



ALBERTA

Energy and Minerals

Office of the Minister

MLA, Fort McMurray - Lac La Biche

AR47272

January 15, 2025

Mr. Duncan Au
Chairman, Board of Directors
Alberta Energy Regulator
Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4
duncan.au@aer.ca

Dear Sir:

I have decided to rescind Ministerial Orders 054/2021, 093/2021 and 002/2022 related to coal mining activities in the Eastern Slopes and am confirming the 1976 Coal Development Policy as the touchstone for coal development in Alberta for the time being. In view of the new coal policy direction announced by our government on December 20, 2024, this rescission of the coal-related Ministerial Orders will reduce the regulatory confusion around coal development applications.

I am directing the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) to lift the suspensions of all approvals that were suspended under Ministerial Orders 054/2021, 093/2021 and 002/2022 and extend the expiry dates of approvals suspended under those orders to account for the period of suspension. I am also directing the AER to continue to apply the restrictions in place in respect of the exploration for and development of coal within categories of lands as described in the 1976 Coal Development Policy when evaluating coal exploration and development applications, with due consideration given to the Coal Industry Modernization Initiative policy guidance set out in the Government of Alberta News Release, titled "Protecting the environment with tougher coal rules," dated December 20, 2024.

Of course, coal exploration and development in Category 1 lands, which include national and provincial parks and wildlife sanctuaries has never been allowed and this will continue to be the case.

Sincerely,

Brian Jean, K.C., ECA
Minister

Enclosure

cc: Larry Kaumeyer, Deputy Minister, Energy and Minerals
Wade Clark, Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy and Minerals, Policy Division