UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TEXT TO ACCOMPANY:

COAL RESOURCE OCCURRENCE

AND

COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

MAPS

OF THE

OPEN A RANCH QUADRANGLE,

CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING

BY

INTRASEARCH INC.

DENVER, COLORADO

OPEN FILE REPORT 79-070
1979

This report is preliminary, and has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with United States Geological Survey standards or stratigraphic nomenclature.

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CONVERSION TABLE

TO CONVERT	MULTIPLY BY	TO OBTAIN
inches	2.54	centimeters (cm)
feet	0.3048	meters (m)
miles	1.609	kilometers (km)
acres	0.40469	hectares (ha)
tons (short)	0.9072	metric tons (t)
cubic yards/ton	0.8428	cubic meters per metric ton
acre feet	0.12335	hectare-meters
Btu/lb	2.326	kilojoules/kilogram (kJ/kg)
Btu/lb	0.55556	kilocalories/kilogram (kcal/kg)
Fahrenheit	5/9 (F-32)	Celsius

I. <u>Introduction</u>

This report and accompanying maps set forth the Coal Resource Occurrence (CRO) and Coal Development Potential (CDP) of coal beds within the Open A Ranch Quadrangle, Campbell County, Wyoming. This CRO and CDP map series includes 19 plates (U. S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 79-070). The project is compiled by IntraSearch Inc., 1600 Ogden Street, Denver, Colorado, under KRCRA Northeastern Powder River Basin, Wyoming Contract Number 14-08-0001-17180. This contract is a part of a program to provide an inventory of unleased federal coal in Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas (KRCRA) in the western United States.

The Open A Ranch Quadrangle is located in Campbell County, in northeastern Wyoming. It encompasses parts of Townships 44 and 45 North, Ranges 69 and 70 West, and covers the area: 43°45' to 43°52'30" north latitude; 105°07'30" to 105°15' west longitude.

The Keeline Road, a maintained gravel road, angles across the southern half of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle and joins Wyoming State Highway 59, 13 miles (21 km) west of the quadrangle boundary. The Little Thunder Road traverses the southwestern corner of the quadrangle and extends 35 miles (56 km) south to Clareton, Wyoming. Minor roads and trails that branch from the aforementioned roads provide additional access to the study area. The closest railroad is the Burlington Northern trackage located 1 mile (1.6 km) south of the quadrangle boundary at the Jacobs Ranch coal mine.

Black Thunder Creek, approximately 4600 feet (1402 m) above sea level, flows southeastward across the southern half of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle. Bacon Creek drains the northeastern quadrant. Both of these creeks eventually flow into the South Fork of the Cheyenne River. Minimum elevations of 4500 feet (1372 m) above sea level occur in the valley floor of Black Thunder Creek on the eastern quadrangle boundary. A maximum elevation of 5056 feet (1541 m) above sea level is located in the north-central portion of the study area. The somber grays, yellows, and browns of outcropping shales and siltstones contrast strikingly with the brilliant reds, oranges, and purples of "clinker," and deep greens of the juniper and pine tree growth.

The ten to twelve inches (25 to 30 cm) of annual precipitation that falls in this semi-arid region accrues principally in the springtime. Summer and fall precipitation usually originates from thunderstorms, and infrequent snowfalls of six inches (15 cm) or less generally characterize winter precipitation. Although temperatures ranging from less than $-25^{o}F$ ($-32^{o}C$) to more than $100^{o}F$ ($38^{o}C$) have been recorded near Gillette, Wyoming, average wintertime minimums and summertime maximums approach $+5^{o}$ to $+15^{o}F$ (-15^{o} and $-9^{o}C$) and 75^{o} to $90^{o}F$ (24^{o} to $32^{o}C$), respectively.

Surface ownership is divided among fee, state, and federal categories with the state and federal surface generally leased to ranchers for grazing purposes. Details of surface ownership are available at the Campbell County Courthouse in Gillette, Wyoming. Details of mineral ownership on federal lands are available from the

U. S. Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Federal coal ownership is shown on Plate 2 of the Coal Resource Occurrence maps. The non-federal coal ownership comprises both fee and state coal resources.

