

Figure 15.—Fire Creek(?) coal bed restricted reserve base.

Figure 16.—Sewell (?) coal bed restricted reserve base.

Figure 17.—Hughes Ferry(?) coal bed restricted reserve base.

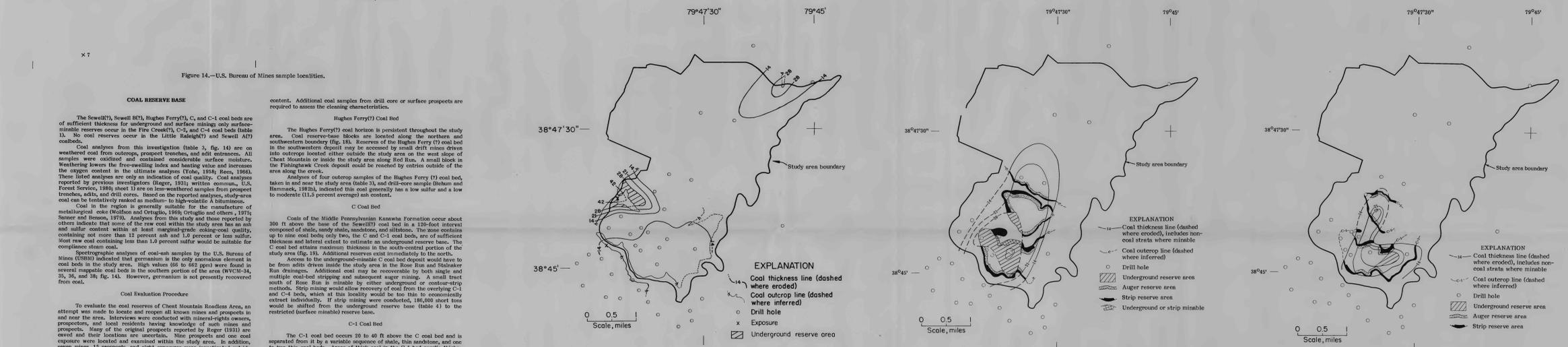


Figure 14.—U.S. Bureau of Mines sample localities.

Figure 18.—Hughes Ferry(?) coal bed restricted reserve base.

Figure 19.—C-1 coal bed restricted reserve base.

Figure 20.—C-1 coal bed restricted reserve base.

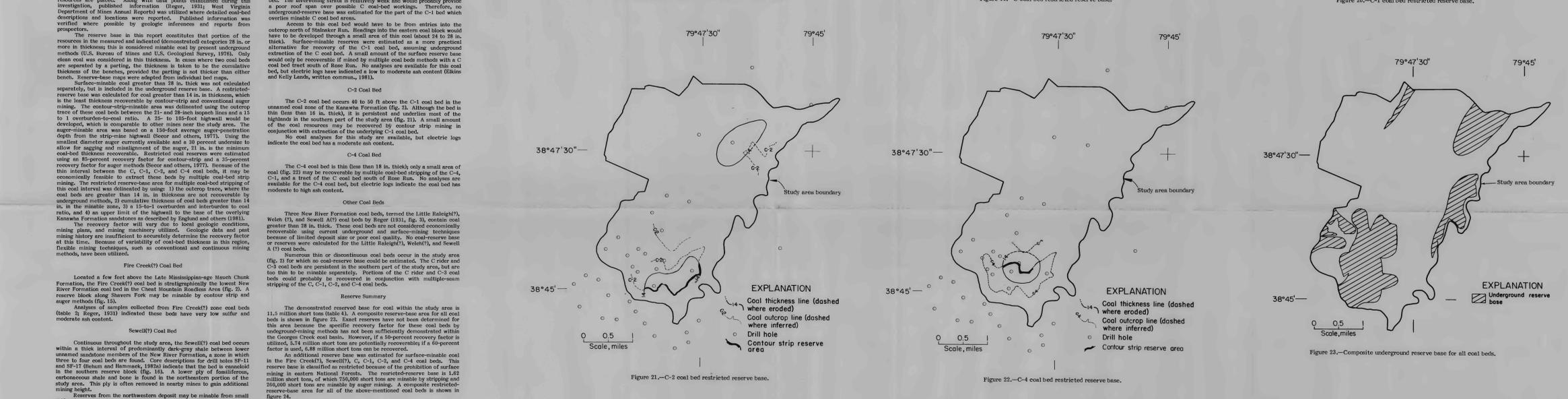


Figure 21.—C-2 coal bed restricted reserve base.

