



File: 30200-20/BAGG-05-06

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**SENT VIA EMAIL**

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Dear Mr. Holmes:

I am writing regarding the suspension of the Application review time limit pursuant to Section 24(2) of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act) for the proposed BURNCO Aggregate Project (BURNCO Project). On December 7, 2016, I granted the request from BURNCO Rock Products Ltd. (BURNCO) to suspend the 180-day time limit for Application review of the environmental assessment (EA) of the BURNCO Project in order to allow BURNCO additional time to fully respond to issues identified by the Working Group and comments received during the Public Comment Period on the Application.

I understand that BURNCO has been providing materials progressively over the course of the suspension to address issues raised during the review of the Application. The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has now received the package of documents from BURNCO and has completed our review, in consultation with the Working Group and Aboriginal groups.

I am satisfied that the information that BURNCO has provided in response to technical Working Group, Aboriginal groups, and public comments on the Application meets the requirements set out in my December 7, 2016 letter. As such, I am lifting the suspension effective today, at day 125 of the Application review period. The materials you have provided for the purposes of the assessment have been posted to EAO's electronic project information centre (EPIC).

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As you are aware, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is also conducting an EA under the former *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Both jurisdictions have been coordinating respective processes on the BURNCO Project, including coordinating time lines, co-chairing a technical working group, participating in joint consultation with Aboriginal groups and aligning public comment periods. During the suspension period, the Agency and the EAO continued to work closely on all aspects of the EA.

Going forward, the Agency and the EAO have agreed to continue coordinating the EA, striving to utilize the same information to inform the separate provincial and federal decisions, and thus aligning our respective timelines for the last steps of the EA. The EAO is also developing proposed provincial EA Certificate conditions that the Ministers may attach to a provincial EA Certificate, should one be issued for BURNCO.

Prior to referral to provincial Ministers, the EAO and the Agency will conduct a 30-day public comment period on the respective assessment reports and any draft provincial EA Certificate Conditions. This will provide the public with an opportunity to see how issues raised have been considered, and to comment on the EAO and the Agency's conclusions, along with the proposed mitigation measures.

Given the opportunity to maintain a coordinated timeline, and to minimize the burden on the public during the coordinated joint Public Comment Period, I currently intend to issue an order under Section 24(4) of the Act, extending the 180-day Application review period to ensure that federal and provincial timelines are consistent with a coordinated process. This length of the extension will be determined in consideration of the following key process steps:

- Consultation with the technical working group members and Aboriginal groups on the draft referral materials which include: the draft provincial assessment report, the draft provincial EA Certificate conditions and the draft Certified Project Description (together, the Decision Materials);
- Joint consultation with Aboriginal Groups on the draft assessment of potential impacts of BURNCO Project on the interests of Aboriginal groups;
- A 30-day EAO Public Comment Period on the draft Decision Materials;
- Incorporation of comments from the technical working group members, Aboriginal groups and the public into the Decision Materials;
- Finalization of the Decision Materials and submission to Provincial Ministers for decision; and
- Consistent with the Prescribed Time Limits Regulation, Provincial Ministers will have 45 days to make their decision of whether to issue an EA Certificate for the BURNCO project.

As an immediate next step, the EAO's project team will work with the Agency to determine the timing of the next steps, which will inform the timing of issuing the extension order.

The timeline for the remainder of the EA will depend in part on BURNCO's continued efforts to be responsive to addressing issues raised. On that basis, the EAO's project team will work with BURNCO to develop a work plan through the remainder of the Application Review period.

If you have any questions related to this letter and the next steps in the review, please contact Monica Perry, Executive Project Director, by phone at 250 387-2402 or by email at [Monica.Perry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Monica.Perry@gov.bc.ca).

With very best regards,



Kevin Jardine  
Associate Deputy Minister

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