The Coal Resource Occurrence and Coal Development Potential program pertains to unleased federal coal and focuses upon: 1) the delineation of lignite, subbituminous, bituminous, and anthracite coal at the surface and in the subsurface on federal land; 2) the identification of total tons in place as well as recoverable tons; 3) categorization of these tonnages into measured, indicated, and inferred reserves and resources, and hypothetical resources; and 4) recommendations regarding the potential for surface mining, underground mining, and in-situ gasification of the coal beds. This report evaluates the coal resources of all unleased federal coal beds in the quadrangle which are 5 feet (1.5 m) or greater in thickness and occur at depths down to 3000 feet (914 m). No resources or reserves are computed for leased federal coal, state ceal, fee coal, or lands encompassed by coal prospecting permits and preference right lease applications.

Surface and subsurface geological and engineering extrapolations drawn from the current data base suggest the occurrence of approximately 458 million tons (415 million metric tons) of total unleased federal coal resource in the Open A Ranch Quadrangle.

The suite of maps that accompany this report set forth and portray the coal resource and reserve occurrence in considerable detail. For the most part, this report supplements the cartographically displayed information with minimum verbal duplication of the CRO-CDP map data.

II. Geology

Regional. The thick, economic coal deposits of the Powder River Basin in northeastern Wyoming occur mostly in the Tongue River Member of the Fort Union Formation, and in the lower part of the Wasatch Formation. Approximately 3000 feet (914 m) of the Fort Union Formation, that includes the Tongue River, Lebo, and Tullock Members of Paleocene age, are unconformably overlain by approximately 700 feet (213 m) of the Wasatch Formation of Eocene age. These Tertiary formations lie in a structural basin flanked on the east by the Black Hills uplift, on the south by the Hartville and Casper Mountain uplifts, and on the west by the Casper Arch and the Big Horn Mountain uplift. The structural configuration of the Powder River Basin originated in Late Cretaceous time, with episodic uplift thereafter. The Cretaceous Cordillera was the dominant positive land form throughout the Rocky Mountain area at the close of Mesozoic time.

Outcrops of the Wasatch Formation and the Tongue River Member of the Fort Union Formation cover most of the areas of major coal resource occurrence in the Powder River Basin. The Lebo Member of the Fort Union Formation is mapped at the surface northeast of Recluse, Wyoming, east of the principal coal outcrops and associated clinkers (McKay, 1974), and presumably projects into the subsurface beneath much of the basin. One of the principal characteristics for separating the Lebo and Tullock Members (collectively referred to as the Ludlow Member east of Miles City, Montana) from the overlying Tongue River Member is the color differential between the lighter-colored upper portion and the somewhat darker lower portion (Brown, 1958). Although geologists working with subsurface data, principally geophysical logs, in the basin are trying to develop criteria for subsurface recognition of the Lebo-Tullock and Tongue River-Lebo contacts, no definitive guidelines are known to have been published. Hence, for subsurface mapping purposes, the Fort Union Formation is not divided into its member subdivisions for this study.

During the Paleocene epoch, the Powder River Basin tropic to subtropic depositional environment included broad, inland flood basins with extensive swamps, marshes, freshwater lakes, and a sluggish but active northeastward discharging drainage system, superimposed on a near base level, emerging sea floor. Much of the vast areas where organic debris collected was within a reducing depositional environment. Localized uplifts began to disturb the near sea level terrain of northeastern Wyoming, following retreat of the Cretaceous seas. However, the extremely fine-grained characteristics of the Tongue River Member clastics suggest that areas of recurring uplift peripheral to the Powder River Basin were subdued during major coal deposit formation.

The uplift of areas surrounding the Powder River Basin created a structural basin of asymmetric characteristic, with the steep west flank located on the eastern edge of the Big Horn Mountains. The axis of the Powder River Basin is difficult to specifically define, but is thought to be located in the western part of the basin, and to display a north-south configuration some 15 to 20 miles (24 to 32 km) east of Sheridan, Wyoming. Thus, the sedimentary section described in this report lies on the east flank of the Powder River Basin, with gentle dips of two degrees or less disrupted by surface structure thought to relate to tectonic adjustment and differential compaction.

