



NOV 10 2016

Dr. Garth Pickard, Co-Coordinator  
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Dear Drs. Pickard and Ambrosi:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 21, 2016, concerning the Yancoal Canada Resources Company Limited proposed Yancoal Southey Potash Project and your request to designate the Project under section 14 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012).

After careful consideration of the facts, the scientific advice provided by expert departments, including Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada, and the provincial and federal regulatory mechanisms in place to deal with the potential environmental effects of the Project, I have decided not to designate the Project for environmental assessment under CEAA 2012.

As you are aware, the Project is not described in the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* under CEAA 2012; therefore, Yancoal Canada was not required to submit a Project Description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency for consideration on whether it was required to conduct a federal environmental assessment.

I understand that Saskatchewan Environment completed its review of the environmental assessment of the Project and that an approval to proceed with the Project under Saskatchewan's *Environmental Assessment Act* was issued on August 9, 2016. The Project will also be subject to Saskatchewan's *Environmental Management and Protection Act (2010)*, *The Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations (1996)*, *The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations*, and *The Water Security Act*.

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I appreciate you bringing these concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. McKenna', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change