Figure 22.—C-4 coal bed restricted reserve base.

Figure 23.—Composite underground reserve base for all coal beds.

COAL RESERVE BASE

The Sewell(?) Sewell B(?) Hughes Ferry(?) C-1 and C-4 coal beds are of sufficient thickness for underground and surface mining only surface-minable reserves occur in the Fire Creek(?) C-2, and C-4 coal beds (table 1). No coal reserves occur in the Little Raleigh(?) and Sewell A(?) coalbeds.

Coal analyses from this investigation (table 3, fig. 14) are on weathered coal from outcrop, prospect trenches, and adit entrances. All samples were oxidized and contained considerable surface moisture. Weathering lowers the free-swelling index and heating value and increases the oxygen content in the ultimate analysis (Yost, 1959; Yost and Hammett, 1962). These listed analyses are only an indication of coal quality. Coal analyses reported by previous investigators (Baker, 1931; Yost, 1959; Yost and Hammett, 1962; sheet 1) are on less-weathered samples from prospect trenches, adits, and drill cores. Based on the reported analyses, study-area coal can be tentatively ranked as medium- to high-volatile A bituminous.

Coal in the region is generally suitable for the production of metallurgical coke (Wolfson and Ortigolo, 1969; Ortigolo and others, 1973; Sanner and Benson, 1979). Analyses from this study and those reported by others indicate that some of the raw coal within the study area has an ash and sulfur content within at least marginally-adequate coal quality, containing not more than 12 percent ash and 1.0 percent or less sulfur. Most raw coal containing less than 1.0 percent sulfur would be suitable for coking to steam coal.

Spectrographic analyses of coal-ash samples by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) indicated that generation in the only anomalous district of coal beds in the study area. High values (66 to 662 ppm) were found in several marginally coal beds in the northern portion of the area (WVCS-34, 35, 36, and 38, fig. 14). However, germanium is not presently recovered from coal.

Coal Evaluation Procedure

To evaluate the coal reserves of Cheat Mountain Roadless Area, an attempt was made to locate and reopen all known mines and prospects in and near the area. Interviews were conducted with mineral-rights owners, prospectors, and local residents having knowledge of mines and prospects. Many of the original prospect reports by Reger (1931) are dated and their locations are uncertain. Nine prospects and one coal exposure were located and examined within the study area. In addition, seven mines, 15 prospects, and eight exposures were investigated outside the study area.

The degree of geologic control details the category in which coal resources are placed. Along with data points established during the investigation, published information (Reger, 1931; West Virginia Department of Mines Annual Report) was utilized where detailed coal-bed descriptions and locations were reported. Published information was verified where possible by geologic inferences and reports from prospectors.

The reserve base in this report constitutes that portion of the resources in the measured and indicated (demonstrated) categories 2B, 2C, or 3 in thickness that is considered minable coal by conventional methods (U.S. Bureau of Mines and U.S. Geological Survey, 1976). Only clean coal was considered in thickness. In cases where two coal beds are separated by a parting, the thickness is taken to be the cumulative thickness of the benches, provided the parting is not thicker than either bench. Reserve-base maps were adopted from individual bed maps.

Surface-minable coal greater than 28 in. thick was not calculated separately, but is included in the underground reserve base. A restricted-reserve base was calculated for coal greater than 14 in. in thickness, which is the least thickness recoverable by contour-strip and conventional auger mining. The contour-strip-minable area was delineated using the outcrop line of these coal beds between the 21- and 28-inch thickness lines and 15 to 1 overburden-to-coal ratio. A 25- to 150-foot highwall would be developed, which is comparable to that of the study area. The auger-minable area was based on a 150-foot average auger-penetration depth from the strip-mine highwall (Secor and others, 1977). Using the smallest diameter auger currently available and a 20 percent increase to allow for sagging and misalignment of the auger, 11 in. is the minimum coal-bed thickness recoverable. Restricted coal reserves were estimated using an 85-percent recovery factor for contour-strip and a 35-percent recovery factor for auger mining (Secor and others, 1977). Because of the interval between the C-1, C-2, and C-4 coal beds, it may be economically feasible to extract these beds by multiple coal-bed strip mining. The restricted-reserve-base area for multiple coal-bed stripping of this coal interval was delineated by using: 1) the minimum coal-bed thickness recoverable by strip mining; 2) cumulative thickness of coal beds greater than 14 in. in thickness are not recoverable by underground methods; 3) cumulative thickness of coal beds greater than 14 in. in the minable zone; 4) a 15-to-1 overburden and interburden to coal ratio; and 5) an upper limit of the highwall to the base of the overlying Kanawha Formation sandstones as described by Englund and others (1981).

