



**Department of
Environment & Labour**

PO Box 697
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T8

Our File Number:
10700-40
40100-30-91

Office of the Minister

original dated December 28, 2005

John W. Chisholm, President
Pioneer Coal Limited
P.O. Box 1328
3098 Post Road
Antigonish, NS B2G 2L7

Dear Mr. Chisholm:

Re: Environmental Assessment - Surface Coal Mine and Reclamation Project-Prince Mine Site

The environmental assessment of the Surface Coal Mine and Reclamation Project-Prince Mine Site has been completed.

This is to advise that I have approved the above project in accordance with Section 13(1)(b) of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, pursuant to Part IV of the *Environment Act*. I am satisfied following a review of the information provided by Pioneer Coal Limited, and through the government and public consultation as part of the environmental assessment, that any adverse effects or significant environmental effects of the undertaking can be adequately mitigated through compliance with the attached terms and conditions.

This letter in conjunction with the attached terms and conditions constitutes my approval. This approval is subject to any other approvals required by statute or regulation including Part V Approvals under the Nova Scotia Environment Act.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) to be established as a condition of this approval. Consultation with the CLC is an essential step in developing monitoring and mitigation plans that are required before any Part V approvals are issued by the Department.

If you have any questions regarding the approval of this project, please contact the Acting Manager, Environmental Assessment Branch, Ms. Julie Towers at (902) 424-4155.

Sincerely yours,

original signed by

Kerry Morash
Minister

Encl.