

Recent interpretations of the Geology of the Springhill Coalfield

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The Springhill coalfield comprises Westphalian B sediments of the lower fine facies of the Cumberland Group, and is situated within the Cumberland basin of deposition. Recent diamond-drilling conducted by the coal section of the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy has cast new light on many aspects of the geology at Springhill. The coalfield is deformed by a diapir of Windsor Group evaporites to the north-east, resulting in a step graben configuration across a south-easterly plunging anticline.

A stratigraphic model has been proposed for the Springhill coalfield. It is envisaged that a braided stream plain transitional from the underlying coarse facies

sloped northward into the basin. The coal seams in Springhill transgress southerly, onlapping the braid plain, while a fluvial member lies stratigraphically above these seams. Two previously unrecognized coal seams of mineable thickness have been outlined in conjunction with this model by diamond-drilling during 1980. This has allowed correlation of seams on both limbs of the anticline. In excess of 6,500,000 tons of high volatile bituminous coal has been delineated in the upper of the two seams, and proposals have been received for development of an underground mine. The insight recently gained will allow a better understanding of the coal geology in the remainder of the Cumberland Basin.