

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.**

Present    **Council:** Mayor Harwood; Councillors Kosolowsky, Johansson, Anderson and Johnson  
              **Staff:** Carolyn Bonnick, Administrator; and Becky Pringle, Deputy Clerk  
              **Others:** Glen Wonders, Ministry of Energy Mines & Petroleum Resources; Peter Sharp, Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources ; A. Purvis, E. Frind, S. Wiltse, W. Rosenberger, P. Rosenberger S. Rosenberger, J. Sarauer, E. Sarauer, B. Edgar, Cummings, V. Gouldie, B. Bach, B. Lance. B. Lindsay, and P. Dupuis

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES & PETROLEUM RESOURCES**

Glen Wonders and Peter Scharf from the Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources gave a presentation on coal mining in British Columbia.

Mr. Wonders identified the location of the different coal fields in British Columbia and discussed the different types of coal found there. He stated that there are three regions in the province that produce coal and they are very profitable. He also stated the impacts of these coal producers, such as direct jobs, salaries, expenditures, and taxes.

He went through the process of applying for a tenure, the referral process and licensing. He advised that if a company is granted a Coal Licence, it does not authorize exploration or development activity. They must apply for a Notice of Work to do exploration. In the exploration stage, companies are trying to determine the quantity and quality of the coal, estimated mining costs, environmental matters, reclamation considerations and market conditions. Some companies choose not to proceed after the exploration process for a variety of reason including economic viability.

Mr. Wonders described the BC Mine Regulations that mining companies must comply with, the permits that must be issued, and the different acts and regulations that must be followed. He stated that larger companies may even have to comply with the Canada Regulatory Environment Standards. Companies must also complete the three step BC Environmental Assessment Process and Regional Mine Development Review.

Mr Wonders explained that mining companies must post mine reclamation bonds before receiving a mine permit. The size of the bond is based on the estimated costs of reclaiming the land and watercourses disturbed by mining. These bond amounts can increase over the life of the mine if changes are made and are reviewed on a regular basis by the government.

He showed a map of Hudson's Hope with the tenures that have been sold. He pointed out the area Dehua will be looking at mining and stated that it is most likely to be an underground project as the coal formations are very complex in the area and hard to track. The expected "footprint" of the Dehua mine is approximately 6 to 8 hectares of land. He also stated that Dehua is working with West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations to resolve transportation and other issues.

In response to a question Mr. Wonders stated that he was not aware if the coal tenures would be registered on a land title. When questioned about how the Ministry deals with stakeholders, he explained that referrals are sent to stakeholders during the referral process and they could voice their concerns during this time. Some people work directly

with the mining company to satisfy their concerns.

Questions were brought up about the Pine Valley mine. He explained that another operator may take over the mine, and if not, the crown would take over and seize the bond. He stated that one concern Dehua may have would be finding qualifying workers. When asked about companies having to hire locals or first nations, he explained that there were no regulations, but companies usually hire locally. However, there are many specialised positions that it is unlikely they could all be filled locally. He also spoke about the annual fees to hold tenures; however, the main costs are to do the studies and getting permits issued.

When asked about which road ways Dehua would use, Mr. Wonders stated that there are several different options being considered.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Certified Correct:

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Clerk

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Mayor