UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TEXT TO ACCOMPANY:

COAL RESOURCE OCCURRENCE

AND

COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

MAPS

OF THE

NORTHEAST QUARTER OF FIFTY-FIVE RANCH 15' QUADRANGLE,

CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING

BY

INTRASEARCH INC.

DENVER, COLORADO

OPEN FILE REPORT 79-457

1979

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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 tons
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. Introduction

This report and accompanying maps set forth the Coal Resource Occurrence (CRO) and Coal Development Potential (CDP) of coal beds within the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming. This CRO and CDP map series (U. S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 79-457) includes 19 plates. The project is compiled by IntraSearch Inc., 5351 South Roslyn Street, Englewood, Colorado, under KRCRA Eastern 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 (KRCRAs) in the western United States.

The Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle is located in Converse County, in northeastern Wyoming. It encompasses all or parts of Townships 36, 37 and 38 North, Ranges 74 and 75 West, and covers the area: 43°07'30" to 43°15' north latitude; 105°45' to 105°52'30" west longitude.

Main access to the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle is provided by a maintained, light-duty road which extends into the southwest quarter of the quadrangle from the south. Unimproved gravel roads angle east to west across the quadrangle along both sides of the Cheyenne River Divide and parallel to the Dry Fork of Cheyenne River and Phillips Creek. Minor roads and trails that branch from these gravel roads provide additional access to the more remote areas. The closest railroads are the Burlington Northern trackage and the Chicago and North Western trackage approximately 18 miles (29 km) to the south at Glenrock, Wyoming.

Drainage patterns generate from the high, fairly rugged terrain of Pine Ridge which angles north to south slightly west of the

quadrangle. Elevations attain heights of 5840 feet (1780 m) above sea level in the northwest quarter of the quadrangle, 600 to 650 feet (183 to 198 m) above the valley floors to the east. The Cheyenne River Divide extends east to west across the central area of the quadrangle, separating the drainage into northern and southern halves. The Dry Fork of the Cheyenne River and Phillips Creek flow eastward providing the drainage south of the Cheyenne River Divide. The northeast flowing North Fork and South Fork of Bear Creek provide the primary drainage north of the Cheyenne River. Additional intermittent streams supplement the drainage throughout the quadrangle. The Dry Fork of the Cheyenne River and Bear Creek flow eastward into the Cheyenne River.

The 10 to 12 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°F (-32°C) to more than 100°F (38°C) have been recorded near Douglas, Wyoming, average wintertime minimums and summertime maximums approach +5° to +15°F (-15° and -9°C) and 75° to 90°F (24° to 32°C), respectively.

Surface ownership is divided among fee, state, and federal categories. State and federal lands are generally leased to ranchers for grazing purposes. Details of surface ownership are available at the Converse County Courthouse in Douglas, 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 belongs to both fee and state owners.

The Coal Resource Occurrence and Coal Development Potential program is restricted to unleased federal coal and focuses upon: 1) the delineation of lignite, subbituminous coal, bituminous coal, and anthracite at the surface and in the subsurface on federal land; 2) subdivision of deposits into measured, indicated, and inferred reserve resource categories, and hypothetical resources; 3) the measurement of coal resources in place as well as recoverable reserves; and 4) the determination of the potential for surface or underground mining, and in-situ gasification of the coal beds. This report contains an evaluation of 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 coal, 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 551 million tons (500 million metric tons) of unleased federal coal resources in the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle.

The suite of maps that accompany this report portray the coal resource and reserve occurrence in detail. For the most part, this report supplements the cartographic information, with minimum duplication of the 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 Tongue River Member is composed of very fine-grained sandstones, siltstones, claystones, shales, carbonaceous shales, and numerous coal beds. The Lebo Shale Member of the Fort Union Formation consists of light-to dark-gray very fine-grained to conglomeratic sandstone with interbedded siltstone, claystone, carbonaceous shale and thin coal beds. Thin bedded calcareous ironstone concretions interbedded with massive white sandstone and slightly bentonitic shale occur throughout the unit.

The Lebo Member 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 members 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 an emerging sea floor, near base level. Much of the vast area 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 holes 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, the contact is positioned near the top of the Roland coal bed as mapped by Olive (1957) in northwestern Campbell County, Wyoming, 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 in magnitude 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 Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle is located in an area where surface rocks are classified into the Fort Union Formation and the Wasatch Formation. Approximately 150 to 250 feet (46 to 76 m) of Fort Union Formation and 650 to 700 feet (198 to 213 m) of Wasatch Foramtion is exposed in this area. This report utilizes, where possible, the coal bed nomenclature used in previous reports. The Smith coal bed was named by Taff (1909), and the Anderson coal bed was named by Baker (1929). The Wildcat coal bed was informally named by IntraSearch Inc. (1978).