Some coal beds in the Powder River Basin exceed 200 feet (61 m) in thickness. Deposition of these thick, in-situ coal beds requires a discrete balance between subsidence of the earth's crust and in-filling by tremendous volumes of organic debris. These conditions in concert with a favorable ground water table, non-oxidizing clear water, and a climate amenable to the luxuriant growth of vegetation produce a stabilized swamp critical to the deposition of coal beds.

Deposition of the unusually thick coal beds of the Powder River Basin may be partially attributable to short distance water transportation of organic detritus into areas of crustal subsidence. Variations in coal bed thickness throughout the basin relate to changes in the depositional environment. Drill hole data that indicate either the complete absence or extreme attenuation of a thick coal bed probably relate to location of the drill hole within the ancient stream channel system draining this low land area in Early Cenozoic time. Where thick coal beds thin rapidly from the depocenter of a favorable depositional environment, it is not unusual to encounter a synclinal structure over the maximum coal thickness due to the differential compaction between organic debris in the coal depocenter and fine-grained clastics in the adjacent areas.

The Wasatch Formation of Eocene age crops out over most of the central part of the Powder River Basin and exhibits a disconformable contact with the underlying Fort Union Formation. The contact has been placed at various horizons by different workers, however, for the purpose of this report, in northwestern Campbell County, Wyoming, the contact is positioned near the top of the Roland coal bed as mapped by Olive (1957) and is considered to disconformably descend in the stratigraphic column to the top of the Wyodak-Anderson coal bed (Roland coal bed of Taff, 1909) along the eastern boundary of the coal measures. No attempt is made to differentiate the Wasatch and Fort Union Formations on geophysical logs or in the subsurface mapping program that is a part of this CRO-CDP project.

Although Wasatch and Fort Union lithologies are too similar to allow differentiation in some areas, most of the thicker coal beds occur in the Fort Union section on the east flank of the Powder River Basin. Furthermore, orogenic movements peripheral to the basin apparently increased during Wasatch time causing the deposition of friable, coarse-grained to gritty arkosic sandstones, fine-to very fine-grained sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, claystones, brown-to-black carbonaceous shales and coal beds. These sediments are noticeably to imperceptibly coarser than the underlying Fort Union clastics.

The Open A Ranch Quadrangle is located in an area where surface rocks are classified into the Tongue River Member of the Fort Union Formation and the Wasatch Formation. Although the Tongue River Member is reportedly 1200 to 1300 feet (366 to 396 m) thick (Olive, 1957), only 400 to 500 feet (122 to 152 m) are exposed in this area. Several hundred feet of the Wasatch Formation crop out in this quadrangle. Olive (1957) correlated coal beds in the Spotted Horse coal field with coal beds in the Sheridan coal field (Baker, 1929) and Gillette coal field (Dobbin and Barnett, 1927), Wyoming, and with coal beds in the Ashland coal field (Bass, 1932) in southeastern Montana. This report utilizes, where possible, the coal bed nomenclature used in previous reports.

Baker assigned names to the Anderson, Canyon, and Wall coal beds, and the Cook coal bed was named by Bass (1932).

IntraSearch's correlation of thick coal beds from the Spotted Horse coal field to Gillette points out that the Wyodak coal bed, named the D coal bed by Dobbin and Barnett (1927), is equivalent to the Anderson, Canyon and all or part of the Cook coal beds to the north and west of Gillette, Wyoming. Correlation of this suite of coal beds with the Wyodak coal bed south and southwest of Gillette suggests that the Anderson and Canyon coal beds equate with the upper ten to twenty-five percent of the thick Wyodak coal bed, and the Cook and Wall or Upper Wall coal beds are equivalent to the major part of the Wyodak coal bed. Due to problematic correlations outside of the Gillette area, the name Wyodak has been informally used by many previous authors to represent the coal beds in the area surrounding the Wyodak coal mine. The Wildcat and Moyer coal beds were informally named by IntraSearch (1978, 1979).

