



## “Stretching from Land to Sea”

**Abstract:** Ms. Julie Cohen, East Coast Energy

---

### ***Coal Bed Methane – A Viable Onshore Energy Option in Rural Nova Scotia***

Rural Nova Scotia has been plagued with limited energy options for many years. However, East Coast Energy Inc. may be on the verge of removing that burden and providing a viable energy alternative for the Pictou County area. Significant volumes of coal bed methane have been known to exist in the coal seams of the Pictou Coalfield for decades. In recent years, several companies have tested and evaluated methods to extract this natural gas from coal in commercial quantities. East Coast Energy Inc., based in Stellarton, is on the verge to be the first company to achieve this goal, by recently completing the first successful horizontal well in the coalfield in December 2013. This has been a dramatic advance in the search for an onshore supply of natural gas in Nova Scotia, and a positive opportunity for a viable local energy source for Pictou County. As the company prepares for the test production phase of the project, East Coast Energy Inc. CEO Julie Cohen reflects on the challenges and successes associated with the first operation of its kind in Nova Scotia. The project has already had a significant impact on the rural economy of the Pictou County region. The company’s policy to buy local services and products, involve the local community through open communications and work closely with the province and First Nations community were key elements in the success of the operation to date.