

**GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND MINERALS**  
***RESPONSIBLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACT***  
**S.A. 2012, c. R.17.3**

**MINISTERIAL ORDER 003/2025**

I, **BRIAN JEAN**, Minister of Energy and Minerals, pursuant to section 67 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*, effective January 15, 2025:

1. rescind Ministerial Orders 054/2021, 093/2021 and 002/2022, as made by the Minister of Energy;
2. make the Coal Development Direction in the attached Appendix; and
3. except for clause 1 above, this Order expires on January 15, 2035, and may be rescinded by Ministerial Order.

DATED at Edmonton, Alberta, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.



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Honourable Brian Jean  
Minister of Energy and Minerals

**APPENDIX  
COAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION  
PURPOSE**

WHEREAS, the Minister of Energy and Minerals and Minister of Environment and Protected Areas are authorized by section 67 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act* (REDA) to give directions to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) for the purposes of

- a. providing priorities and guidelines for the AER to follow in the carrying out of its powers, duties, and functions; and
- b. ensuring the work of the AER is consistent with the programs, policies, and work of the Government in respect of energy resource and mineral resource development, public land management, environmental management, and water management.

AND WHEREAS the Government of Alberta confirms that the restrictions in place in respect of the exploration for and development of coal within categories of lands as described in *A Coal Development Policy for Alberta* (1976) continue.

AND WHEREAS the Coal Policy Committee (the Committee) established to hear from concerned parties about future coal development in Alberta provided recommendations to the Minister of Energy and those recommendations have been considered.

AND WHEREAS, the Minister of Energy and Minerals is satisfied that sufficient land use clarity is being provided through ongoing regional planning, including the South Saskatchewan Regional Planning review and engagement, and the Coal Industry Modernization Initiative announced December 20, 2024.

THEREFORE, pursuant to section 67 of REDA, the Minister of Energy and Minerals hereby directs the AER to

**DIRECTION TO THE AER**

- a. lift the suspensions of all approvals that were suspended under Ministerial Orders 054/2021, 093/2021 and 002/2022,
- b. extend the expiry dates of approvals suspended under Ministerial Orders 054/2021, 093/2021 and 002/2022 to account for the period of suspension,
- c. continue to apply the restrictions in place in respect of the exploration for and development of coal within categories of lands as described in *A Coal Development Policy for Alberta* (1976) when evaluating coal applications, with consideration of 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, and
- d. comply with directions given under this Order by January 31, 2025.