

A PROPOSAL
for the
HERITAGE RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS
REQUIRED FOR
THE
TULAMEEN THERMAL COAL PROJECT
submitted by
~~CHICHI MEC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES INC.~~
1981-03-30

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A PROPOSAL FOR INVESTIGATIONS
TO DETERMINE THE NATURE AND EXTENT
OF THE
HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES
WHICH MAY EXIST WITHIN THE REGION
TO BE AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION
OF THE
TULAMEEN THERMAL COAL PROJECT.

Submitted to
THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH
of the
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
by

CHICHIMEC RESEARCH ASSOCIATES INC.
on behalf of
CYPRUS ANVIL MINING CORPORATION

March 30, 1981

1. Location of the study area.

It is the desire of Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation of Vancouver to construct and operate a simple elongate open pit mine and preparation mill at $49^{\circ} 30'$ N latitude and $120^{\circ} 46'$ W longitude for the purpose of recovering, preparing and removing thermal coal. The site of the project is located in the Hozameen Range 3.5 km south of the town of Tulameen B.C. and 5.5 km west of Coalmont B.C. at an elevation of 1384 metres. The intended area of the pit itself is approximately 70 hectares. Overburden from the pit area would be removed and placed in a waste dump area located immediately north of the pit. The areal extent of the waste dump would be about 125 hectares. At the eastern side of the pit would be located the preparation mill and tailings pond. Together these two components would occupy 24 hectares. Finally, leading from the mill down to the Tulameen River and the rail car loading facility at Coalmont, a curvilinear distance of 11 km terminating at an elevation of 710 metres, would be the mine access road. In total this road would have a surface area of approximately 33 hectares. To provide water to the site for domestic use and for plant make up, water will be drawn from Blakeburn Creek at a point about 1.5 km south of the mill and pumped up to the plant as required. During the construction phase of the project a camp will be established within the limits of the aforementioned site. The size of the camp is intended to be sufficient to accommodate approximately 70 workers.

In order to fully satisfy the requirements of the Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia (R.S. Chap. 165, 1979) the principals of the proposed project intend that a survey of the primary and secondary impact areas be carried out. Such a survey will serve to locate, identify, correlate and propose

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mitigative procedures for all historical, archaeological and paleontological heritage resources which may be detectable in the course of these investigations.

2. Scope and objectives of the study.

The intent of the proposed investigations is to locate, identify, record and document those artifacts and features which may in some way be affected by the activities associated with the construction and operation of the Tulameen Thermal Coal Project. Since these activities (i.e. construction and operation) will have primary and secondary effects within the Hamilton Hill, Blakeburn Creek, Granite Creek, Coalmont and Tulameen River valley zone it is anticipated that investigations will be conducted wherever these primary and secondary effects may result.

In anticipation of this project the investigators conducted a thorough search of the Archaeological Site Inventory File at the Heritage Resource Branch in Victoria pertinent to the study area. To date no archaeological site has been registered within the specific study zone, that is, between $49^{\circ} 28' 30''$ N to $49^{\circ} 32'$ N latitude and $120^{\circ} 41'$ W to $120^{\circ} 48'$ W longitude or as Borden Site References DiRe or DjRe. This paucity however is inconsistent with the recorded history and implied prehistory of the impact zone. In recent historic time the region was the focus of activities conducted by Coalmont Collieries and its predecessor the Columbia Coal and Coke Company centered at the towns of Coalmont and Blakeburn. These activities were directed to the extraction of high grade bituminous coal. The Columbia Coal activity was in process before the completion of the roadbed of the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway and Navigation

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Company railroad from Princeton in November 1911. (The V.V. and E. as a subsidiary of the Washington and Great Northern Railway was intended, as its name implied, to link the southern reaches of the province in addition to its direct north south connection with the United States rail system. The V.V. and E. trackage in the Coalmont, Tulameen Valley region was absorbed into the Kettle Valley system of the C.P.R. following the Coquihalla agreement of 1913.) The Columbia Coal and Coke Co. was taken over in 1913 by Coalmont Collieries which in turn was bought out in 1917 by Blake Wilson of Vancouver and Patrick Burns of Calgary. Wilson and Burns directed their activity to a coal seam four miles southwest of Coalmont around which developed the townsite of Blakeburn. In 1921 an aerial tramway was completed from Blakeburn to Coalmont to transport coal to the railroad loadout. In 1930 an explosion in the Number 4 Pit at Blakeburn killed 45 workers. In 1940 the Blakeburn operations were terminated.

Preceding Coalmont and Blakeburn and their associated coal mining activity was the placer gold (and subsequently platinum) mining activity along Manion (Cedar) Creek, Collin's Gulch, Fraser Gulch, Granite Creek and those tributaries leading into Granite Creek such as Holmes, Blakeburn, Newton and several lesser unnamed creeks to the south of the Tulameen River. Commencing in the summer of 1885, flourishing until 1895 and continuing with diminishing intensity until 1907 a succession of occidental and oriental miners scoured the area. Near the junction of Granite Creek and the Tulameen River developed the town of Granite City. With a reported population of 400 persons and some 200 buildings, Granite City served until its destruction by fire on April 4, 1907 as the "largest and most colourful camp in the Tulameen."

