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I N T E R O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

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Subject: QUINSAM TOUR

The GSB has been active at Quinsam recently on two fronts.
1) Calcium in Quinsam coal - Barry Ryan has recently completed a deposit-scale study to address this. Calcium can be problem in thermal generating stations because it causes high resistivity in the ash, which affects the effectiveness of the electrostatic precipitators. This has been a marketing problem in Japan for Quinsam in the past, although to some extent this may be a marketing ploy by the Japanese. Barry's study has produced data on how the calcium is bound to the coal, which in turn is useful information to help eradicate the problem. Conclusion: excessive calcium exists as CaCO3 precipitated on fractures in coal, and can be easily removed once it is liberated. Quinsam also received MDA money I believe to look at options for controlling calcium through coal preparation.
2) Methane in Quinsam coal - Barry has looked at the coalbed methane content of Quinsam coal, as part of the cbm project. Because this is the only underground coal mine in B.C. special attention needs to be paid to this potential problem. As it turns out, methane build-up is not a major danger, in part because this is a shallow mine.

Other than these, we are not aware of other serious issues. The property seems to have adequate reserves of good quality coal. Sulphur content is higher than at southeast or northeast B.C., but the product is still in the low-sulphur range. There are no major geological problems to mining; underground water is not a problem. The roof needs to be bolted, but that is very common. Acid rock drainage is not a serious problem, in part because this is an underground mine and so there are no waste piles of interburden rock. Moreover, the coal contains enough CaCO3 that reject coal is not acid generating.

Hope this is helpful; please contact me if you have other questions.

Regards,
D.