Summary of Engagement

CASTLE PROJECT

JULY 31, 2020

Pursuant to Section 13.5 of the Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C. 2018, c.51

BRITISH COLUMBIA
EAO | Environmental Assessment Office

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Summary of Engagement has been prepared by the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to summarize public comments received during the Early Engagement phase's public comment and engagement period, Indigenous nations' interests in the project area, and to identify key issues and concerns provided by technical advisors after review of the Initial Project Description submitted by Teck Coal Limited (Teck) for the proposed Castle Project. The purpose of this report is to help inform Teck's development of the Detailed Project Description by providing a summary of comments received during the Early Engagement phase and to provide a list of participating Indigenous nations as per Section 13(5)(a) and (b) of the British Columbia (BC) *Environmental Assessment Act (2018)* (the Act) respectively.

The Readiness Decision phase will start after Teck submits a final Detailed Project Description which will involve the EAO's determination of whether enough information is available to start the Process Planning phase of the Environmental Assessment (EA) with key issues identified for resolution later in the EA process.

During the Early Engagement phase, the EAO requested input from the public, potentially affected Indigenous nations, and technical advisors from provincial and federal government agencies, local governments, United States (U.S.) state and federal agencies, and U.S. Tribes to understand the preferred means of engagement and to gather their initial interests, concerns, questions, feedback, and knowledge regarding the Castle Project. To support engagement and feedback on the Initial Project Description, the EAO hosted two virtual public open houses and held meetings and teleconferences with technical advisors and potentially affected Indigenous nations prior to and during the Early Engagement phase.

This Summary of Engagement includes:

- a summary of comments received during the public comment and engagement period;
- input received from technical advisors on the Initial Project Description;
- a list of participating Indigenous nations who have provided notice under Section 14(1) of the Act;
- a summary of Indigenous nations' preliminary interests in the project area; and
- information and engagement requirements for the Detailed Project Description.

The EAO expects that Teck will utilize all of the information received during Early Engagement, including the Summary of Engagement and detailed comments from participants to consider and address this information, as appropriate, in a Detailed Project Description and to inform subsequent phases of the EA, if it proceeds.

2.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

Teck proposes to extend the lifespan of its Fording River Operations, an existing coal mine near Elkford, BC, by expanding mining to Castle Mountain (referred to as the Castle Project). This would allow Fording River Operations to maintain a production rate of up to 10 million metric tonnes of clean coal per year. Teck has proposed that, if approved, pre-construction of the Castle Project would commence in 2023, followed by production in 2026. Teck anticipates that all coal for Fording River Operations would come from the Castle Project by the early 2030s and extend the life of Fording River Operations by several decades. For further details on the proposed Castle Project, please see the Initial Project Description, Engagement Plan, and other documents on the EAO's *EPIC website*.

3.0 EARLY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

The Castle Project is being reviewed by the EAO under the Act. Teck provided the EAO with an Initial Project Description and Engagement Plan in March 2020. The EAO issued an order under Section 13(3)(a) of the Act on April 9, 2020, accepting the Initial Project Description and Engagement Plan and formally starting the Early Engagement phase of the EA. The Summary of Engagement, along with the Detailed Project Description, will be provided to the EAO's Chief Executive Assessment Officer (CEAO)to inform the Readiness Decision to either:

- proceed to an EA;
- require a revised Detailed Project Description;

- exempt the project from an EA; or
- terminate the project from the EA process.

Figure 1 below provides an overview of the EA process and key documents, highlighting where the Summary of Engagement is issued:

