

**AGENDA**  
**COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK**  
June 22, 2021  
**via GoToMeeting**  
**9:00 am**

1. Approval of Agenda
2. 9:00 am to 10:00am Update from Coal Policy Committee
  - MD Letter to Request Meeting with Coal Policy Committee
  - Email Requesting Virtual Meeting with Coal Policy Committee
  - Request to MD of PC Council - Support for Proposed Alberta Coal Restriction Policy
  - Update from Coal Policy Committee
3. Closed Session
  - a) Planning Process Discussion – FOIP Sec 19
  - b) Actuals vs Budget in Public Works – FOIP Sec 17
  - c) Pincher Creek Emergency Services Mediation Update – FOIP Sec 17
  - d) Rural Health Care Information – FOIP Sec 17
4. Adjournment



1037 Herron Ave.  
PO Box 279  
Pincher Creek, AB  
T0K 1W0  
p. 403.627.3130  
f. 403.627.5070

[info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:info@mdpincercreek.ab.ca)  
[www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca](http://www.mdpincercreek.ab.ca)

May 26, 2021

Karen Henderson  
Director  
Community Relationships & Monitoring, Resource Stewardship Policy  
Energy Policy, Alberta Energy  
[karen.henderson@gov.ab.ca](mailto:karen.henderson@gov.ab.ca)

Dear Karen Henderson,

RE: Invitation to Participate in Coal Policy Engagement

Council would like to thank you for reaching out and inviting the Council to participate in coal policy engagement, we are very interested as this discussion is something very important to us and the community.

We have expressed our concerns to our Provincial Leaders by way of Letters to the Premier Mr. J. Kenny as well as the Minister of Energy and our local MLA, however, we are of the opinion that the challenges facing the demand these Industries will bring, will severely compromise the delicate balance of water quality and quantity in our region.

We are of the opinion, that recent decisions by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) to allow for Coal Exploration has already had a significant effect on the headwaters of the Oldman River Basin. The recent development of exploration roads to mobilize drilling equipment by these companies has the potential to compromise this water resource. Coupled with further demands due to a realignment of the allocation of water licensing for the use of this proposed industry, will further degrade the supply of water in this watershed.

Over recent months, we have seen a very rapid increase of activity by three new industrial interests doing exploration work in the headwaters of the Oldman River Basin. The water from this Basin transcends the Provincial Boundary to the East.

We are aware of the mandate of the Transboundary Water Secretariat established to work cooperatively with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure Alberta receives its Water Entitlements and meets its obligations under existing Interjurisdictional Water Management agreements.

The Master Agreement on Apportionment of Water is an interprovincial Agreement on water flowing east from Alberta to Saskatchewan and Manitoba and is managed and implemented through the Prairie Provinces Water Board.

With recent decisions to grant Exploration permits by the AER, we are concerned that these decisions will further compromise the Province's obligations under the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement on apportionment.

The issues of selenium levels in the Elk River System in the Province of British Columbia, that crosses the International Boundary with the United States of America is receiving much public attention in recent years.

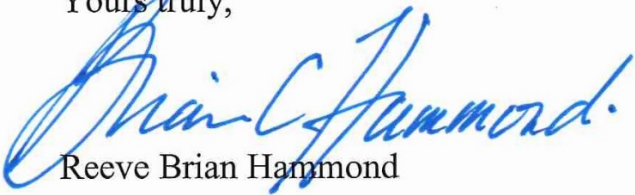
As a Municipality we are extremely concerned about the selenium levels and the future of the water in the basin and many of our Urban neighbours have filed letters of concern with the current Provincial Minister of Environment as well.

The MD of Pincher Creek Council would be interested in working with your organization to discuss these matters. Our Council meets the second and forth Tuesday of the month, in the morning is our Committee Meeting which would work well for our schedule to facilitate a video conference session.

Please have the Committee Secretariat staff contact our Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland at [Communications@mdpincercreek.ab.ca](mailto:Communications@mdpincercreek.ab.ca) or call 403 627-3130, to arrange a date and time that best suits all of us.

Looking forward to future collaboration and discussion involving this very important issue about our waters and coal.

Yours truly,



Reeve Brian Hammond

**From:** Troy MacCulloch  
**Sent:** June 10, 2021 9:47 AM  
**To:** Karen.Henderson@gov.ab.ca  
**Subject:** Engagement Opportunity - MD of Pincher Creek

Hi Karen,

We truly understand the magnitude of the calls you must be receiving, however, our Reeve was contacted personally by one of your committee members encouraging our involvement, especially since it is our headwaters in the Oldman Watershed that are currently being developed. We sincerely ask that you reconsider and find a date that works with your committee so we can have our chance to interact and engage its members. This is far too important an issue for our region to be limited to a one page submission.

I look forward to hearing from you on how we may be able to accomplish this request.

