



Cliff No.: 80309

August 16, 2013

Bev Hutchinson
President of the Plateau Road Resident's
Association
4704 Forbidden Plateau Road
Courtenay, BC V9J 1R3

Dear Ms. Hutchinson:

Thank you for your July 19, 2013 letter regarding coal licence application 417603 from Compliance Coal Corporation and 418348 and 418349 from Golden River Resources. We are currently reviewing the Coal licence application 417603 from Compliance Coal Corporation; this application was referred to the Comox Valley Regional District for comment. Coal licence applications 418349 and 418348 have been received by Mineral Titles BC and have not yet started the review process.

We understand that you are concerned that the development of coal resources could negatively impact the local environment and the health of residents in your community. I must advise you that the issuance of a coal licence does not convey or otherwise authorize any work or disturbance to the land. If the holder of a licence wishes to conduct any exploration or mining activity, they must first obtain a permit under section 10 of the *Mines Act*. Depending on the nature of the work, the applicant may be required to enter the Environmental Assessment process and receive a certificate prior to issuance of a *Mines Act* permit. The provincial agency responsible for *Mines Act* permitting is the Health, Safety and Permitting Branch of the Ministry of Energy and Mines. Health and safety of workers, public and environmental protection are major components of all mineral exploration and mine development activities in British Columbia.

Your comments will be considered during the review of these coal licence applications by the Chief Gold Commissioner. If you wish to provide input on future applications, we encourage you contact the Regional District so that you can participate in their process for reviewing coal licence applications. Applications for both *Mines Act* permitting authorizations and *Coal Act* licence authorizations are referred to the Regional District as a matter of course.

Regards,

May Mah-Paulson
Chief Gold Commissioner