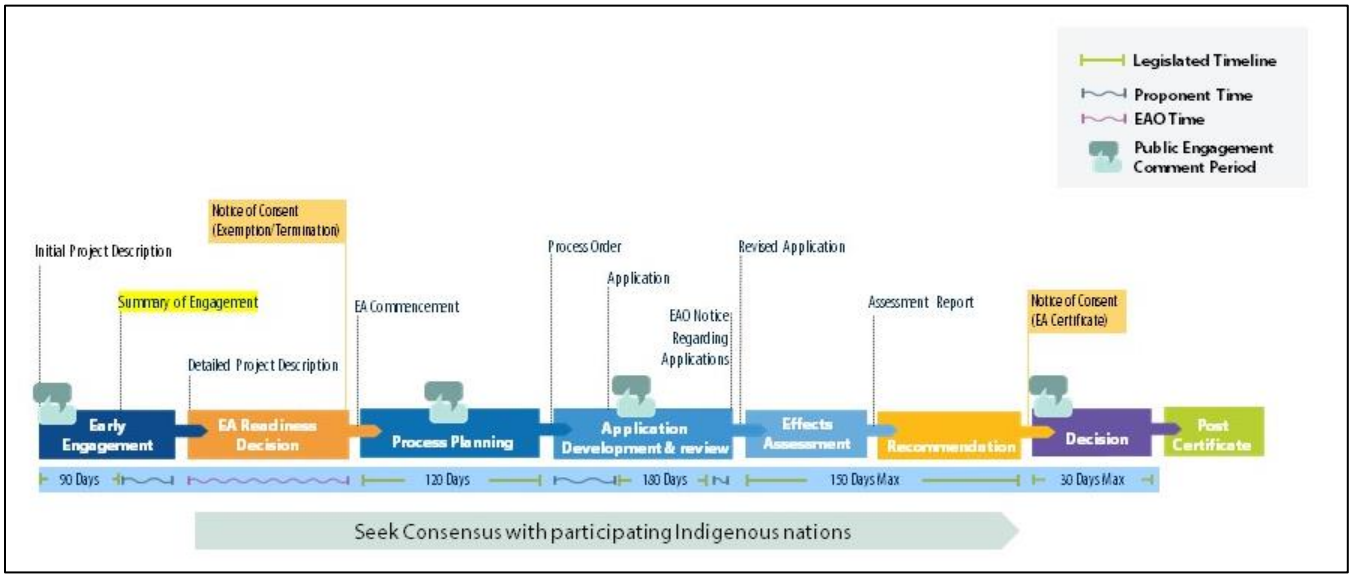

Figure 1 - EA process and key documents

For more information on the Early Engagement phase, the EAO's Summary of Engagement, and the Readiness Decision, please see EAO guidance materials available from: *2018 Act Guidance Documents*.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

The public comment and engagement period on the Castle Project's Initial Project Description was extended from 30 days to 45 days due to the Covid-19 physical distancing guidelines and was held from May 8th, 2020 to June 22nd, 2020. In lieu of hosting an in person open house, the EAO organized two virtual open houses on May 14th and May 19th, 2020 via Skype Meeting Broadcast. A total of 237 people participated in the May 14th virtual open house and 111 people in the May 19th open house. The public comment and engagement period and open houses were advertised in local newspapers and on local radio stations. The EAO received a total of 647 public comments during the public comment and engagement period. All individual comments were shared with Teck to inform the development of the Detailed Project Description and further engagement. Teck should respond to each comment category as part of the Detailed Project Description via the inclusion of additional information, project design considerations etc., and/or indicate how these comments may inform subsequent phases of the EA. Public comments were solicited by the EAO and were posted on the *EAO's EPIC website*. Table 1 below provides a summary of public comments received during Early Engagement:

Comment Category	Comment Summary
Water quality	Potential effects on the Elk River, Chauncey Creek, Lake Kookanusa, Kookanusa Reservoir, and the Upper Fording River. Concerns were focussed around the existing selenium concentrations in these bodies of water and how the potential further increase of selenium concentrations would affect fish and fish habitat and Teck's ability to meet the objectives of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan and permit requirements related to water quality for existing operations impacting the Elk River.
Westslope cutthroat trout	The westslope cutthroat trout populations in the Upper Fording River and Lake Kookanusa are declining including recent indications of high adult fish mortality. Concerns were raised regarding how potential water contaminants from the Castle Project could further contribute to this population trend.

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and high elevation grasslands	Potential effects on Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the Elk Valley due to impacts on high elevation grasslands, which are critical winter habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.
Climate change	Carbon dioxide and methane emissions from the Castle Project and how this could affect climate change and the provincial and federal greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
Impacts on First Nations' traditional lands	Impacts to areas of spiritual, cultural, and archaeological significance as well as current use of resources in the project area and those that may utilize the project area (e.g. wildlife) and how this would affect Indigenous communities.
Effects on human health	Potential effects to human health due to impacts on the environment, specifically on water and air quality.
Loss of recreational areas	Potential effects on recreational lands and recreational fishing.
Economic stability	Potential positive effects of the Castle Project to sustain long-term employment and support the economies of the surrounding communities.
Sustainability	Potential positive effects of the Castle Project's proposed reclamation efforts that would be consistent with ongoing efforts for existing mines in the Elk Valley to reclaim and rehabilitate lands impacted by mining. Comments received were regarding Teck's leadership in forward-thinking technologies to mitigate water quality impacts and their commitment to reclamation activities and minimizing overall environmental impacts.

Table 1 – Summary of public comments received

5.0 TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Technical advisors play a vital role in advising the EAO and participating Indigenous nations on technical matters related to the assessment. Technical advisors will have the opportunity to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee formed during Process Planning, should the Castle Project proceed to an EA. Please see the *Technical Advisory Committee Guidelines* for more information. The EAO contacted technical advisors from Ktunaxa Nation Council, U.S. Tribes[1], local governments, provincial and federal government agencies, provincial health authorities, and U.S. state and federal government agencies to request their feedback on the Initial Project Description. Please see Appendix 1 for a list of technical advisors invited to participate during Early Engagement.

