



Office of the Minister

Original date stamped February 3, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Chisholm:

Re: Environmental Assessment - Stellarton Pit Mine Extension - Pictou County

The environmental assessment of the proposed Stellarton Pit Mine Extension, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, 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 but not limited to, approval under Part V of the Nova Scotia *Environment Act* (Approvals and Certificates section).

If you have any questions regarding the approval of this project, please contact the Manager, Environmental Assessment Branch, Mr. Chris Daly at (902) 424-4936.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed

Kerry Morash
Minister

Encl.