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### **Pike River Coal Limited appoints Independent Directors**

New Zealand Oil & Gas Limited announces that subsidiary Pike River Coal Limited (PRCL) has appointed Messrs John Dow and Stuart Natrass as independent directors to the PRCL board.

PRCL is the owner of the premium coking coal deposit now being developed in the Paparoa Ranges north east of Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island.

John Dow brings to the PRCL board his extensive experience in the mining and exploration industry. He has held executive positions with Newmont Mining in Indonesia, USA and Latin America and led Newmont Australia as Managing Director for three years until his retirement in March 2005.

Mr Dow is Chairman of the external advisory boards of the Western Australian School of Mines, Kalgoorlie, and of the CODES centre of excellence at the University of Tasmania. He is also immediate Past President of the Society of Economic Geologists and is a current Director of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. In 2006, Mr Dow received the Sir Willis Connolly Medal awarded by the Institute for his contributions to the mining industry.

Born in Gisborne, John Dow is now a mining industry consultant based in Nelson.

Mr Stuart Natrass is a director of Fonterra Co-operative Group, dairy farmer and former banker. After graduating from Lincoln University with an honours degree in Agricultural Science, Stuart Natrass began a banking career and was Global Head of Foreign Exchange Risk for Westpac in Sydney. He now farms at Geraldine and was elected to the Fonterra Board in 2003. He also holds several other directorships.

"PRCL is very pleased with both of these appointments. John Dow and Stuart Natrass, add substantially to the overall strength of the Pike River board" said PRCL chairman Ray Meyer. "The agreed appointment of Mr Arun Jagatramka, Managing Director of Indian shareholder Gujarat NRE Coke Limited, upon conclusion of the Pike IPO, will complete the Board of directors for PRCL."

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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NZOG stock symbols: NZX shares - NZO      options - NZOOD  
ASX shares - NZO      options - NZOO