



Reference: 422728

July 31, 2026

A.J. Downie
Director, SE Coal Mining Team / Order Manager (No. 232-2024)
Authorizations and Remediation Branch
Environmental Protection Division
B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks

Sent via email: AJ.Downie@gov.bc.ca

Dear A.J. Downie:

Thank you for the submission of the recommended Terms of Reference for Phase 2 of the Plan Amendments for the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan (ABMP). I have reviewed and I am satisfied that it meets the requirements set out in Ministerial Order No. M232-2024 (Order M232).

Pursuant to Order M232 issued on July 9, 2024, and subsequent Order No. M3-2026 issued on January 9, 2026, in accordance with Section 89 (2) (b) of the *Environmental Management Act* (EMA), I hereby approve the Terms of Reference entitled "Terms of Reference for Phase 2 of the Plan Amendments" and dated June 24, 2026 (see attached).

In accordance with Order M232 and exercising my discretion as set out in Appendix A, paragraph 7 of that Order, I direct that Phase 2 of the Plan Amendments be submitted for Ministerial approval on or before December 6, 2027.

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I recognize that ABMP targets, including the Koocanusa Reservoir selenium target, are important benchmarks for assessing potential adverse environmental effects during the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. As one of the statutory decision makers responsible for issuance of environmental assessment certificates under B.C.'s *Environmental Assessment Act*, and the statutory decision maker for approving any amendments to the ABMP under the EMA, I note the direct relationship between Phase 2 ABMP Amendments and environmental assessments for new or expanded metallurgical coal mines in the Elk Valley. In this regard, I urge the Environmental Assessment Office to work closely with staff responsible for developing the Phase 2 amendments to ensure metallurgical coal mine environmental assessments in the Elk Valley are informed by any relevant work related to the amendments, and to consider appropriate processes for coordinating decisions.

I want to thank you and ministry staff, Ktunaxa First Nation Governments, and all other parties for their willingness to meaningfully participate in this process so we can continue to make progress towards the plan's goals and our long-term vision for water quality in the Designated Area of the ABMP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamara Davidson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tamara" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Davidson".

Tamara Davidson
Minister of Environment and Parks

Attachments (3)

cc: Kevin Jardine, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Parks
Alyson Blackstock, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division,
Ministry of Environment and Parks
Meaghan Hoyle, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment
Office