

**APPENDIX**  
**COAL EXPLORATION DIRECTION**  
**PURPOSE**

WHEREAS, the Minister of Energy is authorized by section 67 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act* (REDA) to give directions to the Alberta Energy Regulator (the “AER”) for the purpose 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 of Alberta in respect of energy resource development, public land management, environmental management and water management.

AND WHEREAS, Albertans expect a fulsome regulatory review and assessment of the impacts of any exploration for and development of coal.

AND WHEREAS, the Government of Alberta has confirmed that the restrictions in place in respect of the exploration for and development of coal within categories of lands as described in the 1976 A Coal Policy For Alberta (“1976 Coal Policy”) will continue.

AND WHEREAS, Albertans expect that the restrictions found in the 1976 Coal Policy respecting Category 2 lands, including all that pertain to the development of coal, remain in place.

AND WHEREAS, on March 29, 2021, the Government of Alberta established the Coal Policy Committee to hear from concerned parties about future coal development in Alberta, and that Committee’s mandate is underway.

AND WHEREAS, Albertans have expressed concern about ongoing exploration activities in Category 2 lands, and have expressed concerns about such activities continuing while the Coal Policy Committee is in consultations, and while Alberta’s policies for future coal development are evolving.

THEREFORE, pursuant to s. 67 of REDA, the Minister of Energy hereby directs the AER as follows:

**DIRECTION TO THE AER**

- 1) To take steps to suspend or pause all approvals (as defined by REDA) for coal exploration, on Category 2 lands, until December 31, 2021, or such other date as the Minister of Energy may specify in writing to the AER.