Local. The Open A Ranch Quadrangle lies on the eastern flank of the Powder River Basin, where the strata dip gently westward. The Wasatch Formation caps the higher elevations in the western portion of the quadrangle, and is comprised of friable, coarse-grained to gritty, arkosic sandstones, fine- to very fine-grained sandstones, siltstones, mudstones, claystones, brown-to-black carbonaceous shales, and coal beds. The Tongue River Member of the Fort Union Formation crops out over the remaining area. The Fort Union Formation is composed of very fine-grained sandstones, siltstones, claystones, shales, carbonaceous shales, and numerous coal beds.

III. Data Sources

Areal geology of coal outcrops and associated clinker is derived from the Preliminary Coal Resource Occurrence Map of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle by Gary C. Martin (1976). IntraSearch considers the W-1, W-2, and W-3 coal beds of Martin (1976) to be the Middle Wyodak and Lower Wyodak coal beds, respectively, in this report. The W3L and W3M coal beds of Martin (1976) are not mapped due to their insufficient thickness and lack of areal extent.

The major source of subsurface control, particularly on deep coal beds, is the geophysical logs from oil and gas test bores and producing wells. Some geophysical logs are not applicable to this study, for the logs relate only to the deep potentially productive oil and gas zones. More than eighty percent of the logs include resistivity, conductivity, and self-potential curves. Occasionally the logs include gamma, density, and sonic curves. These logs are available from several commercial sources.

All geophysical logs available in the quadrangle are scanned to select those with data applicable to Coal Resource Occurrence mapping. Paper copies of the logs are obtained, interpreted, and coal intervals annotated. Maximum accuracy of coal bed identification is accomplished where gamma, density, and resistivity curves are available. Coal bed tops and bottoms are picked on the logs at the midpoint between the minimum and maximum curve deflections. The correlation of coal beds within and between quadrangles is achieved utilizing a fence diagram to associate local correlations with regional coal occurrences.

In some parts of the Powder River Basin, additional subsurface control is available from U. S. Geological Survey open file reports that include geophysical and lithologic logs of shallow holes drilled specifically for coal exploration. A sparse scattering of subsurface data points are shown on unpublished CRO-CDP maps compiled by the U. S. Geological Survey, and where these data are utilized, the rock-coal intervals are shown on the Coal Data Map (Plate 1). Inasmuch as these drillholes have no identifier headings, they are not set forth on the Coal Data Sheet (Plate 3). The geophysical logs of these drill holes were not available to IntraSearch to ascertain the accuracy of horizontal location, topographic elevation, and down-hole data interpretation.

The reliability of correlations, set forth by IntraSearch in this report, vary depending on: the density and quality of lithologic and geophysical logs; the detail, thoroughness, and accuracy of published and unpublished surface geological maps, and interpretative proficiency. There is no intent on the part of IntraSearch to refute nomenclature established in the literature or used locally by workers in the area. IntraSearch nomenclature focuses upon the suggestion of regional coal bed names applicable throughout the eastern Powder River Basin. It is expected and entirely reasonable that some differences of opinion regarding correlations, as suggested by IntraSearch, exist. Additional drilling for coal, oil, gas, water, and uranium, coupled with expanded mapping of coal bed outcrops and associated clinkers will broaden the data base for coal bed correlations and allow continued improvement in the understanding of coal bed occurrences in the eastern Powder River Basin.

The topographic map of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle is published by the U. S. Geological Survey, compilation date, 1971. Land ownership data is compiled from land plats obtained from the U. S. Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This information is current to October 13, 1977.

IV. Coal Bed Occurrence

Fort Union Formation coal beds that are present in all or part of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle include, in descending stratigraphic order, the Middle Wyodak, Lower Wyodak, Local, Wildcat, and Moyer coal beds. A complete suite of maps (structure, isopach, mining ratio, overburden, identified resources, and areal distribution of identified resources) is prepared for the Middle and Lower Wyodak coal beds, and the Local-Wildcat-Moyer coal zone.