On June 4th, 2020, the EAO hosted a meeting with technical advisors to provide an overview of the Castle Project and the new EA process under the Act, and to outline the roles and responsibilities of technical advisors during Early Engagement and of the Technical Advisory Committee during the EA phases of a project review, should the Castle Project proceed to Process Planning. Following the meeting, the EAO requested that technical advisors identify key issues for Teck to consider in the Detailed Project Description.

A complete list of comments received from technical advisors on the Initial Project Description can be found on the EAO's *EPIC website* and a summary of input received from technical advisors is provided in Table 2 below. Teck should consider feedback from technical advisors and indicate how it is incorporated into the Detailed Project Description via the inclusion of additional information, project design considerations etc., and/or indicate how these comments may inform subsequent phases of the EA.

Category	Technical Advisor Input

[1] In accordance with the February 18th, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of BC and the State of Montana, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were invited to be technical advisors for the Castle EA.

Project design considerations	Identify and describe the best achievable technology options for water quality source control and treatment (e.g. tailings ponds and clean water diversions), pit shell design, tailings management and storage (e.g. coarser coal technologies), and dust control, and consider new techniques such as long strike mining.
	Request for additional information regarding how the operational sequencing of the Castle Project and use of pre-existing facilities such as waste rock dumps may influence current closure and end land use plans approved for the existing Fording River Operations.
Project interactions with the biophysical environment	Ground and surface water quality concerns due to an inability to capture and treat increased inputs of contaminants such as selenium and nitrates. Concerns around potential impacts on westslope cutthroat trout, the Fording and Elk Rivers and their tributaries (e.g. Chauncey Creek), and the Lake Koocanusa watershed. Cumulative impacts on transboundary watersheds leading to effects on fish, wildlife, and human health. Concerns around ineffective water quality treatment at existing Teck facilities and cumulative effects in the Elk Valley, including non-compliance with the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan.
	Concerns that discharges from the Project may increase selenium and nitrate concentrations in the Elk River, resulting in transboundary effects on fish and wildlife in Lake Koocanusa, a waterbody located in both Canada and the US, as well as in the Kootenai River that drains the lake and flows through Montana and Idaho.
	Ground and surface water quantity concerns from water usage at the Castle Project and water seepage, combined with drying effects from climate change.
	Concerns around potential impacts on terrestrial wildlife and plant species at risk, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, high elevation grasslands and brushlands, white bark pine and limber pine.
	Air quality concerns including increased dust emissions and potential impacts on ecosystem health and function from dust as well as greenhouse gas emissions.
Project interactions with the human environment	Human health concerns resulting from impacts to drinking water due to increased selenium and nitrates, from increased dust emissions, from increased noise, and from impacts to traditional foods due to changes in water and air quality.
	Concerns that the project would differentially impact marginalized groups of people due to addition of direct/indirect jobs in the area.
	Concerns around maintaining local employment, training opportunities, and local suppliers to ensure sustainable economic development and community wellbeing.
	Potential impacts on local viewscapes/visual aesthetics from mining at Castle Mountain.
Permitting considerations	Need for appropriate water quantity data collection, hydrology study, environmental flow need study or update, and monitoring program development to support water licence applications or amendments.
	Need to include references to the Public Health Act [SBC 2008] C. 28, the Sewerage System Regulations BC Reg. 191/2018, and the Drinking Water Protection Act [SBC 2001] C. 9.
	Requests for clarification around the connection between existing Fording River Operations and the proposed Castle Project, including the Castle Project's potential implications to existing permits and authorizations at Fording River Operations.
	Requests that Teck provide greater clarity around how the Castle Project may impact existing facilities and infrastructure and indicate whether revision of approved plans under permits such as Mines Act C-3 may require amendment in the event the Castle Project is approved.

Table 2 - feedback received from technical advisors

6.0 PARTICIPATING INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Under Section 14(1) of the Act, an Indigenous nation may provide notice to the CEAO that it intends to participate in the assessment of a project, within 80 days of publication of the Initial Project Description. Alternatively, an Indigenous nation may choose to refrain from identifying as a participating Indigenous nation under the Act. In each of these cases, the EAO must still fulfill its constitutional obligations to these Indigenous nations and will continue to engage with the Nations according to these obligations.

On April 9th, 2020, the EAO notified the following Indigenous nations regarding approval of the Initial Project Description and Engagement Plan and the start of the Early Engagement phase: Ktunaxa Nation Council, representing the four Ktunaxa Nation communities in BC, akink'umłasnuqłi?it (Tobacco Plains Band), ?aq'am (St. Mary's Band), yaqan nu?kiy (Lower Kootenay Band), and ?akisq'nuk First Nation (Columbia Lake Band); Shuswap Indian Band; and Stoney Nakoda Nation. These Nations were selected for notification based on the EAO's understanding at the onset of Early Engagement of known traditional territories that overlap with the Castle Project area, asserted rights in the Castle Project area, as well as past and current use of the Castle Project area. These Nations were invited to participate during the Early Engagement phase and provided information regarding self-identification as a participating Indigenous nation.