The recovery factor will vary due to local geologic conditions, mining plans, and mining machinery utilized. Because of the limited mining history are insufficient to accurately determine the recovery factor at this time. Because of variability of coal thickness in this region, flexible mining techniques, such as conventional and continuous mining methods, have been utilized.

Fire Creek(?) Coal Bed

Located a few feet above the Late Mississippian-age Murchison Chalk Formation, the Fire Creek(?) coal bed is stratigraphically the lowest New River Formation coal bed in the Cheat Mountain Roadless Area (fig. 2). A reserve block along Shavers Fork may be minable by contour strip and auger mining (fig. 15).

Sewell(?) Coal Bed

Continuous throughout the study area, the Sewell(?) coal bed occurs within a thick interval of predominantly dark-gray shale between lower unmetamorphosed members of the New River Formation, a zone in which three to four coal beds are found. Core descriptions for drill holes SF-11 and SF-17 (Behm and Hammett, 1982a) indicate that the bed is composed in the southern reserve block (fig. 16). A lower part of fossiliferous, carbonaceous shale and bone is found in the northeastern portion of the study area. This clay is often removed in nearby mines to gain additional mining height.

Reserves from the northeastern deposit may be minable from small drift mines driven from the west slope of Cheat Mountain. The Shavers Fork deposit would have to be accessed from adits inside the area along this river (see topographic map on sheet 1) and access to the Fishinghawk Creek deposit may be possible by either reopening the old Davis Coal Land Company No. 2 mine or by driving new headings immediately east of the mine (Behm and Hammett, 1982a). The southern deposit appears to be accessible by driving entries into outcrops southwest of the area.

Surface-minable reserves occur along Shavers Fork and the west slope of Cheat Mountain. Most of the coal at the latter locality is inferred. The inferred restricted-reserve base and reserves (Hughes Ferry and Sewell A?) are as follows:

- Restricted reserves (demonstrated)—152,000 short tons
- Restricted reserves (inferred)—74,000 short tons
- Restricted reserves (inferred)—74,000 short tons

The quality of the Sewell(?) coal bed is generally excellent, with an average of 0.8 percent sulfur and 6.8 percent ash (as-received) in the study area vicinity. However, in the southern deposit, where the grades to annual coal with bony partings, a corresponding increase in ash and sulfur content occurs. Analyses from this deposit (table 3) and Behm and Hammett, 1982a) show an average 1.05 percent sulfur and 35.7 percent ash (as-received). Impure coking coal collected from the Llanin mine dump contained 43 percent ash (as-received). Additional sampling is necessary to fully assess the ash content and cleaning characteristics of coal in the southern deposit.

Wastability analyses of this coal bed from mine samples indicated that Sewell(?) coal with moderate ash content (10 to 15 percent) can be upgraded to meet premium coking-coal ash and sulfur-content criteria, while the high-ash coal (greater than 15 percent) can be cleaned to meet at least marginally-adequate coking-coal criteria (Deutromark, 1966; Sanner and Benson, 1979).

Sewell B(?) Coal Bed

A small reserve-base block in the Sewell B(?) coal bed is found along the western boundary of the study area (fig. 17). Erosion preceding deposition of the overlying sandstone has removed much of the coal bed and associated shales in the northern portion of the study area. Reserves of the Sewell B(?) coal bed are presumably accessible from outside of the area by driving drift entries into outcrops on the west slope of Cheat Mountain.

Analyses indicate that the bed has moderate ash but a fairly high sulfur content for coal beds in the New River Formation. The ash content averages 11.5 percent (as-received) and sulfur averages 2.8 percent. A lower bench, consisting of interlaminated impure ash high-ash coal, contained 45 percent ash (as-received) in outcrop along Shavers Fork (table 3). Cleaning would be necessary to lower the ash and sulfur content. Additional coal samples from drill core or surface prospects are required to assess the cleaning characteristics.

