

Answering your questions about Alberta's Coal Policy

What is coal used for?

There are two main types of coal in Alberta:

- 1 Thermal coal is used for electricity and is typically found outside of mountain areas. An example of this is the Highvale Coal Mine near Lake Wabamun.
- 2 Metallurgical coal is used to produce steel. It is mostly found in Alberta's Eastern Slopes and the Rockies.

What is the Alberta Coal Policy (1976)?

- Encouraged coal development which considered the environment, the economy, and the labour force
- Designated areas where coal exploration and development is viable and places where it should be more limited
- Four Categories were established regarding coal leasing, exploration, and development

To read the 1976 Coal Policy Report, [click here](#).

1976 Coal Policy Land Classification

What are the Coal Categories?

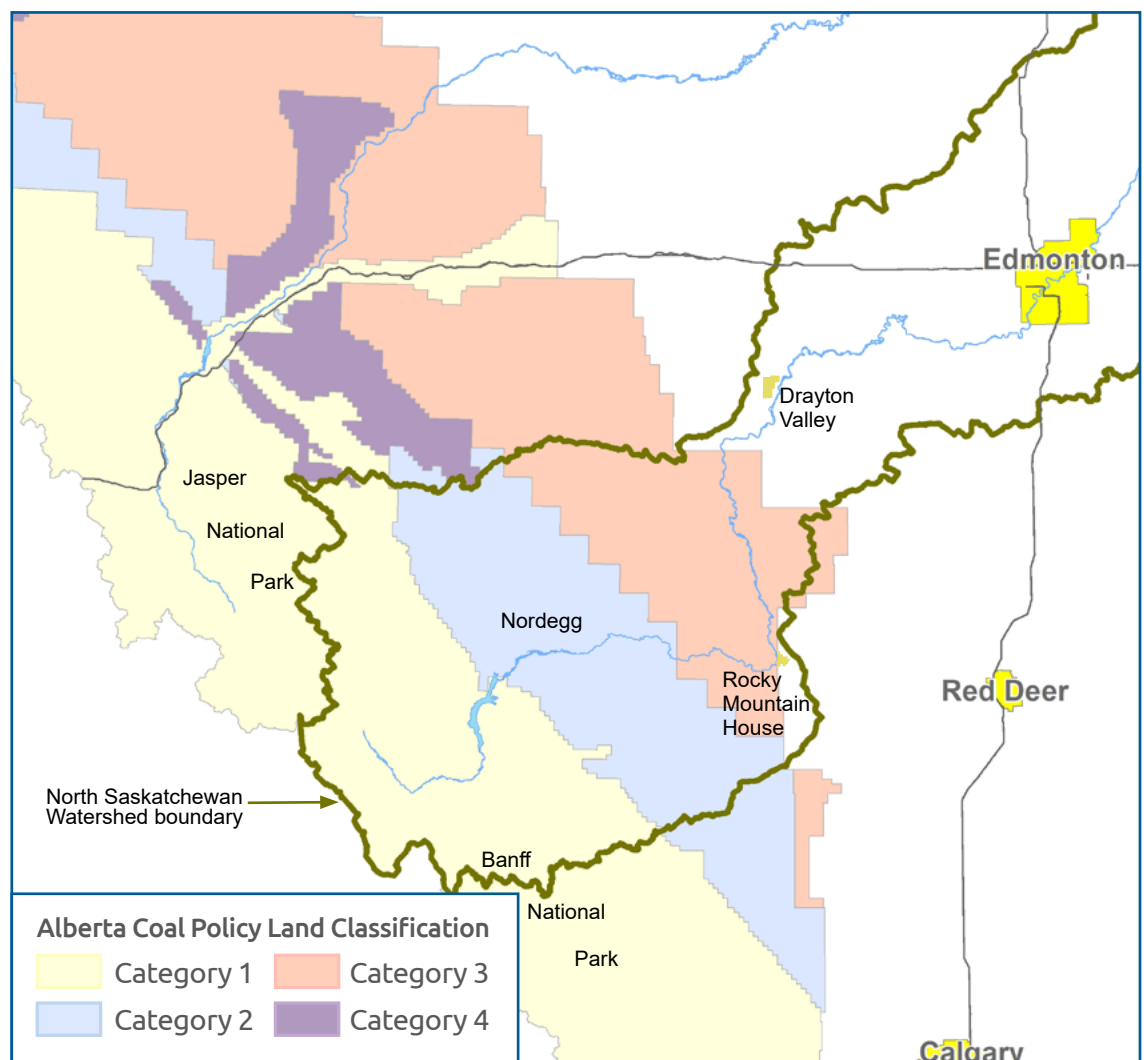
Category 1: No coal mining or development is allowed — Federal or Provincial Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Designated Recreational Areas, etc

Category 2: Coal surface mining is not allowed, with exceptions — Parts of southern Rockies and Foothills

Category 3: Coal development can be considered — Northern forests and eastern part of Eastern Slopes

Category 4: Coal development is permitted — Parts of land not otherwise covered

To read more on the Coal Categories, [click here](#).



What has changed?