The EAO also received correspondences from Kainai (Blood Tribe), Piikani Nation, and Siksika Nation in late April 2020, expressing a desire to engage in the EA for the Castle Project. The EAO provided further details to these Indigenous nations regarding the EA process, sought further information to understand their interests in the Castle Project area, and provided information about self-identifying as participating Indigenous nations.

Subsequent to this initial correspondence, Ktunaxa Nation Council, Kanai, Piikani Nation, Shuswap Indian Band, Siksika Nation and Stoney Nakoda Nation provided the EAO with notices of self identification as participating Indigenous nations. Notices from each self-identified participating Indigenous nation describing their respective interests are posted publicly on the *EAO's EPIC website*. The EAO evaluated these notices to understand if there is a reasonable expectation that each Nation or its interests could be impacted by the Castle Project to determine the list of participating Indigenous nations.

Table 3 below provides the list of participating Indigenous nations for the Castle Project:

Indigenous nation	Mailing address
Ktunaxa Nation Council	7825 Mission Road Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5
Kainai (Blood Tribe)	Hwy 2 Stand Off, AB T0L 1Y0
Piikani Nation	1605 - 17th Ave P.O. Box 70 Brocket, AB T0K 0H0
Shuswap Indian Band	P.O. Box 790 Invermere, BC V0A 1K0
Siksika Nation	P.O.Box 1100 Siksika, AB T0J 3W0
Stoney Nakoda Nation	P.O. Box 40 Morley, AB T0L 1N0

Table 3 - List of participating Indigenous nations

Participating Indigenous nations are afforded specific procedural rights within the Act, including access to capacity funding, consensus seeking processes, a procedure to communicate consent or withhold consent at specific decision points, and access to facilitated dispute resolution. For more information on participating Indigenous nations please see the *EAO's guidance materials*.

The EA process is designed to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by implementing the standards set out in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* in the context of EA. For every EA, the effects of a project on Indigenous nations and their Aboriginal rights must be assessed. However, the EAO recognizes that each Nation has a unique culture and connection to the lands and resources that are subject to a proposed project, including situating the project proposal within the Nation's priorities and visions into the future. Through these understandings, the EAO and the Indigenous nation can work through a range of potential decisions about the EA process for a proposed project and determine how the EAO and the Indigenous nation make those decisions together. The EAO anticipates that the scope of engagement will be different for each Nation in recognition of the diverse interests inherent to Indigenous nations.

The EAO and each participating Indigenous nation will work together, as early as possible, to develop an understanding of the Nation's unique connection to the proposed project area including past, current and future uses of the area and interests that may be affected by the proposed project, which is referred to as the *Understanding of Interests*. This Understanding of Interests will be reflective of the Nation's governance requirements and roles and will inform the EA process, including the scope and nature of the assessment and the focus of consensus seeking requirements of the Act at each EA phase.

One objective of Early Engagement is to seek a preliminary set of interests from each Nation to inform a more complete Understanding of Interests. It is critical that proponents and the EAO engage together and independently with each Nation to better understand how these preliminary interests may be related to potential impacts specific to the project on each Nation's rights or the Nation itself. This understanding of potential effects pathways between the project and a Nations' interests will inform a refined scope of engagement with each Nation throughout the EA; assuming the EA proceeds beyond the Readiness Decision. This customized scope of engagement will be unique for each Nation through the recognition of:

- Past, current, and future use of the project area and/or resources that may utilize or located within the project area (including potential downstream effects);
- Refined project-specific interests and potential effects to the Nations and/or their rights; and
- The governance role of each Nation in the project area.

The EAO recognizes the efforts underway by Ktunaxa Nation Council to support their governance structures and decision making related to proposed projects in the Elk Valley. The EAO is working with provincial ministries to implement a strategic engagement agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation Council that sets out processes for engagement related to natural resource development decision-making. The Province and Ktunaxa Nation Council have also agreed to advance government-to-government structures that will promote communication and joint issues resolution while simultaneously engaging on key stewardship initiatives to address environmental issues. Priority stewardship initiatives for both parties include collaborative work on cumulative effects management in the Elk Valley, conservation of westslope cutthroat trout, tributary management, and improvement in water quality. These initiatives seek to strengthen the regulatory process for the assessment and oversight of mining projects in the Elk Valley.

Importantly, the EAO recognizes that the interests identified by each Nation at this stage of the Early Engagement phase for the Castle Project require additional engagement by Teck and the EAO to inform the scope of subsequent engagement. The EAO will also continue to engage with each Nation to better understand each Nation's interests with respect to the Castle Project.