No chemical and physical analyses are known to have been published regarding the coal beds in the Open A Ranch Quadrangle. However, the general "as received" basis proximate analysis for the adjacent Hilight Quadrangle to the west is as follows:

COAL BED NAME		ASH	FIXED CARBON	MOISTURE	VOLATILES	SULFUR	BTU/LB
Wyodak (U)	Hole 757	6.024	32.831	26.907	34.237	0.336	8366

(U) - U. S. Geological Survey and Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology - 1976.

The Coal Data Sheet, Plate 3, shows the downhole identification of coal beds within the quadrangle as interpreted from U. S. Geological Survey and Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology drill holes, and geophysical logs from oil and gas test bores and producing sites. A datum coal bed is utilized to position columnar sections on Plate 3. This portrayal is schematic by design; hence, no structural or coal thickness implications are suggested by the dashed correlation lines projected through no record (NR) areas. Inasmuch as the Wildcat coal bed underlies the entire quadrangle, it is designated as datum for the correlation diagram. The Middle Wyodak coal bed shows the thickest single coal bed occurrence in the quadrangle. The Local-Wildcat-Moyer coal zone is relatively thin throughout most of the study area.

The Middle Wyodak coal bed crops out in the western area and underlies approximately twenty percent of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle. The Middle Wyodak coal bed varies in thickness from 30 feet (9 m) to a maximum of 50 feet (15 m) in the southwestern portion of the quadrangle, and is burned or eroded from approximately fifty percent of the area of coal occurrence. Non-coal intervals within the Middle Wyodak coal bed range from 3 to 7 feet (0.9 to 2.1 m) thick. The Middle Wyodak coal bed dips approximately one to two degrees westward.

The Lower Wyodak coal bed crops out in the northern part of the quadrangle and is present over approximately fifteen percent of the area. Due to the lack of subsurface data, the maps on the Lower Wyodak coal bed are constructed utilizing the Preliminary Coal Resource Occurrence Maps of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle (Martin, 1976). The Lower Wyodak coal bed varies from 3.8 to 13 feet (1.2 to 4 m) in thickness. In order to effect a tie with structural contour on the Rough Creek Quadrangle to the north and because of the expanded contour interval of IntraSearch (50 feet; 15 m) to that of Martin (40 feet; 12 m), the shallow syncline of Martin in the southwestern part of T. 45 N., R. 69 W. is not portrayed. Structural contours on top of the Lower Wyodak coal bed define a westward dip of one to two degrees.

The Local-Wildcat-Moyer coal zone, consisting of three relatively thin coal beds, lies 438 to 564 feet (134 to 172 m) beneath the Middle Wyodak coal bed. Aggregate thicknesses for this coal zone range from 0 to 31 feet (0 to 9 m), and average approximately 21 feet (6 m). The maximum thickness of 31 feet (9 m) is located in the southwestern quadrant. The local coal bed is present only in the western sector of the quadrangle, and all three coal beds are absent from the northeastern and eastern portions of the study area. Structural contours on top of the local and Wildcat coal beds portray a westward dip of less than one degree. Structural contours are drawn on the top of the local coal bed, and where it pinches out, they are drawn on the top of the Wildcat coal bed. The Local-Wildcat-Moyer coal zone lies approximately 100 to 700 feet (30 to 213 m) beneath the surface throughout the Open A Ranch Quadrangle.

V. Geological and Engineering Mapping Parameters

The correct horizontal location and elevation of drill holes utilized in subsurface mapping are critical to map accuracy. Intra-Search plots the horizontal location of the drill hole as described on the geophysical log heading. Occasionally this location is superimposed or near to a drillsite shown on the topographic map, and the topographic map horizontal location is utilized. If the ground elevation on the geophysical log does not agree with the topographic elevation of the drill-site, the geophysical log ground elevation is adjusted to conformance. If there is no indication of a drillsite on the topographic map, the "quarter, quarter, quarter" heading location is shifted within a small area until the ground elevation on the heading agrees with the topographic map elevation. If no elevation agreement can be reached, the well heading or data sheet is rechecked for footage measurements and ground elevation correctness. Inquiries to the companies who provided the oil and gas geophysical logs frequently reveal that corrections have been made in the original survey. If all horizontal location data sources have been checked and the information accepted as the best available data, the drillsite elevation on the geophysical log is modified to agree with the topographic map elevation. IntraSearch considers this agreement mandatory for the proper construction of most subsurface maps, but in particular, the overburden isopach, the ratio, and Coal Development Potential maps.

