

1 enforce key provisions of the Mineral Resources Act in
2 relation to the Westray mine, and it failed to carry out
3 its statutory duty to ensure that Westray engaged in
4 mining that was both safe and efficient.

5 The Department's initial review of the Westray
6 proposal didn't recognize the challenges posed by the
7 Foord seam and the means by which Westray planned to mine
8 it. You remember they were satisfied that it followed
9 basic engineering practices and that they employed a
10 standard mining method. And that was pretty much the
11 extent of their review.

12 The position of this Department stands in sharp
13 contrast with the view of the Westray project to develop
14 within the Federal Government. And here I'm referring to
15 the CANMET review. Even a six-day review by officials in
16 CANMET led them to the conclusion that while the project
17 was feasible, the combination of features it presented
18 would create an unusually complex mining environment
19 which would stretch the limits of existing technology.
20 CANMET also noted that the mining sections in the
21 feasibility study on which the project was to be based
22 were brief and general in content and that much more
23 detailed engineering work should be done before the
24 project began. The evidence of Dr. Brown was that any
25 experienced mining engineer or regulator should have come