Teck should consider the interests provided by each Indigenous nation and indicate how these interests incorporated into the Detailed Project Description, through the inclusion of additional information or an indication how comments may be considered in subsequent phases of the EA (e.g. Process Planning that sets the scope of the EA, Application Development

that allows for collaborative opportunities to review the application prior to assessment, and Effects Assessment that assess the potential effects of a project on participating Indigenous nations and their rights). The EAO also anticipates Teck may undertake additional engagement with Indigenous nations to better understand the interests and Project concerns put forth, and that Teck will respond to each Nation's interests as part of the Detailed Project Description by considering if additional information is necessary to inform the Readiness Decision. The EAO will support these discussions by defining the Readiness Decision and the level and type of information required. The EAO will review the Detailed Project Description and Teck's response to the input received from each participating Indigenous nation collaboratively with the Nations in support of the Readiness Decision.

The scope of engagement with each participating Indigenous nation would be finalized during the Process Planning phase through issuance of a Process Order that includes specific information necessary to assess effects of the Castle Project on a Nation and/or its rights, the level of involvement of each Nation on the Technical Advisory Committee and its sub-committees, the timing and nature of specific engagement activities, and whether a Nation(s) wish to conduct certain aspects of the assessment.

Table 4 below summarizes Indigenous interests and concerns that have been identified by participating Indigenousnations at this time:

Indigenous Nation	Indigenous Interests and Project Concerns
Ktunaxa Nation Council	Concerns regarding the adverse cultural and environmental impacts of the Castle Project to cause extraordinarily adverse effects on the Ktunaxa Nation and Ktunaxa Indigenous rights.
	Interests in further information and understanding regarding progress on reclamation and restoration efforts, improvements to water quality, commitments on anticipated environmental performance of the Castle Project, current and future environmental performance of existing mines and a better understanding of the justification of the Castle Project, in relation to existing permits.
	Concerns regarding cumulative effects and existing displacement of Ktunaxa practices, including into the Castle Project area, due to disturbance caused by existing coal mines, mine exploration and other industrial and non-industrial activities. Existing level of displacement intensifies the importance of the Castle Project area for use and stewardship.
	Interests in the unique and regionally important environmental features located within the Castle Project footprint, including critical ungulate and sheep habitat.
	Concerns and lack of information regarding the Castle Project's potential inconsistency with Ktunaxa's formal and informal planning goals and objectives for the Castle Project area, as the Castle Project would extend the spatial and temporal disruption of Ktunaxa practices in Qukin ʔamakʔis for generations.
	Interests in ecosystems of conservation interest, including wetland, riparian and floodplains ecosystems, avalanche path ecosystems, karst ecosystems, old growth forests and mature forests, grassland and brushland ecosystems and all listed ecological communities.
	Interests in the protection and rehabilitation of tributaries, a limited ecosystem with the Elk Valley due to the "valley fill" mining method. Permanent protection of tributaries would include conservation of existing ecological state of aquatic and riparian habitats without any detriment to cultural values or the exercise of rights, title and interests, or degradation of ecosystem structure, function or composition.
	Interests in preferred areas for practice of Ktunaxa rights in the Castle Project footprint, including hunting, habitation and transportation (foot and horse trails) and the importance of these activities in connecting to a broader Ktunaxa cultural landscape that supports deep past, current and future Ktunaxa connections with the land and resources.
	Interests in water, an overarching concern for the Ktunaxa, as water influences all aspects of Ktunaxa assessment including social, education and employment, traditional knowledge and language, economic and land and resources and Ktunaxa Nation Indigenous rights and traditions rely on water and its flow, which are central to life and sacred. Interests and concerns regarding water quality, westslope cutthroat trout and fish habitat.
	Interests in birds, including the Woodpecker Guild, which is culturally important based on Ktunaxa creation story and an important keystone species (8 species), and the Migratory Raptor Guild, which has specific cultural importance tied to

