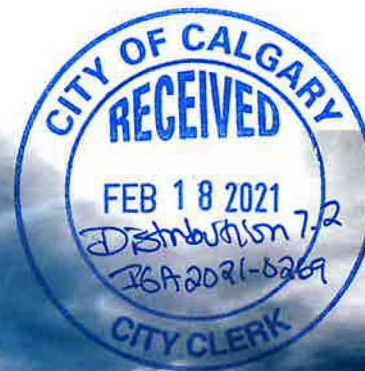


Calgary



# Coal Mining Policy Update

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2021 February 18

Report IGA2021-0269 (Verbal)  
Attachment – verbal only  
ISC: Unrestricted

## Background

- ☐ A Coal Development Policy for Alberta was issued in 1976 known as the “Coal Policy”.
- ☐ On June 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta (GoA) rescinded the policy
- ☐ Public pressure put on the government from multiple groups including ranchers, environmental, First Nations, municipalities, and general public
- ☐ On February 8, 2021, the GoA reinstated the 1976 Coal Policy with a commitment that the government will consult with the public before making any changes to ‘modernize’ its coal policy



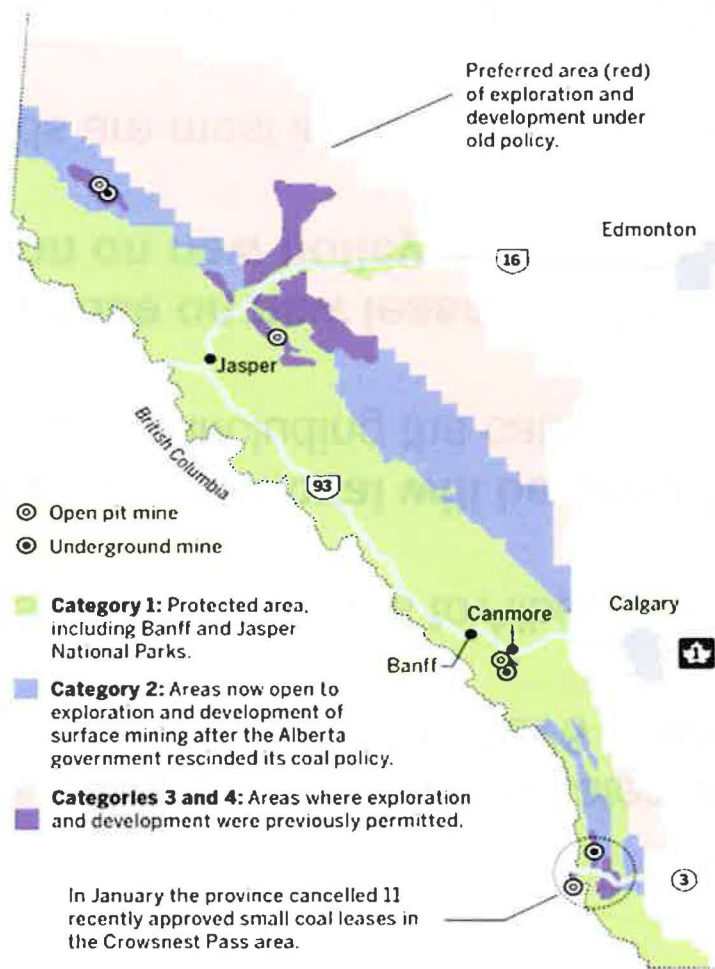


## What Does Reinstating the Policy Mean?

- ☐ The policy in its entirety has been reinstated, including all restrictions in the coal categories identified in the 1976 policy
- ☐ GoA has also issued 2 directives to Alberta Energy Regulator (AER):
  - **No mountain top removal will be permitted** and full reinstatement of the 1976 policy including the category lands, and
  - **Indefinite pause on new leases and applications pending consultation on new policy**
- ☐ Category 2 lands are most impacted by the reinstatement.
- ☐ The province will not cancel approvals already granted by AER before the reinstatement of the policy

## MINING THE EASTERN SLOPES

Map shows the land classifications established in a 1976 coal-mining policy recently cancelled by the provincial government. Under the old policy, exploration in the blue zone was restricted and surface mining would "not normally be considered."



SOURCE: PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DARREN FRANCEY / POSTMEDIA



## Consequences on Existing Projects

- ❑ Six coal exploration programs already approved and underway can still go ahead.
  - Four out of the six coal exploration permits were issued under the 1976 Coal Policy and two were issued after the May rescindment of the policy
  - The two exploration permits that were granted after the rescindment of the policy are both located in SW Alberta in the Crowsnest Pass area.
- ❑ There are at least two coal mining projects which are in the regulatory process including Grassy Mountain and Tent Mountain.
  - It would appear that these projects will not be impacted by the reinstatement of the policy, because they are proposed on Category 4 lands.





## Next Steps from the Province

- ☐ GoA has committed to a vigorous and lengthy consultation to hear from the public on modernizing the coal policy
- ☐ The consultation process will be outlined in the weeks ahead





## Recommendation

That the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee receive this verbal report for the Corporate Record.