Subsurface mapping is based on geologic data within and adjacent to the Open A Ranch Quadrangle area. Data from geophysical logs are used to correlate coal beds and control contour lines for the coal thickness, structure, and overburden maps. Isopach lines are also drawn to honor selected measured sections where there is sparse subsurface control. Where isopach contours do not honor surface measured sections, the surface thicknesses are thought to be attenuated by oxidation and/or erosion, hence not reflective of total coal thickness. Isopach lines extend to the coal bed outcrops, the projections of coal bed outcrops, and the contact between porcellanite (clinker) and unoxidized coal in place. Attenuation of total coal bed thickness is known to take place near these lines of definition; however, the overestimation of coal bed tonnages that results from this projection of total coal thickness is insignificant to the Coal Development Potential maps. Structure contour maps are constructed on the tops of the main coal beds. Where subsurface data is scarce, supplemental structural control points are selected from the topographic map along coal outcrops.

In preparing overburden isopach maps, no attempt is made to identify coal beds that occur in the overburden to a particular coal bed under study. Mining ratio maps for this quadrangle are constructed utilizing a ninety-five percent recovery factor. Contours of these maps identify the ratio of cubic yards of overburden to tons of recoverable coal. Where ratio control points are sparse, interpolated points are computed using coal structure, coal isopach, and topographic control. On the Areal Distribution of Identified Resources Map (ADIR), coal bed reserves are not calculated where the coal is less than 5 feet (1.5 m) thick, where the coal occurs at a depth greater than 500 feet (152 m), where non-federal coal exists, or where federal coal leases, preference right lease applications, and coal prospecting permits exist.

Coal tonnage calculations involve the planimetering of areas of measured, indicated, inferred reserves and resources, and hypothetical resources to determine their areal extent in acres. An Insufficient Data Line is drawn to delineate areas where surface and subsurface data are too sparse for CRO map construction. Various categories of resources are calculated in the unmapped areas by utilizing coal bed thicknesses mapped in the geologically controlled area adjacent to the insufficient data line. Where Martin (1976) mapped the Wyodak coal bed as "partially eroded," the coal thickness control is too sparse for tonnage calculations.

Acres are multiplied by the average coal bed thickness and 1770 (the number of tons of subbituminous C per acre-foot; 13,018 metric tons per hectare-meter), to determine total tons in place. Recoverable tonnage is calculated at 95 percent of the total tons in place. Where tonnages are computed for the CRO-CDP map series, resources and reserves are expressed in millions of tons. Frequently the planimetering of coal resources on a sectionized basis involves complexly curvilinear lines (coal bed outcrop and 500-foot stripping limit designations) in relationship with linear section boundaries and circular resource category boundaries. Where these relationships occur, generalizations of complex curvilinear lines are discretely utilized, and resources and/or reserves are calculated within an estimated two to three percent plus or minus accuracy.

VI. Coal Development Potential

Strippable Coal Development Potential. Areas where coal beds are 5 feet (1.5 m) or more in thickness and are overlain by 500 feet (152 m) or less of overburden are considered to have potential for surface mining and are assigned a high, moderate, or low development potential based on the mining ratio (cubic yards of overburden per ton of recoverable coal). The formula used to calculate mining ratios is as follows:

$$MR = \frac{t_o\ (0.911)^*}{t_c\ (rf)}$$

where MR = mining ratio
t_o = thickness of overburden
tc = thickness of coal
rf = recovery factor
0.911* = conversion factor (cu.yds/ton)

*Use (0.922) for lignite

A surface mining potential map is prepared utilizing the following mining ratio criteria for coal beds 5 to 40 feet (1.5 to 12 m) thick:

1. Low development potential = 15:1 and greater ratio.
2. Moderate development potential = 10:1 to 15:1 ratio.
3. High development potential = 0 to 10:1 ratio.