	Qukin ʔamakʔis, and the American dipper, which has a strong link between aquatic-riparian health and wildlife-habitat impact pathways.
	Interests in wildlife, including moose, as the Castle Project area is important to maintain connectivity with populations in Alberta and to maintain seasonal movements, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and elk, as migratory movement corridors for these species are critically important as are seasonal habitats.
Kainai (Blood Tribe)	Concerns regarding direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the ability to exercise Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses in and around the Project area, along with direct, indirect and cumulative on the ability to practice its Treaty rights within Alberta.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's interference with legal, spiritual, and cultural practices, which form an integral part of governance.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, on Kainai's sense of place, way of life, and ability to pass down culture from generation to generation.
	Concerns regarding the Projects impact on Kainai's ability to harvest plants for food, medicinal and ceremonial purposes, including stems, leaves, roots and berries.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's impacts to camping and gathering sites of cultural, spiritual and historic importance, which are important for the transmission of traditional culture, knowledge and law.
	Concerns regarding potential impacts to uses of a parcel of land near Coleman, Alberta, about 60 km from the Project, which is used as a base to support Kainai members' exercise of Treaty rights and traditional land uses in the Crowsnest Pass region.
	Concerns regarding the Project's impacts to Kainai's hunting rights, including hunting practices of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep (a species of cultural importance), moose and occasionally bear.
	Concerns regarding the Project's impacts to environmentally sensitive habitats, including westslope cutthroat trout habitat.
	Concerns regarding the Project's potential impacts to Bighorn sheep populations, as the project location contains the highest density of sheep within the region. The Project may impact Bighorn sheep wintering range and some of the bighorn sheep that rely on winter range in the Project area may travel into Alberta, thus impacting Alberta populations. Impacts to bighorn sheep may have corresponding impacts on treaty right to hunt bighorn sheep. Kainai has interests in in participating in studying impacts to bighorn sheep.
	Concerns regarding the Project increasing disturbance of land in Kainai's traditional territory which could result in reduced harvesting areas and removal of plants and wildlife. This area is one of the few remaining areas within Kainai's territory that hasn't been taken up or disturbed – it is thus one of the few remaining areas where Kainai can continue to practice its rights.
	Interests in protection of wildlife habitat, migratory birds and fish and fish habitat.
	Concerns regarding the Project's impacts on water and air quality. In particular, the Project may contribute to water contamination, particularly as a result of selenium. These impacts may in turn decrease Kainai's confidence in the resources in and around the area that support the practice of its rights.
	Concerns with respect to the Projects contribution to existing and future cumulative effects, as the Castle Project is one of six new mine projects being considered in addition to the five already existing mines.
	Interests in further understanding of the Castle Project's impacts to facilitate informed decision making, including collecting information on: • Traditional land uses use of the Castle Project area; • Conditions and resources needed to support practice of rights; • Impacts on water quality in and around the Castle Project area; • Impacts of the Castle Project on wildlife, particularly, on bighorn sheep; • Assessment of the impacts of the Castle Project on Kainai's rights; and

	• The ways in which Teck's existing mines have already impacted wildlife populations, water quality and other resources in the surrounding area; through existing monitoring data with respect to the impact Teck's current operations are having on these resources to help inform understanding of the impacts of the Castle Project.
Siksika Nation	Concerns regarding direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the ability to exercise Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses in and around the Project area, along with direct, indirect and cumulative on the ability to practice its Treaty rights within Alberta.
	Concerns regarding interference with Siksika legal, spiritual, and cultural practices, which form an integral part of Siksika governance.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, on Siksika's sense of place, way of life, and ability to pass down culture from generation to generation.
	Concerns regarding the Projects impact on Siksika's ability to harvest plants for food, medicinal and ceremonial purposes, including stems, leaves, roots and berries. This includes the materials that are utilized in the Horn Society, and Beaver Bundle and the Thunder Medicine Pipe bundle, and other Siksika Societies.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's impacts on Siksika's ability to collect ochre, and 7th paint – materials critical for Siksika ceremonial practices.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's impacts to camping and gathering sites of cultural, spiritual and historic importance, which are important for the transmission of traditional culture, knowledge and law.
	Concerns regarding potential impacts to uses of a parcel of land near Coleman, Alberta, about 60 km from the Castle Project, which is used as a base to support its members' exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights and traditional land uses in the Crowsnest Pass and Kootenay region.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's impacts to Siksika's hunting rights, including hunting practices of elk, mule deer, bighorn sheep (a species of cultural importance), moose and occasionally bear.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project increasing disturbance of land in Siksika Nation's traditional territory, which could result in reduced harvesting areas and removal of plants and wildlife. This area is one of the few remaining areas within Siksika's territory that hasn't been taken up or disturbed – it is thus one of the few remaining areas where Siksika can continue to practice its rights.
	Concerns regarding impacts to environmentally sensitive habitats, including westslope cutthroat trout habitat.
	Interests in protection of wildlife habitat, migratory birds and fish and fish habitat.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's impacts to bighorn sheep populations, as the project location contains the highest density of sheep within the region. The Castle Project may impact bighorn sheep wintering range and some of the bighorn sheep relying on winter range in the Castle Project area may travel into Alberta thus impacting Alberta populations. Impacts to bighorn sheep may have corresponding impacts on Siksika's treaty right to hunt bighorn sheep. Siksika has an interest in participating in studying impacts to bighorn sheep wintering range.
	Concerns regarding the Projects impacts on water and air quality. In particular, the Castle Project may contribute to water contamination, particularly as a result of selenium. These impacts may in turn decrease Siksika's confidence in the resources in and around the area that support its practice of its rights.
	Concerns with respect to the Projects contribution to existing and future cumulative effects as the Castle Project is one of six new mine projects being considered in addition to the five already existing mines.
	Interests in further understanding of the Castle Project's impacts to facilitate informed decision making, including collecting information on: • Traditional land uses use of the Castle Project Area; • Conditions and resources needed to support practice of rights; • Impacts of the Castle Project on water quality in and around the Castle Project area; • Impacts of the Castle Project on wildlife, particularly, on bighorn sheep; • Assessment of the impacts of the Project on Siksika's rights; and

