



**Department of  
the Environment**  
Office of the Minister

PO Box 2107  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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Our File Number:

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JUN 11 1998

John King  
11 Keefe Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3P 2J1

Dear Mr. King:

The environmental assessment of the Greenhills Development Openpit Coal Mine proposed by you has been completed. I have decided that the Greenhills Development Openpit Coal Mine proposed by you is rejected, pursuant to Section 34(1)(f) of the *Environment Act* and Section 13(1)(e) of the *Environmental Assessment Regulations*, and cannot proceed.

In this environmental assessment process, I have carefully examined the information submitted by you on the openpit coal mine proposal, and have taken into consideration comments from other government agencies, and from the people of Florence.

There are a number of socio-economic and environmental health issues that contribute to my decision. These issues include the very strong community feeling that due to the location of the proposed mine so close to peoples homes, there would be a significant disruption in community lifestyle, a danger to children and pedestrians, and a source of nuisance and safety complaints because of noise, dust, and truck traffic.

The technical review of the registration document revealed a number of information deficiencies. Mine water chemistry, site rehabilitation plans, location, size, and environmental impacts of waste rock and coal stockpiles, are all related to issues with the potential to lead to significant adverse effects if not properly mitigated.

In addition, the residential streets along which the mined coal would be transported are narrow, with few or no sidewalks, and potentially unsuitable for truck traffic of the type and volume proposed for the mine.

It is the conclusion of this environmental assessment that these represent significant adverse environmental effects and are unacceptable.

Yours sincerely,

Don Downe  
Minister

AK/nh

bcc: G. Fox  
S. Nicholson  
A. Kendall



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