



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

20 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Telephone: 01-727 8090

April 7, 1978

EMBARGO: Not to be used by media or on agency or club tapes before 15.00 hours, Monday, April 10, 1978.

ECSC LOAN OF £31 MILLION TO NATIONAL COAL BOARD

The Commission of the European Communities has announced the approval of a loan of £31 million to the National Coal Board under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty which will help to finance 14 investment projects. The projects are as follows:

<u>Colliery</u>	<u>Project</u>
1. Goldthorpe/Highgate	to develop output and improve manriding and coal clearance
2. Askern	to install a new underground conveyor system and construct a new coal preparation plant
3. Houghton Main	to increase output and install new coal preparation facilities
4. Grimethorpe	to improve the quality of output
5. Manton	to increase the capacity of the existing coal preparation plant
6. Thoresby	to improve rail loading facilities
7. Harworth	to increase colliery output
8. Wearmouth	to extend the major underground roads and provide additional ventilation facilities
9. Bagworth-Ellistown	to improve rail loading facilities
10. Lady Windsor/Abercynon	to develop new areas of reserves
11. Lea Hall	to develop new areas of reserves
12. Seafield/Frances	to connect the two collieries underground and to develop new areas of reserves
13. Bentley	to install a new electric winder
14. Prickley/South Elmsall	to install a new electric winder

The loan will be disbursed in phase with the progress on the projects and the terms of each instalment will depend upon market conditions at the time of disbursement.

.-.-.-.-.