
Elk Valley Water Quality Plan

Annex C.7

KNC Consultation Summary Report

Teck

Elk Valley Water Quality Plan
Ktunaxa Nation Consultation Summary Report

July 2014

This document summarizes a multi-phase consultation process with the Ktunaxa Nation regarding the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan.

Background

Elk Valley Water Quality Plan

In April 2013, the Government of B.C. established a process to create an Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, the goal of which is to address concentrations of selenium, cadmium, nitrate and sulphate, as well as to address evidence of calcite formation. The Plan will establish short-, medium- and long-term targets for improving water quality, as well as targets to manage rates of calcite formation.

Teck is developing the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan in cooperation with governments in Canada and the U.S., First Nations, and the public. The Plan must be submitted to the B.C. Government in the summer of 2014. Once approved by the provincial government, Teck will implement the Plan.

More information about the development of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan can be found at www.teck.com/ElkValley.

Phase 1 Consultation – February 2014

The process to develop the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan included several rounds of public consultation with opportunities for feedback. Teck provided information about various aspects of the development of the Plan and asked for the public to provide input.

From October 28 to November 29, 2013, Teck held consultation meetings in the communities of Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie, and provided online consultation opportunities, including an online feedback form. In February 2014, meetings were held with the Ktunaxa Nation as part of Phase 1 consultation.

Meetings with Ktunaxa Nation

Three meetings were held at the Ktunaxa Nation Government Building on Tuesday, February 11, 2014:

- Small Group Meeting 1:00 – 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Open House and Supper – 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Small Group Meeting 2:00 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

At each small group meeting, a Ktunaxa Nation member welcomed participants with a prayer and then Robin Johnstone, General Manager, Environment, Community and Aboriginal Affairs for Teck introduced the purpose of the meeting and thanked Ktunaxa Nation members and consultants for participating.

Following the introductions, Teck presented information regarding the development of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. Next, Don McDonald, the Ktunaxa Nation Council representative on the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), presented an overview of the TAC process and his views to-date. Questions and comments were taken throughout the meeting.

Key Themes

The following are key themes from the discussion at the Small Group Meetings. Approximately 16 Ktunaxa Nation community members, staff and consultants were present at the meetings.

Meeting	Key Themes
<p>Small Group Meeting 1</p> <p>Ktunaxa Nation Government Building</p> <p>February 11, 2014 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some participants asked about specific water treatment methods and their effectiveness • Some participants asked about the impacts of increased levels of selenium and other substances, and of blasting, on fish and fish fry • Some participants noted that as Teck’s operations were upstream, it has a responsibility regarding water quality to those downstream • Some participants asked about the regulation of water quality provincially and federally • Some participants expressed the importance of water to Ktunaxa traditional and spiritual use • Some participants expressed the importance of longer-term planning regarding water quality and use • Some participants asked about the Technical Advisory Committee process, specifically about how data will be assessed and stored, and whether it will be public
<p>Small Group Meeting 2</p> <p>Ktunaxa Nation Government Building</p> <p>February 11, 2014 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some participants asked questions about what selenium is and what would be considered a harmful level to health • Some participants asked about the impact of increased level of selenium on wildlife, fish and plants • Some participants were interested in alternative use of waste rock • Some participants asked about composition and preparation for working groups for the Technical Advisory Committee • Some participants asked about the processes related to the Technical Advisory Committee and drafting of the Water Quality Plan • Some participants expressed the importance of longer-term planning regarding water quality and use • Some participants asked whether the transport of coal impacted water quality

Results from Feedback Forms

Two feedback forms were received from Ktunaxa Nation members during Phase 1 consultation:

- Both respondents agreed (one strongly agreed, one somewhat agreed) with the key steps to developing the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. One commented that they would like to see the timeline and scope broadened and more long-term solutions sought, and the other commented that water affects everyone and everything, is a valuable resource and that clean water is needed for basic activities
- One respondent somewhat agreed with the water treatment and water quality management measures proposed, and asked whether the selenium could be contained in piles of rock through back filling
- One respondent somewhat agreed with the scope of the socio-economic impact analysis and commented that aging populations require more support and infrastructure, and that as levels

of income increase, so do costs for goods and services, which can create disparity between those who can afford to live in the area and those that struggle

- One respondent provided additional comments and asked Teck to ensure long-term viable solutions that will not leave problems for the next generation. The respondent also asked Teck to look at whether ungulates were being affected by the water they drink and the flora that they eat, and subsequently whether it is safe for humans to eat their meat

Phase 2 Consultation – April-May 2014

From April 9 to May 5, 2014, Teck held Phase 2 consultation regarding the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, which included consultation meetings in the communities of Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie, and provided online consultation opportunities, including an online feedback form.