	• The ways in which Teck's existing mines have already impacted wildlife populations, water quality and other resources in the surrounding area; through existing monitoring data with respect to the impact Teck's current operations are having on these resources to help inform understanding of the impacts of the Castle Project.
Piikani Nation	Interests in high elevation grasslands, which are home to a range of species of cultural importance, sacred sites and subsistence activities.
	Interests in plants and vegetation harvested for medicinal, ceremonial, and other cultural purposes, including saskatoon, *soopolallie* (buffaloberry), common juniper, birch, yarrow, lodgepole pine.
	Concerns regarding effects of selenium on fish populations in the Elk River watershed as a result of coal mining in the region.
	Interests in grizzly bear, which have significance within spiritual and ceremonial teachings, songs, ceremonies, medicines, and stories, as evidenced by the Grizzly Bear Treaty (2016), initiated by Piikani Nation and led by Chief Stan Grier, which intends to protect and restore Grizzly Bear habitat across North America.
	Interests in the potential for archaeological resources in the project area.
	Interests in undertaking a traditional use study to reaffirm Piikani ties to ancestral lands and identify mitigations which may reduce the Castle Project's impacts on Piikani Nation's rights and interests.
	Concerns regarding the Castle Project's potential to further erode access to Piikani ancestral territories for spiritual, cultural and subsistence uses.
Shuswap Indian Band	Concerns regarding further resource development limiting transmission of Indigenous knowledge and practices across generations.
	Concerns regarding potential impacts to archaeological sites and artifact gathering by band members. Interests in participating in any archaeological monitoring work conducted in the project area.
	Interests in continued access to areas of key cultural and spiritual significance including trails, travel corridors, waterways, mountains, and burial sites.
	Concerns regarding potential impacts to subsistence harvesting in and surrounding the project area, including fishing, plant gathering, hunting and mineral gathering from changes to surface and ground water quality, increased traffic and habitat destruction.
	Concerns regarding fish and fish habitat and water quality in the Elk River and the White River and an interest in participating in water quality and fish monitoring work conducted in the project area.
	Concerns regarding indirect impacts, including cumulative effects to soil, wildlife, plants, and water.
	Interests in plant species of importance including Labrador tea, *sxúsem* (soapberries), glacier lilies (wild sweet potato), Devil's club, willow, and Canby lovage; and animal species of importance harvested by band members in the project area, including elk, deer, and fur bearing species.
	Interests in socio-economic factors such as employment and economic opportunities.
	Concerns regarding impacts to human and ecosystem health due to potential changes in air quality and noise.
	Interests in undertaking a traditional land use study.
Stoney Nakoda Nation	Interests in environmental stewardship, natural resource management and monitoring of their traditional lands.
	Interests in documentation and preservation of traditional place names and oral narrative within southeastern BC.
	Interests in participating in any Environmental Monitoring Committee established for the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan.
	Interests in ensuring traditional knowledge, cultural perspectives, and experiential components of the land are considered in the EA.

	Interests in the continued access to locations where hunting, fishing, harvesting, ceremonial and cultural practices occur and the persistence of these activities, traditions, and customs.
	Interests in conducting a traditional use/traditional knowledge study for the project area to identify Stoney Nakoda specific values, knowledge and interests related to the project area and required mitigations and measures to reduce impacts to Stoney Nakoda rights, uses and interests.

Table 4 - Indigenous interests and concerns

7.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

This section includes key topics raised by EA participants during the Early Engagement phase and the next steps recommended to support the Readiness Decision, which will determine if the Detailed Project Description includes adequate information to proceed to an EA.

Key topics were selected by the EAO if they were expressed by multiple EA participants and/or if efforts have begun to address the issue by the Province, Ktunaxa Nation Council and Teck as part of strategic initiatives in the Elk Valley.

Table 5 below outlines the key topics from input received during Early Engagement and next steps for Teck's Detailed Project Description:

Key Topic	Next Steps for the Detailed Project Description
Water quality (e.g. selenium) impacts on the biophysical environment and on human health	Expand on content in the Initial Project Description around potential water quality impacts based on feedback received during Early Engagement and indicate how these potential impacts may be assessed to inform the Application Information Requirements, including reference to ongoing work to mitigate water quality impacts.
Impacts on species at risk, including westslope cutthroat trout, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, high elevation grasslands, and white bark pine	Include specific reference to potential impacts on westslope cutthroat trout, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, high elevation grasslands, and white bark pine to clearly indicate how the project design considered these impacts and mitigates them. Provide additional information regarding baseline studies to inform the Application Information Requirements to assess these impacts.
Cumulative effects on water quality, air quality, soil, terrestrial wildlife and ecosystems and the transmission of Indigenous Knowledge and cultural practices	Include reference to potential cumulative effects on water quality and terrestrial wildlife and ecosystems and additional information to inform the Application Information Requirements to assess these impacts.
Importance of mining to the economy	Expand on content in the Initial Project Description around the potential benefits of the Castle Project to the local, regional, and national economies.
Impacts to traditional and current land use practices for ceremonial, cultural, medicinal, harvesting and subsistence purposes, involving plants and vegetation; wildlife and wildlife habitat; fish and fish habitat; and specific sites of archaeological and ceremonial importance.	Ensure understanding of the location of where these practices occur in relation of the Castle Project area, through engagement with participating Indigenous nations. Provide information on how these practices, and the locations and sites they occur, would be assessed to inform the Application Information Requirements. Include how the Castle Project's potential impacts on theses practices will be assessed, based on discussions with participating Indigenous nations. Describe how traditional knowledge, cultural perspectives, and experiential components will be incorporated into the Application Information Requirements.