June 1, 2020 → The 1976 Coal Policy was rescinded, which meant:

- The province indicated the coal categories were no longer required due to improved energy policies and planning processes
- All restrictions on new coal leases from categories 2 and 3 were removed, but Category 1 lands still would not allow mining

To read the May 15, 2020 Alberta Government press release, [click here](#).

February 8, 2021 → The 1976 Coal Policy was reinstated by Alberta Energy in order to:

- Reconsider the coal categories and the processes related to coal development and exploration
- Engage the public regarding coal exploration applications on Category 2 lands
- Confirm that coal approvals recognize constraints on surface mining in Category 2 lands and do not involve mountain top removal
- New coal exploration approvals on Category 2 lands are paused until further consultations on a new coal policy

To read the February 8, 2021 Alberta Government press release, [click here](#).

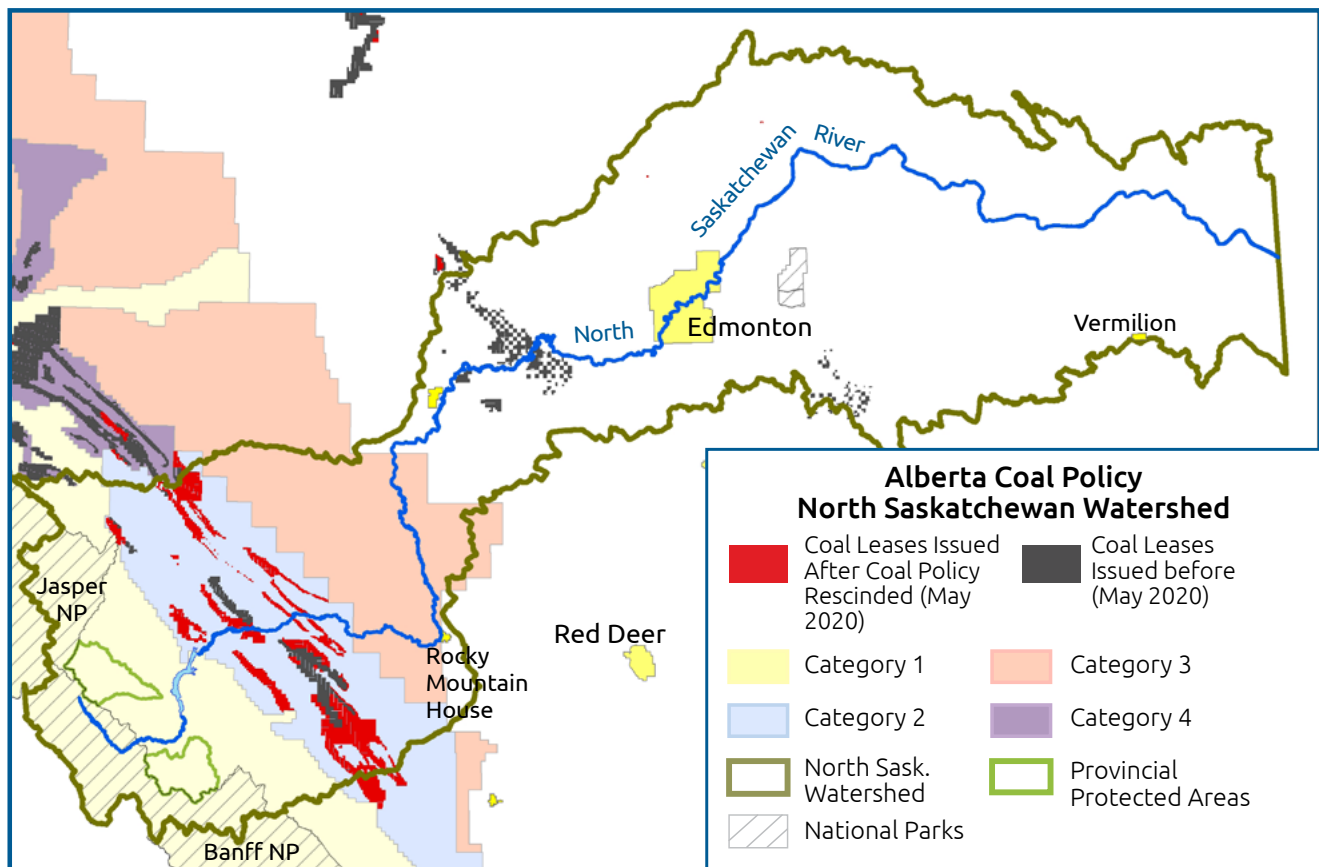
What is next?

- The government opened public consultation on March 29, 2021
- Consultation will be led by a Coal Policy Committee of five members from various sectors
- The Committee will provide a report on what they heard from Albertans in the Fall of 2021

To find out more or to stay informed, please go to:

www.alberta.ca/coal-policy-development-engagement.aspx

Coal Agreements in the North Saskatchewan Watershed



DISCLAIMER: The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and Government of Alberta (GOA) do not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this map and is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the content and accepts no liability for the use of this information.

Base Data Provided by the Government of Alberta March 25, 2021