

**PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF MINISTERIAL DECISION
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15
*THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT***

**YANCOAL CANADA RESOURCES COMPANY LIMITED
SOUTHEY POTASH MINE PROJECT**

WHEREAS Yancoal Canada Resources Company Limited (hereinafter called “Yancoal”), applied for ministerial approval as required by subsection 8(1) of *The Environmental Assessment Act* (hereinafter called “the Act”) to construct and operate a greenfield potash mine 60 kilometres north of Regina, Saskatchewan in the Rural Municipality of Longlaketon (hereinafter called “the development”);

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Environment (hereinafter called “the Minister”), gave notice of the assessment to be conducted as required by section 10 of the Act;

AND WHEREAS an environmental impact statement, consisting of a document entitled “Yancoal Southey Project Environmental Impact Statement” dated March 2016 (hereinafter called “the Statement”) as required by clause 9(1)(b) of the Act, was submitted to the Minister;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has reviewed the Statement and has made the Statement and review available for public inspection as required by section 11 of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Minister is satisfied that all the requirements of the Act have been met, including those required of Yancoal;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has concluded the development ought to be approved subject to terms and conditions;

NOW THEREFORE PURSUANT to clause 15(1)(a) of the Act, ministerial approval is hereby given to Yancoal to proceed with the development subject to the following terms and conditions which form part of this ministerial approval:

1. Yancoal shall proceed with the development in the manner described in the Statement except where alterations are required by the subsequent terms and conditions of this approval.
2. Yancoal shall inform the Minister, in the manner described in subsection 16(1) of the Act, of any change to the development that does not conform to the terms and conditions of this approval.

3. Yancoal shall follow the requirements of the laws and regulations of the Province of Saskatchewan, respecting the design, construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the development.
4. This Approval is not an environmental approval with respect to any ancillary feature of this development that is the responsibility of a party other than Yancoal; for example, but not limited to: power transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, water supply lines and provincial or rural municipality roads are not included as part of this approval. If required, such features will be considered under separate application to be submitted by the responsible party.
5. Where there is discrepancy between a condition of this approval and any document submitted by Yancoal, the condition in this approval shall take precedence.
6. Yancoal shall submit to the Minister a signed Development Agreement with the Rural Municipality of Longlaketon No. 219 prior to the commencement of construction activities for the project.
7. Within one year of the date of this Approval, Yancoal shall submit for approval by the Minister, a community involvement plan. The plan shall include a commitment to:
 - a. Establish a community advisory committee;
 - b. Develop a schedule for implementation of engagement activities;
 - c. Establish a community monitoring program in consultation with local communities and take steps to facilitate involvement of members;
 - d. Present, and make publically available, results of monitoring conducted and signed by a Qualified Professional throughout all phases of the project;
 - e. Identify concerns or issues from members and collaborate to find mutually acceptable solutions; and
 - f. Provide updates on the outcomes of meetings with the committee in the annual report as required by Condition 10 of this approval.
8. Yancoal shall integrate the following into the environmental protection plan to be submitted during the permitting phase of the project, monitoring locations on agricultural land surrounding the facility and along Loon Creek to identify potential offsite impacts to soil and surface water quality resulting from the project. Subject to the Discharge and Discovery Reporting Chapter of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code should impacts to soil or surface water quality be determined by a qualified person, Yancoal will be required to notify the Ministry of Environment within 24 hours and develop appropriate mitigations, subject to approval, to address the issue.
9. Every five years from the initiation of mining activities, Yancoal shall include in the annual report required by Condition 10 of this Approval, subsidence monitoring results signed by a Qualified Professional.

10. Yancoal shall submit an annual report to the Minister prior to March 15 of each year beginning the year following commencement of construction and continuing through decommissioning and reclamation. This report will outline how conditions of this approval have been met and include an updated commitments register showing how all commitments included in the Statement are being met.

11. The development must commence within five years of the issuance date of this Approval. If it has not commenced within five years of the issuance date of this Approval, the Minister shall give Yancoal 30 days to rectify the breach or to make representations as to why an extension of the five-year time period is warranted. If the breach is not rectified and an extension of time is not granted by the Minister, this Approval expires.

12. This ministerial approval takes effect on the date of signing.

Dated at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan this 9th day of August, 2016

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Herb Cox
Minister of Environment