Hughes Ferry(?) Coal Bed

The Hughes Ferry(?) coal horizon is persistent throughout the study area. Coal reserve-base blocks are located along the northern and southwestern boundary (fig. 18). Reserves of the Hughes Ferry (?) coal bed in the southwestern deposit may be accessed by small drift mines driven into outcrops located either outside the study area on the west slope of Cheat Mountain or inside the study area along Red Run. A small block in the Fishinghawk Creek deposit could be reached by entries outside of the area along the creek.

Analyses of four outcrop samples of the Hughes Ferry (?) coal bed, taken in and near the study area (table 3), and drill-core samples (Behm and Hammett, 1982a), indicated this coal generally has a low sulfur and a low to moderate (11.5-percent average) ash content.

C-1 Coal Bed

Coal of the Middle Pennsylvanian Kanawha Formation occur about 300 ft above the base of the Sewell(?) coal bed in a 120-foot interval composed of thin, sandy shale, sandstone, and siltstone. The slope contains up to nine coal beds only two, the C-2 and C-1 coal beds, are of sufficient thickness and lateral extent to estimate an underground reserve base. The C-1 coal bed attains maximum thickness in the south-central portion of the study area (fig. 19). Additional reserves exist immediately to the north. Access to the underground-minable C-1 coal bed deposit would have to be from adits driven inside the study area in the Rose Run and Shalaker Run drainages. Additional coal may be recoverable by both auger and multiple coal-bed stripping and subsequent auger mining. A small tract of Rose Run is minable by either underground or contour-strip methods. Strip mining would allow recovery of coal from the overlying C-1 and C-4 beds, which at this locality would be too thin to economically extract individually. If strip mining were conducted, 180,000 short tons would be mined from the underground reserve base (table 4) to the restricted (surface-minable) coal bed.

C-2 Coal Bed

The C-2 coal bed occurs 20 to 40 ft above the C-1 coal bed and is separated from it by a variable sequence of shale, thin sandstone, and one to two thin coal beds. Areas of thick coal in the C-1 bed overlap thicker beds in the C-2 bed between Shalaker and Rose Run (fig. 20). The minability of this coal bed is limited by the clean proximity to the C-1 coal bed. The overlying strata is relatively weak and would probably provide a poor roof span over possible C-2 coal-bed workings. Therefore, no underground-reserve base was estimated for the part of the C-2 bed which overlies minable C-1 coal beds.

Access to this coal bed would have to be from entries into the outcrop north of Shalaker Run. Headings into the eastern coal block would have to be developed through a small area of thin coal (24 to 28 in. thick). Surface-minable reserves were estimated as a more practical alternative for recovery of the C-2 coal bed assuming underground extraction of the C-1 coal bed. A small amount of the surface reserve base would only be recoverable if mined by multiple coal-bed methods with a C-1 coal bed tract south of Rose Run. No analyses are available for this coal bed, but electric logs indicate a low to moderate ash content (Ekins and Kelly Land, written communication, 1981).

C-3 Coal Bed

The C-3 coal bed occurs 40 to 50 ft above the C-1 coal bed in the unmined coal zone of the Kanawha Formation (fig. 2). Although the bed is less than 18 in. thick, it is persistent and underlies most of the highlands in the southern part of the study area (fig. 21). A small amount of the coal resources may be recovered by contour strip mining in conjunction with extraction of the underlying C-1 coal bed.

C-4 Coal Bed

The C-4 coal bed is thin (less than 18 in. thick) only a small area of coal (fig. 22) may be recoverable by multiple coal-bed stripping of the C-4, C-1, and a tract of the C-1 coal bed south of Rose Run. No analyses are available for the C-4 coal bed, but electric logs indicate the coal bed has moderate to high ash content.

Three New River Formation coal beds, termed the Little Raleigh(?), Wain(?) and Sewell A(?) coal beds by Reger (1931), fig. 23, contain coal greater than 28 in. thick. These coal beds are not considered economically recoverable using current underground methods. Because of limited deposit size or poor coal quality, no coal-reserve base or reserve-base maps were estimated for the Little Raleigh(?), Wain(?), and Sewell A(?) coal beds.

Numerous thin or discontinuous coal beds occur in the study area (fig. 2) for which no coal-reserve base could be estimated. The C-1 and C-3 coal beds are persistent in the southern part of the study area, but are too thin to be minable separately. Portions of the C-1 and C-3 coal beds could probably be recovered in conjunction with multiple-auger stripping of the C-1, C-2, and C-4 coal beds.