Stay well,

troy

**Troy A. MacCulloch**, CMML, FSAScot  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9  
1037 Herron Drive, PO Box 279  
Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0  
Phone: 403.627.3130

**From:** [Connie Simmons](#)  
**To:** [MDInfo](#)  
**Cc:** [Dave Simmons](#); [Hilah Simmons](#); [Robert Costa](#); [Janet Costa](#); [Sybille Manneschmidt](#); [Andrea Hlady](#); [Anja Van Der Heijden](#); [John Lawson](#); [Cody Johnson](#); [abgar@hotmail.com](#); [PHILIP HAZELTON](#)  
**Subject:** Request to MD of PC Council - support for proposed Alberta Coal Restriction Policy  
**Date:** June 3, 2021 1:42:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Alberta Municipalities re Coal Restriction Policy May 18 2021 \(1\).pdf](#)

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Dear Council members - Municipal District of Pincher Creek,

As residents of the MD of Pincher Creek, we respectfully request that the MD of Pincher Creek Council join other municipalities who have endorsed the attached letter from the Town of High River for a proposed **Alberta Coal Restriction Policy**, to be effective November 15, 2021. To date, the Town of High River, Lethbridge County, Lethbridge City, MD of Ranchlands, Town of Stavely, Town of Tofield, Town of Vegreville, Town of Grimshaw and Village of Warburg have endorsed this letter supporting an Alberta Coal Restriction Policy.

As residents of the MD of Pincher Creek, we strongly encourage all Council members to endorse this letter and the proposed policy.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Connie Simmons  
David Simmons  
Hilah Simmons  
Robert Costa  
Janet Costa  
Sybille Manneschmidt  
Andrea Hlady  
Anja Van Der Heijden  
John Lawson  
Cody Johnson  
Allan Garbutt

HansBuhrmann  
Karin Buhrmann



309B Macleod Trail SW  
High River, Alberta Canada T1V 1Z5  
P: 403.652.2110 F: 403.652.2396  
www.highriver.ca

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

## **ACTION REQUIRED**

**VIA E-MAIL**

May 19, 2021

[Municipality Info/Association]

**Attention: Mayor & Council**

Dear Your Worship & Members of Council:

**RE: Proposed Alberta Coal Restriction Policy**

Your input on the future of the Eastern Slopes of the Rockies is important to the long-term health of our water resources and their ability to provide clean drinking water to all communities in the Province. The Town of High River remains concerned about the negative impacts coal mining will have on our communities, landscapes, our water resources and future generations. We are requesting your support for our version of a new policy that reflects our desire to protect the Eastern Slopes and our water resources in perpetuity.

The Town of High River has met with the Coal Policy Committee and agreed to prepare a framework that would see coal exploration and development banned along the Eastern Slopes. At our May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting, Council unanimously supported the wording outlined below and we are requesting all Alberta Municipalities join us in supporting the proposed policy

Specifically, the Town's proposed **Alberta Coal Restriction Policy** would be effective November 15, 2021 and has three key principles:

1. No further coal exploration or development will be permitted on the Eastern Slopes of Alberta. There will no longer be categories within this area and, instead, there would only be one area defined today as the Eastern Slopes.
2. Existing coal mining operations in the Hinton / Grande Cache areas will be permitted to retire gracefully.
3. Reclamation of lands disturbed by coal exploration activities with coal exploration permits issued prior to February 8, 2021 must be reclaimed no later than December 31, 2025.

Our rationale for the three principles of the Alberta Coal Restriction Policy are as follows:

1. The inherent value of the Eastern Slopes only exists with the landscape remaining intact.
2. The headwaters and landscapes of the Eastern Slopes are critical to the future of our province. Our communities, agriculture production, food production, tourism and recreation all rely on these landscapes existing and their watersheds producing clean water. Water is a limited resource that we all require to exist. The Town is strongly opposed to any activity that increases the likelihood of water contamination. Once a waterway has been contaminated by coal mining, this action cannot be reversed. Our future generations depend on us protecting this resource.
3. The negative impacts on the environment, human health, animal health and existing economies far outweigh the new jobs, taxes, royalties or economics that may be generated as a result of coal development in this area.

The Town will collect all feedback received and report back to the Coal Policy Committee in July 2021.

**If you are in support of the proposed policy wording, please send a signed letter to myself or acknowledge your support utilizing the endorsement below. Please send all letters and feedback to [csnodgrass@highriver.ca](mailto:csnodgrass@highriver.ca), with a copy to [legislativeservices@highriver.ca](mailto:legislativeservices@highriver.ca) no later than July 15, 2021.**

I will then present this policy to the Coal Policy Committee along with the feedback received. If you are interested in participating in the presentation of this policy to the Coal Policy Committee, please contact me at the above noted email address.