The following mining ratio criteria is utilized for coal beds greater than 40 feet (12 m) thick:

1. Low development potential = 7:1 and greater ratio.
2. Moderate development potential = 5:1 to 7:1 ratio.
3. High development potential = 0 to 5:1 ratio.

The surface mining potential is high for approximately fifteen percent of the Open A Ranch Quadrangle. These high potential areas are located in the northwestern and southwestern sectors of the quadrangle where the Middle Wyodak and Lower Wyodak coal beds crop out. A small area of moderate potential occurs in Section 2, T. 44 N., R. 70 W., as a result of the absence of the Middle Wyodak coal bed and a Lower Wyodak mining ratio between 10:1 and 15:1. The low surface mining potential regions are primarily located in the southern portion of the study area. These low potential areas relate to the absence of the Middle Wyodak and Lower Wyodak coal beds and mining ratios greater than 15:1 for the Local-Wildcat-Moyer coal zone. Table 1 sets forth the estimated strippable reserve base tonnages per coal bed for the quadrangle.

Underground Mining Coal Development Potential. Subsurface coal mining potential throughout the Open A Ranch Quadrangle is considered low. Inasmuch as recovery factors have not been established for the underground development of coal beds in this quadrangle, reserves are not calculated for coal beds buried more than 500 feet (152 m) beneath the surface. Table 2 sets forth the estimated coal resources in tons per coal bed.

In-Situ Gasification Coal Development Potential. The evaluation of subsurface coal deposits for in-situ gasification potential relates to the occurrence of coal beds more than 5 feet (1.5 m) thick buried from 500 to 3000 feet (152 to 914 m) beneath the surface. This categorization is as follows:

1. Low development potential relates to: 1) a total coal section less than 100 feet (30 m) thick that lies 500 feet (152 m) to 3000 feet (914 m) beneath the surface, or 2) coal beds 5 feet (1.5 m) or more in thickness that lie 500 feet (152 m) to 1000 feet (305 m) beneath the surface.

2. Moderate development potential is assigned to a total coal section from 100 to 200 feet (30 to 61 m) thick, and buried from 1000 to 3000 feet (305 to 914 m) beneath the surface.

3. High development potential involves 200 feet (61 m) or more of total coal thickness buried from 1000 to 3000 feet (305 to 914 m).

The coal development potential for in-situ gasification on the Open A Ranch Quadrangle is low, henco no CDP map is generated for this map series. The coal resource tonnage for in-situ gasification with low development potential totals approximately 194 million tons (176 million metric tons (Table 3). None of the coal beds in the Open A Ranch Quadrangle qualify for a moderate or high development potential rating.

Table 1.--Strippable Coal Reserve Base Data (in short tons) for Federal Coal Lands in the Open A Ranch Quadrangle, Campbell County, Wyoming.

Development potentials are based on mining ratios (cubic yards of overburden/ton of recoverable coal).

Coal Bed	High Development Potential (0-10:1 Mining Ratio)	Moderate Development Potential (10:1-15:1 Mining Ratio)	Low Development Potential (>15:1 Mining Ratio)	Total
Lower Wyodak	46,250,000	3,100,000	480,000	49,830,000
Local-Wildcat-Moyer	--	--	104,030,000	104,030,000
	(0-5:1 mining Ratio)	(5:1-7:1 Mining Ratio)	(>7:1 Mining Ratio)	Total
Middle Wyodak	96,900,000	--	--	96,900,000
TOTAL	143,150,000	3,100,000	104,510,000	250,760,000

Table 2.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for Underground Mining Methods for Federal Coal Lands in the Open A Ranch Quadrangle, Campbell County, Wyoming.

Coal Bed Name	High Development Potential	Moderate Development Potential	Low Development Potential	Total
Local-Wildcat-Moyer	--	--	193,990,000	193,990,000
TOTAL	--	--	193,990,000	193,990,000

Table 3.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for In-Situ Gasification for Federal Coal Lands in the Open A Ranch Quadrangle, Campbell County, Wyoming.

Coal Bed Name	High Development Potential	Moderate Development Potential	Low Development Potential	Total
Local-Wildcat-Moyer	--	--	193,990,000	193,990,000
TOTAL	--	--	193,990,000	193,990,000

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