Regional stratigraphic correlations by IntraSearch in this portion of the Powder River Basin in conjunction with research involving previously published reports indicate specific stratigraphic equivalents. The Smith coal bed of this report is stratigraphically equivalent to the Upper Bed (Wegemann, 1912), the "F" Bed (Wegemann and others, 1929), and segements of the "C" bed (Sharp and others, 1964). The Anderson coal bed mentioned in this report is stratigraphically equivalent to the Lower Bed (Wegemann, 1912), the "G" Bed (Wegemann and others, 1929) and segments of the "C" coal bed (Sharp and others, 1964). The Smith and Anderson coal beds are also stratigraphically equivalent to the Badger and School coal beds, respectively, mentioned by previous authors in publications to the south.

Local. The Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle lies on the western flank of the Powder River Basin. The Wasatch Formation

covers approximately eighty percent 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 Fort Union Formation crops out over the remaining area in the southwest quarter of the quadrangle. The Fort Union Formation is composed of very fine-grained sandstones, siltstones, claystones, shales, carbonaceous shales, and numerous coal beds.

Structure contours drawn on top of the various coals present within the quadrangle indicate a regional dip to the northeast with a small narrow northward plunging anticline extending across the southeast quarter. A northwest to southeast trending synclinal low is also present extending into the northeast quarter of the study area.

III. Data Sources

Areal geology of the coal outcrops is derived from Wegemann (1912), Wegemann and others (1929), and Sharp and Gibbons (1964). The coal bed outcrops are adjusted to the current topographic maps in the area. The outcrops are enlarged from 1:125,000 scale and a 1:126,720 scale publication of (Wegemann, 1912; Wegemann and others, 1929). The structural elevation control points established on the outcrop configuration are considered to be plus or minus 50 to 100 feet (15 to 30 m) in accuracy. Numerous irregularities in outcrop elevations and the areal geology-topographic map relation emphasize that these maps present a generalized configuration of the coal bed outcrop. Horizontal accuracy of the outcrop location is estimated at plus or minus 1000 feet (305 m).

The major source of subsurface control, 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.

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's 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 Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle is published by the U. S. Geological Survey, compilation date, 1959. Expansion of the topographic base of the Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle (scale 1:62,500) into 7 1/2' quadrangle maps (scale 1:24,000) was per-

formed by the U. S. Geological Survey for Coal Resource Occurrence - Coal Development Potential mapping purposes. Land network and mineral ownership data are compiled from land plats available from the U. S. Bureau of Land Management in Cheyenne, Wyoming. This information is current to October 13, 1977.

IV. Coal Bed Occurence

Wasatch and Fort Union Formation coal beds that are present in all or part of the Northeast Quarter of the Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle include in descending stratigraphic order, the Smith (Badger), Anderson (School), and the Wildcat coal beds. A complete suite of maps (structure, coal isopach, mining ratio, overburden isopach, identified resources and areal distribution of identified resources) is prepared for each of these coal beds.

No physical and chemical analyses are known to have been published regarding the coal beds in the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle. However, the "as received" basis proximate analyses from samples of the Smith and Anderson coal beds taken in T.36N., R.75W., (Glass, 1975) are as follows:

COAL BED NAME		ASH %	FIXED CARBON %	MOISTURE %	VOLATILES %	SULFUR %	BTU/LB
Smith	Sample No.* 74-37	9.68	29.48	26.41	34.43	0.52	7830
Anderson	Sample No.* 74-35	8.48	28.47	29.02	34.03	0.41	7606

* - Sample number refers to Glass (1975)

The Coal Data Sheet, Plate 3, shows the downhole identification of coal beds within the quadrangle as interpreted from geophysical logs of 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)

intervals. Inasmuch as the Anderson coal bed underlies the entire quadrangle, it is designated as datum for the correlation diagram. All three coal beds discussed in this report show a thin, very uniform coal bed thickness throughout the areas of coal bed occurrence.

The Smith (Badger) coal bed, present in the southern part of the quadrangle, is eroded from approximately forty-five percent of the study area. Outcrop elevations and surface measured sections supplement the subsurface drillhole control in the preparing of structure and isopach maps, especially in the southern half of the quadrangle. The coal bed thickness ranges from 10 to 17 feet (3 to 5m) with thickest occurrences located in the southwest quarter of the quadrant. Structure contours drawn on top of the Smith coal bed indicate a gentle, regional dip to the northeast with a small synclinal low extending across the northeast corner of the study area. The Smith coal bed lies from 0 feet (0 m) to less than 400 feet (122 m) in depth beneath the surface throughout the entire quadrangle.