Meetings with Ktunaxa Nation

Two meetings were held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Tobacco Plains Indian Band Hall:

- Open House and Supper – 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- Small Group Meeting – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Chief of the Tobacco Plains Indian Band welcomed participants with a prayer and then Robin Johnstone, General Manager, Environment, Community and Aboriginal Affairs for Teck introduced the purpose of the meetings and thanked Ktunaxa Nation members and consultants for participating.

During the small group meeting, Bill Green, Ktunaxa Nation Council Director for the Canadian Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission and Don McDonald, the Ktunaxa Nation Council representative on the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan TAC, presented an overview of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan and TAC process. Next, Teck presented information regarding Phase 2 consultation of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. Questions and comments were taken throughout the meeting.

Key Themes

The following are key themes from the Small Group Meeting. Eight Ktunaxa Nation community members, staff and consultants were present at the meeting.

Meeting	Key Themes
<p>Small Group Meeting 1</p> <p>Tobacco Plains Indian Band Hall</p> <p>April 15, 2014 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some participants emphasized the importance of moving away from reliance on active water treatment as quickly as possible, towards passive or in-situ treatment of waste rock piles. A participant stated that the Plan needs to address how Teck plans to reduce its reliance on active water treatment. • A participant wanted to know whether historic impacts of mining would be dealt with as part of the Plan and expressed skepticism that industry would address its impacts, based on past experience. • A participant asked whether other contributors to water quality effects, such as municipal sewage, the forestry industry and oil and gas exploration, are considered under the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. • A participant asked whether Teck would continue to be responsible for the environmental impacts of mining should the mines close down.

Ktunaxa Stewardship Meeting – June 2014

On June 3, a meeting was held with the Ktunaxa Nation to discuss progress in the development of the Plan and other topics. The following are key themes from the portion of the meeting related to the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan:

- Some participants asked about the public and government consultation process following the submission of the Plan by Teck
- Some participants asked how the draft selenium benchmarks for the protection of aquatic life were determined
- Some participants asked whether constituents behave differently to different temperature water
- Some participants emphasized that appropriate triggers for adaptive management are needed

Phase 3 Consultation – July 2014

From June 13 to July 4, 2014, Teck held Phase 3 consultation regarding the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, which included an opportunity to comment on draft content from the Plan, and consultation meetings in the communities of Sparwood and Fernie.

Meetings with Ktunaxa Nation

Phase 3 consultation with the Ktunaxa Nation took place in July 2014.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at the Akisq'nuk Community Hall, and consisted of the following parts:

- Open House and Supper – 4:30-5:45 p.m.
- Overview Presentation of Elk Valley Water Quality Plan – Teck – 5:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m.
- Presentation from Ktunaxa Nation Council representative on the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan Technical Advisory Committee – Don MacDonald – 7:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Questions and comments were taken throughout the meeting.

Key Themes

The following are key themes from the meeting. Approximately 25 Ktunaxa Nation community members, staff and consultants were present during parts of the meeting.

Meeting	Key Themes
<p>Presentation and Discussion</p> <p>Akisq'nuk Community Hall</p> <p>July 15, 2014 4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some participants asked for clarification regarding Teck's mandate for consulting with the Ktunaxa regarding the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan • Some participants asked why the water quality targets in the Plan are not all set at B.C. or Canadian water quality guidelines • Some participants asked for more information about the West Line Creek Active Water Treatment Facility, including how the treatment process works and what sources of water the plant will treat • Some participants asked what incentive Teck has to continue with investment in Research and Development Program, particularly in

	<p>times when coal prices are low</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some participants sought confirmation about how frequently Teck would be monitoring water quality and how the monitoring data would be shared with the communities• Some participants asked Teck how they would continue to communicate the progress of the Plan once it has been approved and implemented• Some participants asked how budget limitations would affect the implementation of the Plan• Some participants expressed frustration regarding the extraction of natural resources from lands protected by the Ktunaxa Nation, and stated that the Ktunaxa people have and will always be there, while industry has a short-term use for the land• Some participants stated that they were participating in the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan process to represent the interests of their children and their children's children and all future generations of Ktunaxa Nation members• Some participants acknowledged Teck's leadership regarding interactions with the Ktunaxa Nation and appreciated the opportunity to meet directly with Teck staff
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How Input Will Be Used

Input received will be considered, along with technical and socio-economic information, in the development or refinement of the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan, prior to its submission to the B.C. Ministry of Environment for approval.