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Thirty seven years before the discovery of gold on Granite Creek the primary impact area was traversed in the name of the Hudson's Bay Company by Henry Newsham Peers. Peers, in an attempt to find a "less arduous route" between Fort Hope and Fort Kamloops for use by the Hudson's Bay Brigade, discovered a route which "led up the Coquihalla River, Peers Creek and over Manson Mountain. Paralleling Sowaqua Creek ... the trail crossed it, went through a pass and down Podunk Creek. Here the trail utilized part of the Indian Blackeye's Trail which took it up over Lodestone Mountain and down to the Tulameen River near Otter Lake."

It is highly probable that the trail indicated on NTS map 92 H/7 leading from Lodestone Mountain (the location of camp #4 on the Fort Hope to Fort Kamloops 1849 trail) northward to merge with a loose surface, dry weather road south of Hamilton Hill may be the route as pioneered by Peers. Since the loose surface road passes directly through the intended pit site before trending eastward to parallel Granite Creek an attempt should be made to verify the exactness of the route. The trail as indicated on the NTS map does not extend other than as just mentioned down to the Tulameen. However the Peers route is stated to have crossed the river near Camp #5 (Campement Des Femmes) on a flat near the south end of Otter Lake. The location of this camp would be of great significance since reference is made to the traditional use of the flat by aboriginal peoples as a meeting place and as a base camp for hunting. The proposed railroad load out area is located on this flat.

Artifactual recovery from the flat may illuminate the aboriginal history of this precise region. The probable utilizers of the Otter Flat region would probably have been Okanagon speaking Interior Salish of the Upper Similkameen Band.

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Following the acquisition of data through field survey and pre-field research we will then analyse and evaluate that information to determine as accurately as possible the historic and prehistoric legacy of the investigated area. Finally on the basis of all research, field study and analyses we shall present mitigation proposals fostered by the conclusions generated by our investigations.

3. Significance of the proposed project.

The significance of these investigations lies principally in the contribution such studies may make to the body of knowledge concerning regional and Provincial developmental history. The systematic identification, recording and documentation of the nature and distribution of the heritage resources of the Coalmont, Tulameen, Granite City, Elakeburn region will provide a permanent record of all presently available data for future study and evaluation.

4. Proposed research plan and methodology.

It is intended that these investigations be performed in three stages. Stage I would comprise a pre-field interval devoted to the thorough research of all archival material relevant to the investigative area. Archives would be searched for documents pertaining to historical, ethnographic and archaeological materials relevant to the study area. The Canadian Inventory of Historical Building Files will be researched. Air photos will be examined for features not initially evident from the ground during Stage II investigations. Documents pertinent to the native usage within the impact area will be researched. The final phase of Stage I would

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involve a thorough search of all municipal records of significance which may exist in the towns of Princeton, Coalmont and Tulameen. These documents would be augmented by information obtained from consultation with local informants and from heritage interest groups within the district.

The second stage of research will consist of direct on-site inspection of the primary and secondary impact areas by the principal investigators. We would begin with a close visual inspection of the proposed pit, waste dump, tailings pond, preparation mill, access road, water intake and railroad loadout areas. Each specifically designated area will be traversed by foot and a close visual inspection will be made of the surface and all subsurface exposures. Shovel holes of area 0.09 m^2 will be set at regular intervals to test the subsurface material. All observed material of cultural or paleontological significance would be recorded and a representative sample of that material would be collected. A complete photographic record of all heritage resource material encountered in the survey will be maintained. All evidence of structures and settlement will be recorded as will all indications of domestic or commercial activity. It is intended to examine in close detail that area defined in red on the attached map.

Upon completion of the on-site field study we would return to Vancouver in order to perform the Stage III procedures of these investigations. Here we would analyse, evaluate and report upon the accrued data. We would report fully on our investigations and analyses and would submit to our principals and to the Heritage Conservation Branch our full findings and recommendations. As a result of our investigations we would expect to have observed evidence for the use of the Tulameen, Coalmont, Blakeburn Creek,

4. Cont'd.

Hamilton Hill area from recent historic time through the era of the H.B.C. Brigade to contact and pre-contact Native usage and perhaps to use by the paleo-Indian. The evidence may suggest some aspect of the lifeways of former residents, the lifeways, cultural and economic affiliations of their antecedents and perhaps some indication of trade patterns and goods. The artifactual evidence collected in Stage II combined with the documentary research of Stage I should allow for a comprehensive statement of the heritage resources and mitigation procedures applicable to the primary and secondary impact areas of the Tulameen Thermal Coal Project.

