Coal Resources of Nova Scotia

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Coal is, within the provincial context, the most important, proven, indigenous source of energy in Nova Scotia. Total resources are estimated at over 3 billion tons and the amount of recoverable coal reserves is estimated at over 1 billion tons which is adequate to support planned levels of production for over a century. Of the total coal reserves, 234 million tons of recoverable coal are considered to be of metallurgical grade while the remainder is of thermal grade. Thermal coal would primarily be used to replace oil in electrical generation and industrial heating while metallurgical coal would be used for steelmaking and for export.

The bulk of coal resources outlined is found in the Sydney coalfield particularly in the submarine area. The rank of the coal is high volatite "A" bituminous but there are variations within this rank. The remaining resources are found in various coal basins throughout the province as recent exploration programs have identified individual seams that have a potential for immediate mine development. The seams have variable characteristics as regards their quality, quantity and area of mineable resources.

Development and use of coal reserves are critical components of Nova Scotia's energy plans. Proper use of these reserves will provide an opportunity for industrial growth and will result in direct and substantial benefit to Nova Scotians in the form of new jobs and extra income.

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