



MiningWatch Canada

Mines Alerte

Suite 508, 250 City Centre Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 6K7
tel. (613) 569-3439 — fax: (613) 569-5138 — info@miningwatch.ca — www.miningwatch.ca

Alex Christopher, Vice President, Exploration
Patrick Redmond, General Manager, Exploration – The Americas
Teck Resources Limited
Suite 3300, 550 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 0B3
T: 604.699.4000
exploration@teck.com

Diego Fernández, Exploration Manager – Mexico
Minera Teck S.A. de C.V.
Nebulosa 3019
Col. Jardines del Bosque
C.P. 44520 Guadalajara
Jalisco, Mexico
T: (52.33) 3122.90.85

November 5, 2015

Dear Representatives of Teck Resources and Minera Teck S.A. de C.V.:

The Indigenous Council for Territorial Defence in Zacualpan and Bios Iguana A.C., an environmental justice organization based in Colima, Mexico, are writing out of concern for the interests that Teck Resources and its Mexican subsidiary Minera Teck S.A. de C.V. may have in connection with two mining concessions that were granted on the territory of the indigenous community of Zacualpan, Colima, Mexico, without their free, prior and informed consent.

Zacualpan is a Nahua Indigenous community of some 3,000 inhabitants in the municipality of Comala. It is situated a short distance upstream of the cities of Villa de Álvarez and the capital, Colima, on the Armería and Grande rivers. These rivers are part of the Ayuquila-Armería watershed that flows from the Grande mountain (*Cerro Grande*) in the Manantlán Biosphere Reserve toward the Pacific Ocean. Zacualpan is also home to a well-loved natural spring, called '*Ojo de Agua*', a popular recreational spot. The Zacualpan aqueduct provides high quality potable water to a population of more than 300,000 people in the city of Colima.

The Indigenous community of Zacualpan learned for the first time about “mining interests” in their territory when Rigoberto Verduzco Rodríguez, legal representative of the Mexican company Gabfer S.A. de C.V., met with the community and told them that mining exploration had already been carried out on their territory with promising results and that the company was seeking community permission to build a mine. Since then, the community’s assembly has decided to reject any mining activities on their lands and territory, rejecting any rezoning of land, which is their exclusive responsibility on their communal lands, which are also protected as Indigenous territory. This decision was met with acts of intimidation, death threats, repression, blackmail and illegal acts against the Indigenous community of Zacualpan, and partner organizations. These threats have been documented on various occasions, including by the [International and National Observation Mission on the Zacualpan Case](#) in March 2015, as well as in complaints [submitted to the UN Group for Business and Human Rights](#) in April 2015 and to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights in August 2015.

After a long process to try to obtain information about the intended mining activities in their territory, in March of this year the community of Zacualpan realized that, years earlier, without community knowledge, the federal Secretary of Economy granted two mining concessions in Zacualpan: Heliotropo (#201872), granted in 1995, and Tigrilla (#227572), granted in 2006. Heliotropo is registered in the name of Adolfo Pineda Martínez, now deceased, and Tigrilla is in the name of Mario Carlos Moncada Cantu. In 2011, the consulting group COREVI (*Consultores en Ecología con Visión Integral S.A. de C.V.*) reports having carried out environmental impact assessments for both mining concessions on behalf of Teck Resources’ Mexican subsidiary, Minera Teck S.A. de C.V.

As a result of the above, the Zacualpan Indigenous Council for Territorial Defence and Bios Iguana would like to know what is the relationship between Minera Teck S.A. de C.V. and Teck Resources with Gabfer S.A. de C.V.? Does Gabfer S.A. de C.V. have a financial relationship with Teck Resources of any sort? Given that Minera Teck S.A. de C.V. contracted COREVI to carry out environmental impact assessments on the mining concessions Heliotropo and Tigrilla in 2011, do Minera Teck S.A. de C.V. and Teck Resources continue to have an interest in developing a mining project in Zacualpan? What are the plans of Minera Teck S.A. de C.V. and Teck Resources for mining activity on these two mining concessions? Will Minera Teck S.A. de C.V. and Teck Resources publicly commit to respecting the decision made by the community assembly of Zacualpan on February 23, 2014 to prohibit mining activities in their territory and agree not to pursue any plans that it might have for these mining concessions?

Thank you in advance for your consideration and for your prompt reply.

Sincere Regards,

Indigenous Council for Territorial Defence in Zacualpan

Bios Iguana A.C.

Correspondence concerning this matter may be sent care of:
Jennifer Moore, Latin America Program Coordinator
MiningWatch Canada
250 City Centre Ave, Ste 508
Ottawa, ON, K1R 6K7
jen@miningwatch.ca

cc.

Consultores en Ecología con Visión Integral S.A. de C.V. (COREVI)
Avenida Río Churubusco No. 708
Col. El Sifón, C.P. 09400
Delegación Iztapalapa México, D.F.
T: 5633 4173; 55 2876 5996

Rigoberto Verduzco Rodríguez, representante legal
Gabfer S.A. de C.V.