

Managing Water at the Source



The Elk Valley Water Quality Plan (EVWQP) is an area-based management plan approved by the Province of BC to protect aquatic life, manage contaminants, protect human health and protect groundwater. North

Coal's mine plan will incorporate the goals of this plan.

Some strategies North Coal is using to address the goals of the EVWQP, wildlife habitat, and air quality include:

Minimize our footprint.

The less land we disturb, the less contact we have with water and wildlife habitat corridors. We will minimize our land-use to protect the environment.

Use saturated in-fill pit.

A saturated rock fill creates a passive water treatment process that removes harmful ele-

ments from water and eliminates them from moving into water systems.

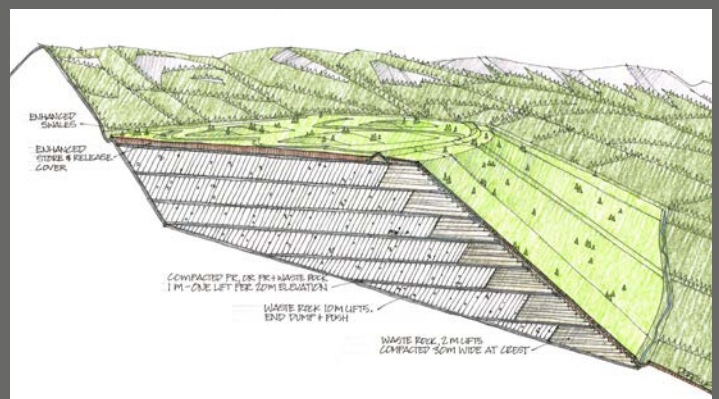
Use bottom-up, layered, ex-pit rock storage facilities.

A bottom-up mine rock storage facility creates less dust than a traditional rock storage facility as it greatly reduces the height at which rock is dumped from. The layered approach, packing a layer of fine material between 10-meter rock lifts, slows the movement of air and water through the rock which minimizes to eliminates the release of harmful contaminants. This approach ensures elements such as nitrate and selenium are not released into the environment.

Through innovative and new mining technologies, we will protect water quality, minimize our impact on wildlife, and maintain air quality. It is our commitment to innovation and utilizing the best science available that we are building a new era of mining.

Managing air flow is critical to maintaining and protecting water quality. The bottom-up ex-pit rock storage facility is built in layers to create large zones of suboxia.

Suboxia is a term describing very low oxygen conditions and promotes the passive removal of selenium, nitrates, and other elements.





Successful Geology Season

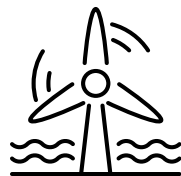
North Coal's geology team had a successful and safe 2019 field season. We completed another 4,400 meters (m) of development drilling, adding to the previously completed 40,000m. The primary focus of development drilling in 2019 occurred at Loop Ridge, our largest steel-making coal deposit.



Once operational, the steel-making coal we mine may end up as windmills, solar panels, hospitals, schools, bikes, or cars. And, it will provide family-supporting jobs for a variety of people with a variety of skills.



142 tonnes
steel-making coal
→
1 wind turbine



Staff Profile: Abby Cousins

How did you first get involved with North Coal?

I actually started out working as a site medic in 2014. I had recently moved from the coalfields in Australia where I had been working as a geologist and wanted to get some exploration experience here in Canada. After working as a medic on site, my geological skills were made known and the following season I started working as a rig geologist. I worked the 2015, 2016, and 2017 summer exploration seasons as a rig geologist before becoming a full-time employee in 2018.

What is your current position and what responsibilities does that include?

My current position is Senior Geologist. My job varies quite a lot depending on what time of year it is, and I do a bit of everything. During the spring and summer months, most of my time is spent running the drilling program. This is a very busy time and involves managing many different types of contractors, and ensuring that the data that we are capturing is of a high standard. It's all about keeping everyone happy, productive and safe which can be a challenge. I also oversee the earthworks contractors that perform construction, deactivation, and reclamation on our work sites. Throughout the year I am involved quite heavily in the geological data management side of the project, which involves processing the data from drilling and compiling the results from any samples that we have taken during drilling. I am



also responsible for managing the company's health and safety program which keeps me busy year-round.

What do you like most about working at North Coal?

The thing I appreciate the most about working for North Coal is the people. Our office is full of fun, knowledgeable people who like to laugh. It makes it easy to come to work when you get along well with the people you work with.

What has surprised you about working at North Coal?

How much we have grown in the space of a couple of years. Since my first summer exploration season in 2015 I have seen the company grow



from just a few members of staff to an ever-expanding team.

What do you wish other people knew about North Coal?

I would like people to know that we genuinely care about the communities that we live and work in. We all live locally and have a passion for the outdoors so we are mindful of where we work and how we impact the environment around us.



Abby managing crews on-site.

North Coal presents donation to CFKR Community Funds - Elkford, Sparwood, & Fernie



Commitment to Communities

In October, North Coal was pleased to contribute to the Community Foundation of the Kootenay Rockies (CFKR) in Elkford, Sparwood, and Fernie with a \$5,000 donation to each local Community Fund.

CFKR Community Funds provides grants to local organizations led by steering committees made up of local volunteers. Each Community Fund in the Elk Valley takes a broad and inclusive view of what a community is, and provides grants to the widest possible range of organizations and initiatives. CFKR holds funds for each of the Elk

Valley communities, which are included in CFKR's overall portfolio of \$2.5 million in 27 permanently invested endowment funds.

North Coal is proud to contribute to the local CFKR Community Funds. "This program speaks to sustainability and long-term planning within our communities which North Coal places great value in", says John Pumphrey, president of North Coal. "The local steering committees understand local needs and can assist where needed." Please see www.cfkrockies.ca/grants/ for more information.



Celebrating Elk Valley Pride with students at Fernie Secondary School

Fernie Pride Society hosted a successful Elk Valley Pride Week in October. North Coal sponsored the flag-raising event at Fernie Secondary School that included planting shrubs to create an inclusive rainbow garden space on school grounds. We are proud to support events that promote inclusion and diversity create safe spaces for all.

These are a couple of the many activities and organizations that North Coal supports and sponsors. In 2019, we have donated close to \$110,000 to local groups and organizations throughout the Elk Valley and Ktunaxa Nation. Our team members live in the valley and are accountable to our neighbours and to making the place better for all.