June 15, 2020

Hannah Matthews

Latin America Researcher

Business & Human Rights Resources Centre

Email: matthews@business-humanrights.org

Reference: Teck and COVID-19 Inquiry

Dear Ms. Matthews,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the claims regarding Teck in the report from MiningWatch.

At Teck, our first priority is the health and safety of workers and communities. We worked closely with unions and authorities to quickly implement extensive and consistent measures across our sites to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and safely maintain jobs and economic opportunity to the extent possible.

These include enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols; screening of contractors and visitors; requiring anyone showing symptoms or who has been in close contact with someone with symptoms to stay home from work; increased physical distancing practices at site such as reducing the number of on-site staff; cutting the number of passengers on buses by at least 50%; staggered start times, and separating groups of employees; promoting personal preventative measures such as frequent handwashing; and ensuring proper use of PPE including masks. More details on Teck’s COVID-19 preventative measures are available here: <https://www.teck.com/updates/>.

As a result of these measures, there have been no cases of COVID-19 at Teck’s mines in Canada, the U.S., or our Carmen de Andacollo mine in Chile. Teck [announced](https://www.teck.com/news/news-releases/2020/teck-temporarily-suspends-construction-activities-for-qb2-project-in-response-to-covid-19) on March 18 the temporary suspension of construction activities at our Quebrada Blanca Phase 2 project in Chile for worker safety. As cases of COVID-19 have increased across Chile we have had approximately 35 positive cases associated with our QB site in Chile, with the majority asymptomatic. In each instance, the necessary protocols have been followed to ensure the cases were managed safely, with the health of workers being the priority.

In addition, the COVID-19 prevention protocols in place at our B.C. steelmaking coal mines were inspected by the government health authority which [confirmed](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB_COVID19_TeckOperations_9April2020.pdf) that the proper practices and procedures have been implemented.

The Antamina mine in Peru, in which Teck has a 22.5% non-operating minority interest, demobilized in mid-April and a rigorous testing and quarantine program was put in place to ensure employee and community health was protected. The mine [resumed operations](https://www.teck.com/news/news-releases/2020/antamina-resumes-operations) on May 27.

The [letter](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/letters/article-april-13-they-could-die-suffering-and-alone-how-readers-are-coping/) from Teck referenced in the MiningWatch report was very clearly unrelated to the Antamina mine. It was sent in direct response to a [Globe and Mail article](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-teck-resources-facing-calls-to-shut-down-coal-mines-in-british/) that focused on Teck’s steelmaking coal operations in Canada; which is why it was sent and signed by Teck’s Senior Vice President, Coal, and the head of the United Steelworkers union representing workers at those mine sites. Again, it is important to note there have been no cases of COVID-19 at Teck’s Canadian operations to date.

Should you require more information on this or other Teck issues, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Regards,

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