The Anderson (School) coal bed crops out in the southwest corner of the quadrangle, and is eroded from approximately fifteen percent of the study area. The coal bed lies 150 to 200 feet (46 to 61 m) below the Smith coal bed and varies in thickness from 5 to 21 feet (1.5 to 6 m). Maximum thickness occurs in the southeast quarter of the quadrangle and extends northward into the south-central portion of the study area. A non-coal interval of 14 feet (4 m) locally separates the coal bed in the northeast corner of the quadrangle. The structural configuration of the Anderson coal bed indicates a gentle dip to the northeast throughout the western half of the quadrangle and a north to south trending synclinal low extending into the northeast quarter of the study area. The Anderson coal bed lies

from 0 feet (0 m) to less than 500 feet (152 m) in depth beneath the surface throughout ninety percent of the quadrangle.

The Wildcat coal bed occurs approximately 1200 to 1400 feet (366 to 427 m) beneath the Anderson coal bed, and ranges in thickness from 5 to 30 feet (1.5 to 9 m). Maximum thicknesses are present in the northeast corner of the quadrangle with gradual thinning toward the west. A non-coal interval ranging from 9 to 29 feet (2.7 to 9 m) locally separates the coal bed. Structure contours drawn on top of the Wildcat coal bed indicate a regional 1 to 2 degree dip to the northeast. The Wildcat coal bed occurs greater than 500 feet (152 m) in depth beneath the surface throughout the entire 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 Inc., 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 drillsite, 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 accuracy. 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 Inc., considers this agreement mandatory for the proper construction of most subsurface maps, but in particular, the overburden isopach, the mining ratio, and Coal Development Potential maps.

Subsurface mapping is based on geologic data within and adjacent to the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' 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 surface 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 are 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 at the intersections of coal bed and overburden isopach contours 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. Acres are multiplied by the average coal bed thickness and 1750, or 1770 (the number of tons of lignite A or subbituminous C coal per acre-foot, respectively; 12,874 or 13,018 metric tons per hectare-meter, respectively), to determine total tons in place. Recoverable tonnage is calculated at ninety-five 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 complexly 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 for subbituminous coal is as follows:

$$MR = \frac{to\ (0.911)^*}{tc\ (rf)}$$

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

*A conversion factor of 0.922 is used for lignite.

A surface mining potential map (Plate 19) 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.

Approximtately sixteen percent of the quadrangle is considered as low surface mining development potential. This rating can be attributed to high overburden to coal ratios for the Smith (Badger) and Anderson (School) coal beds. The area classified as low potential occurs in the northwest corner of the quadrangle. Less than ten percent of the study

area qualifies for a moderate development potential rating. This moderate rating occurs in narrow areas along the primary drainage where moderate overburden to coal ratios are present. The high surface mining development potential occurs in conjunction with the primary drainages, in areas of low overburden to coal ratios. A small area in the southwest corner of the quadrangle is designated as no potential for surface mining. 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 Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' 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 that occur 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) a single coal bed or coal zone 5 feet (1.5 m) or more in thickness which lies 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 within the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle is low, hence no CDP map is generated for this map series. The coal resource tonnage for in-situ gasification with low development potential totals approximately 148 million tons (134 million metric tons) (Table 3). None of the coal beds in the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' 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 Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle, Converse 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
RESERVE BASE TONNAGES				
Smith	21,820,000	39,990,000	128,760,000	190,570,000
Anderson	79,390,000	5,860,000	106,840,000	192,090,000
TOTAL	101,210,000	45,850,000	235,600,000	382,660,000

Table 2.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for Underground Mining Methods for Federal Coal Lands in the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.

Coal Bed Name	High Development Potential	Moderate Development Potential	Low Development Potential	Total
Anderson	-----	-----	24,630,000	24,630,000
Wildcat	-----	-----	123,540,000	123,540,000
TOTAL	-----	-----	148,170,000	148,170,000

Table 3.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for In-Situ Gasification for Federal Coal Lands in the Northeast Quarter of Fifty-Five Ranch 15' Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.

Coal Bed Name	High Development Potential	Moderate Development Potential	Low Development Potential	Total
Anderson	-----	-----	24,630,000	24,630,000
Wildcat	-----	-----	123,540,000	123,540,000
TOTAL	-----	-----	148,170,000	148,170,000

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