



File: 30200-20/KWMI-05-06

Reference: 310780

June 20, 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL

Steve Rasilainen, P.Eng.
Director, Mining Operations N.A.
CertainTeed Gypsum Canada Inc.
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Dear Mr. Rasilainen:

Thank you for your letter of June 16, 2017, in which you request that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) suspend the 180-day statutory time limit for the application review of the proposed Kootenay West Mine Project (Kootenay West Mine). I understand that CertainTeed Gypsum Canada Inc. (CertainTeed) is requesting the suspension to:

- provide the EAO, Working Group members and First Nations time to review and assess additional technical information related to surface water quality modelling that CertainTeed submitted to the EAO on June 13, 2017; and
- provide CertainTeed time to meaningfully respond to all Round two comments received from the EAO, Working Group members and First Nations using tracking tables and memos as appropriate, and suggesting reasonable mitigation measures.

I am in agreement with your request in consideration of the reasons identified by CertainTeed.

The Prescribed Time Limits Regulations, BC Reg. 372/2002 establishes a time limit of 180-days for review of an Application under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act).

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Pursuant to Section 24(2) of the Act, and after considering your request and reasons, I have decided to grant your request to suspend the review time limit for the Kootenay West Mine Project effective today, June 20, 2017, on day 93 of the 180-day review period.

The timeline will resume once the EAO is satisfied with the adequacy of information provided by CertainTeed in response to the issues outlined above. Adequacy will be determined by the EAO in consultation with the Working Group and First Nations.

In the meantime, we are committed to working with CertainTeed, the Working Group and First Nations to assess and complete issues resolution for those components of the Application that do not rely on the review and assessment of the new technical information.

If you have any questions related to this letter or the time limit suspension, please contact Terry Pratt, Project Assessment Manager at 250 371-3710 or Terry.Pratt@gov.bc.ca.

With very best regards,



Kevin Jardine
Associate Deputy Minister

cc:

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