5. Relation of this project to previous work and other work in progress.

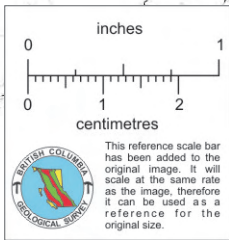
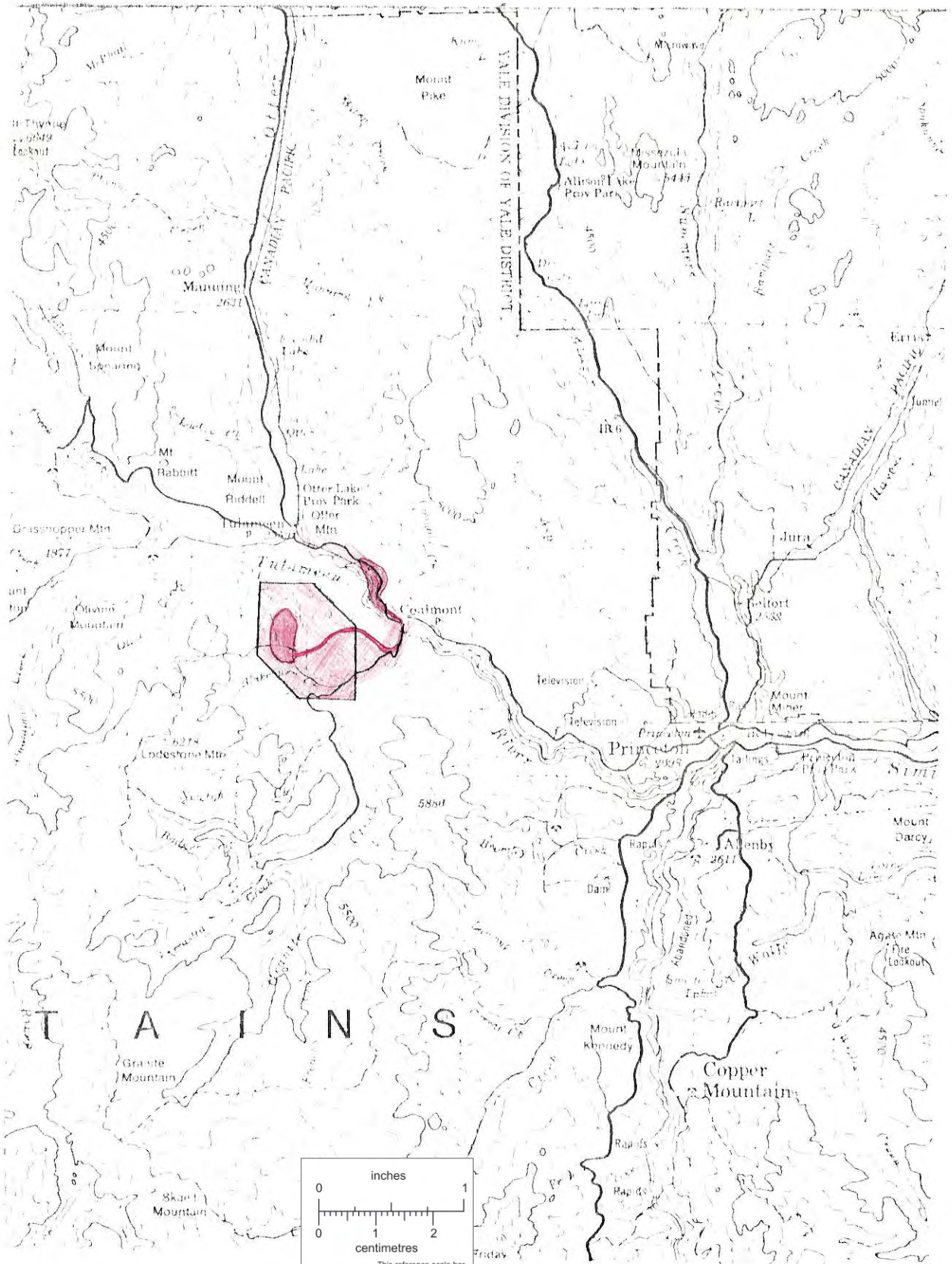
The complete absence of recorded archaeological investigations in the immediate study area merely suggests that this area has been overlooked by previous academics and professionals. That the area has attracted numerous amateur artifact collectors is recorded by N.L. Barlee in his book Gold Creeks and Ghost Towns. Granite City is a completely accessible "ghost town" complete with purported buried treasure. The ravages perpetrated upon this site by fortune hunters, bottle collectors et al have seriously reduced the potential for meaningful data recovery from the area. To the best knowledge of this author no bona fide archaeological, paleontological or ethnographic research is known to have been performed or is reported to be underway in the specific referenced area.

6. Schedule of field work and analysis.

The Stage II portion of this survey is estimated to require 17 calendar days (34 man days). In terms of individual components it is estimated that 4 man days will be required to survey the pit area, 6 man days for the waste dump, 4 man days for the mill site and tailings pond, 6 man days for the access road, 2 man days for the water intake and supply route, 4 man days for the loadout area and 8 man days for the Blakeburn, Granite City, Coalmont and Otter Flat investigations. It is estimated that 9 calendar days will be required for the analyses and evaluation of the acquired data and the preparation of the project report.

7. Disposition of material collected.

All artifactual materials collected during the course of these investigations will be fully documented, recorded and identified. Upon completion of all analyses these materials will be forwarded to the care of the British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.



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