Macleod
Barry Morishita, AUMA President
MD of Willow Creek
MD of Ranchland