Reserve Summary

The demonstrated reserve base for coal within the study area is 11.5 million short tons (table 4). A composite reserve-base area for all coal beds is shown in figure 23. Exact reserves have not been determined for this area because the specific recovery factor for these coal beds by underground-mining methods has not been sufficiently demonstrated within the Cheat Mountain Roadless Area. However, if a 65-percent recovery factor is utilized, 5.74 million short tons are potentially recoverable if a 60-percent factor is used, 6.88 million short tons can be recovered.

An additional reserve base was estimated for surface-minable coal in the Fire Creek(?), Sewell(?), C-1, C-2, and C-4 coal beds. This reserve base is classified as restricted because of the prohibition of surface mining in eastern National Forests. The restricted-reserve base is 1.82 million short tons, of which 150,000 short tons are minable by strip mining and 1,670,000 short tons are minable by auger mining. A composite restricted-reserve base for all of the above-mentioned coal beds is shown in figure 24.

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Figure 24.—Composite restricted (surface-minable) reserve base for all coal beds.

COAL RESERVE BASE MAPS
By
Paul T. Behm and Richard W. Hammett
MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL MAPS OF THE CHEAT MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA, RANDOLPH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

By
Kenneth J. Englund, Wayne R. Sigler, Peggy L. Foose, and Nancy K. Teaford, U.S. Geological Survey
and
Paul T. Behm and Richard W. Hammett, U.S. Bureau of Mines
1983

TABLE 3.—Analyses of coal, Cheat Mountain Roadless Area.¹

Sample number	Coal bed	Sample interval (feet)	Condition	Proximate analysis				Ultimate analysis				Sulfur forms			
				Moisture	Volatile	Fixed carbon	Ash	C	H	N	S	Elemental	Organic		
WVCS-7	WVCS-7	41.5	A.P.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-15	Unconformity	19.0	A.P.	10.5	18.9	70.6	80.5	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-15	Hughes Ferry (?)	22.0	M.A.F.	10.5	18.9	70.6	80.5	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-34	de.	41.0	A.P.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-60	de.	18.5	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-36	de.	20.25	A.P.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-36	Sewell A (?)	19.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-37	de	18.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-20	Sewell B (?)	19.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-18	de.	18.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-13	de.	27.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-11	Little Raleigh (?)	14.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-11	Fire Creek (?)	18.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-22	de.	18.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-2	de.	19.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222
WVCS-10	de.	19.0	M.A.F.	11.2	16.4	73.4	81.1	75.0	11.7	78.2	0.2	10.974	2.837	0.21	3.222

Table 4.—Summary of estimated demonstrated coal reserve base and reserves.

Coal bed	Area (square miles)	Reserve base (short tons)		Reserves (short tons)	
		Estimated	Revised	Estimated	Revised
C-1	17	34,000	8,000	42,000	35,000
C-2	34	54,000	23,000	78,000	66,000
C-3	46	45,000	171,000	216,000	308,000-129,000
C-4	308	237,000	91,000	328,000	219,000
Other	52	161,000	44,000	205,000	71,000
Surface total ²	155	396,000	135,000	531,000	349,000
Underground	485	1,710,000	613,000	2,323,000	1,360,000-1,960,000
Total	640	2,106,000	748,000	2,854,000	1,709,000-2,909,000
Fire Creek(?)	17	34,000	8,000	42,000	35,000
Sewell B(?)	19	38,000	9,000	47,000	39,000
Surface total ²	36	72,000	17,000	89,000	74,000
Underground	8	370,000	8,000	378,000	23,000
Total	44	442,000	25,000	467,000	297,000

¹ Analyses by Department of Energy, Division of Geology and Mineral Resources, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. All analyses were reported on a dry basis and were collected from either adits, prospects, or exposures. An attempt was made to restrict the coal bed at least 1 ft to include the effects of weathering.

² Total surface reserve base is the sum of the surface reserve base and the surface reserve base for the Fire Creek(?) and Sewell B(?) coal beds.

³ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 65-percent recovery factor.

⁴ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.

⁵ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.

⁶ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.

⁷ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.

⁸ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.

⁹ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.

¹⁰ C-3 coal bed reserve base is based on a 60-percent recovery factor.