

Concurrent Reclamation Practices at the Point Aconi Surface Coal Mine

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Pioneer Coal Limited has operated several surface coal mines in Nova Scotia during the past three decades. This presentation will focus on current reclamation practices being employed at the Point Aconi Reclamation Mining project where remaining near-surface coal resources are being recovered following the closure of the underground Prince Mine and in areas of past “bootleg” (illegal) mining. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources has undertaken a study to improve reclamation results at surface coal mines. The Surface Coal Mine Reclamation Enhancement Initiative was announced in April 2006 and the committee overseeing the project has initiated research to increase benefits related to lands reclaimed following surface coal mining.

Some of the ideas and methods developed through the DNR committee work are now being applied at the Pioneer Coal project in Point Aconi. DNR and Pioneer Coal are collaborating by documenting procedures being used at the mine and the results gained from the work will be shared with the committee. Vegetation surveys are being conducted to assess the results of current work, which may be compared to previous reclamation results.

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