Table 5 - Summary of key topics

The EAO notes that Indigenous nations, members of the public, and technical advisors shared a concern that decades of coal mining in the Elk Valley has degraded cultural and environmental conditions, creating a high potential for significant adverse cumulative effects to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems from any additional residual effects (e.g. effects after mitigations are considered) from the Castle Project. Early Engagement participants have noted that ecosystem conditions

have resulted in population-level impacts to fish and wildlife throughout the Elk Valley, with concerns that water quality impacts on Elk River tributaries may extend into Lake Koocanusa a shared water body with the State of Montana.

One commenter specifically raised concern that the Project has the potential to cause extraordinarily adverse cultural and environmental effects due to cumulative impacts in the Elk Valley. These concerns should be addressed in the Detailed Project Description by Teck, which may include additional information and specific commitments on how these concerns could be assessed in an EA, including proposals for the Application Information Requirements that would be developed during Process Planning, should the Castle Project proceed to an EA following the Readiness Decision

As a next step in the Early Engagement phase, Teck is required to provide meaningful responses to the input included in this Summary of Engagement and will consider the individual issues raised during Early Engagement in the development of the Detailed Project Description for the Castle Project. The guidelines for completing a Detailed Project Description are included in the *Early Engagement Policy.* The EAO recommends that, prior to formally submitting the final Detailed Project Description to the EAO, Teck provide an early draft of the Detailed Project Description to the EAO, technical advisors and participating Indigenous nations to seek their feedback and identify if additional information is needed in the Detailed Project Description that may be helpful in support of the Readiness Decision, which seeks to:

- Ensure sufficient proponent engagement with participating Indigenous nations, provincial and federal agencies, local governments, and the public has occurred, including adequate opportunities to comment on project design, siting, and alternative approaches to developing the project;
- Ensure sufficient information is available to initiate an EA, including that which is required for the Process Planning phase which sets the scope and information requirements for the project's EA; and
- Transparently identify key project issues for resolution during the EA.

It is important that the Detailed Project Description describe how engagement was considered and how it may have contributed to changes in the proposed project design or to subsequent EA phases.

As part of the Detailed Project Description submission, Teck is required to respond to:

- each public comment category (with consideration of individual comments for context);
- each comment from technical advisors; and
- the interests provided by each Indigenous nation.

Teck should respond to this input via the inclusion of additional information, project design considerations etc., and/or indicate how these comments may inform subsequent phases of the EA. The EAO requests that the submission of the Detailed Project Description be accompanied by a table that clearly references how feedback received by EA participants (in addition to what is summarized in this report) is incorporated into the Detailed Project Description as warranted.The EAO also encourages that Teck engage with the Indigenous nations and technical advisors that provided comments during development of the Detailed Project Description to collaboratively discuss additional information that may be helpful to inform the Readiness Decision to determine if there is adequate information to proceed to an EA.

If the project proceeds to an EA, the Detailed Project Description will also be used as the proponent's key foundational document to inform the development of documents during the Process Planning phase, particularly the Process Order, the Assessment Plan, the Application Information Requirements, and the Regulatory Coordination Plan.

APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS

The list below includes the groups that were requested to provide comments on the Initial Project Description during Early Engagement as technical advisors:

- Ktunaxa Nation Council
- U.S. Tribes
    - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
    - Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Municipalities
    - City of Fernie
    - District of Elkford
    - District of Sparwood[2]
    - Regional District of East Kootenay[3]
- Interior Health Authority
- Government of Canada
    - Environment & Climate Change Canada
    - Health Canada
    - Natural Resources Canada
- Government of British Columbia
    - Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources
    - Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
    - Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- State of Montana[4]

[2], [3] The EAO invited these parties to provide comment on the IPD but received no comments. If the project proceeds to an EA, the EAO will invite these parties to participate in subsequent phases of the EA.

[4] The EAO invited the State of Montana to comment on the IPD as a Technical Advisor but received no comments. If the project proceeds to an EA, the EAO will invite the State of Montana to participate on the Technical Advisory Committee during later phases of the EA in accordance with the February 18th, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between the Province of BC and the State of Montana.