Current coal geoscience research at the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy

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Nova Scotia's coal resources are situated on Cape Breton Island and the northern mainland. Economic coal deposits occur in the Pennsylvanian (Late Carboniferous) Riversdale, Cumberland and Pictou groups, all of continental origin, which were deposited in basins which formed mainly in response to strike-slip movement along major fault systems.

The Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy Coal Section conducts study of the province's coalfields in order to obtain a better understanding of their geology and resource potential. The work carried out is multidisciplinary and is often done in conjunction with other government agencies and industry with the results prepared as reports on various aspects of the province's coalfields and as coalfield maps. This work aids the province by promoting exploration and development of the resource and by ensuring its proper management and it provides the information base needed by industry in coal exploration.

Recent and current geoscience research at the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy Coal Section includes: coalfield mapping, sedimentology and stratigraphy projects, seismic surveys, coal, peat, and oil shale resource evaluation projects, computerization of Nova Scotia coal geology data, studies on coal formation in relation to basin development, and studies on coalfield paleogeography and its effects on coal quality and mineability.