Thank you for considering supporting this important initiative.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Craig Snodgrass  
Mayor  
Cell: 403.652.9489

CS/cp/kr

**Endorsement of Support**

On behalf of the City/Town/Village of

\_\_\_\_\_  
I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
can advise that the City/Town/Village of

\_\_\_\_\_  
supports the proposed Alberta Coal Restriction  
Policy as prepared above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



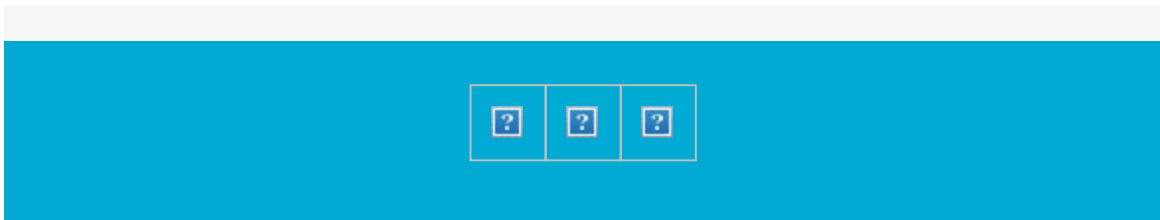
## Update from the Coal Policy Committee

The Coal Policy Committee continues to meet with a variety of groups on the future of coal in Alberta. Engagement sessions into the summer months are already scheduled with a wide range of groups, including communities, landowners, industry, and non-government organizations.

In addition to these sessions, the committee is being briefed by subject matter experts and continues to accept technical submissions from the public. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted a document for consideration.

If you would like to see the committee's May update, view the technical submissions or submit your own, visit our engagement page.

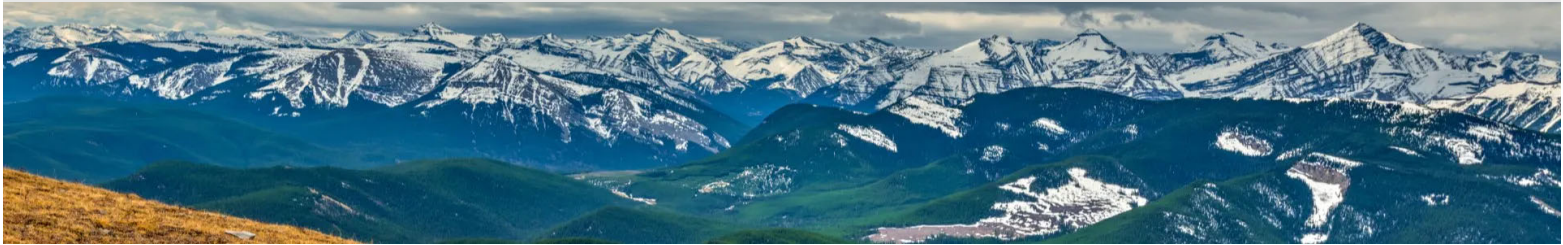
[Learn more](#)



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# Coal Policy Committee

The Coal Policy Committee was established in March to develop and lead a widespread and comprehensive public engagement to inform Alberta's long-term approach to coal development. The committee is responsible for ensuring the views of all Albertans are represented. The committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Energy. Their final report is due to the Minister by November 15, 2021.

For general questions and inquiries about this project, please email [energy.coalpolicy@gov.ab.ca](mailto:energy.coalpolicy@gov.ab.ca).

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[Committee Updates](#)

[Submissions](#)

## [Update from the committee - May](#)

09 Jun 2021



May was another very busy month for the Coal Policy Committee. As a group, we continue to meet on a regular basis and have achieved substantial progress on developing and planning engagements with Albertans on their perspectives and recommendations for a modernized

Coal Policy.



The committee continues to explore other ways to interact with Albertans via this web platform. We were pleased to begin accepting technical submissions when this page launched on May 17. You can [view engagement documents here](#). If you would like to submit a document, learn more [here](#). [Sign In](#) [Register](#)

In addition to technical submissions, we have received technical briefings from subject matter experts from organizations like the Alberta Energy Regulator regarding coal exploration and development in Alberta. The committee will continue to meet with experts on a variety of topics.

Albertans continue to share their perspectives on coal development. We received 63 individual submissions in May, bringing the total to 259 submissions. Thank you for taking the time to send in your thoughts as they greatly enhance and inform our work.

Engagement sessions and bookings are well underway for the summer months. We have sessions scheduled with a wide range of representative groups, including communities, landowners, industry, non-government organizations and Indigenous peoples. We also understand our engagement with Indigenous communities will need to be closely co-ordinated with the Government of Alberta's nation-to-nation engagement currently underway.

We will continue to share updates as the engagement progresses.

## [Message from the Chair](#)

17 May 2021



On behalf of the Coal Policy Committee, welcome to our engagement website. And thank you for taking time to visit and learn about what we're doing.

During March and April, the Government of Alberta opened a preliminary survey about coal and the coal policy and it received nearly 25,000 responses. Our committee has been reviewing those responses to help inform our approach. The responses signal that Albertans are eager for a vigorous analysis and debate about coal development in our province. That's exactly what we intend to do as an independent committee.

[Continue reading...](#)