

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TEXT TO ACCOMPANY:
COAL RESOURCE OCCURRENCE
AND
COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
MAPS
OF
THE PARK QUADRANGLE,
CONVERSE COUNTY, WYOMING

BY
INTRASEARCH INC.
DENVER, COLORADO

OPEN FILE REPORT 79-479

1979

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. GEOLOGY	3
III. DATA SOURCES	8
IV. COAL BED OCCURRENCE	10
V. GEOLOGICAL AND ENGINEERING MAPPING PARAMETERS	12
VI. COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL	14
Table 1.--Strippable Coal Reserve Base Data (in short tons) for Federal Coal Lands in The Park Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.	17
Table 2.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for Underground Mining Methods for Federal Coal Lands in The Park Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.	18
Table 3.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for In-Situ Gasification for Federal Coal Lands in The Park Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.	19
SELECTED REFERENCES	20

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	<u>MAPS</u>	<u>PLATES</u>
1.	Coal Data Map	1
2.	Boundary and Coal Data Map	2
3.	Coal Data Sheet	3
4.	Isopach and Mining Ratio Map of Local 1-2-3-4 Coal Zone	4
5.	Structure Contour Map of Local 1-2-3-4 Coal Zone	5
6.	Isopach Map of Overburden of Local 1-2-3-4 Coal Zone	6
7.	Areal Distribution of Identified Resources of Local 1-2-3-4 Coal Zone	7
8.	Identified Resources of Local 1-2-3-4 Coal Zone	8
9.	Coal Development Potential for Surface Mining Methods	9

CONVERSION TABLE

<u>TO CONVERT</u>	<u>MULTIPLY BY</u>	<u>TO OBTAIN</u>
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 Park Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming. This CRO and CDP map series (U. S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 79-479) includes 9 plates. The project is compiled by IntraSearch Inc., 1600 Ogden Street, Denver, 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 Resource Coal Areas (KRCRAs) in the western United States.

The Park Quadrangle is located in Converse County, in north-eastern Wyoming. It encompasses all or parts of Townships 32, 33 and 34 north, Ranges 68 and 69 West, and covers the area: 42°45' to 42°52'30" north latitude; 105°00' to 105°07'30" west longitude.

U. S. Highway 18-20 angles southwestward across the extreme southeastern corner of The Park Quadrangle. A light duty road extends north-south through the center of the quadrangle. A network of minor roads and trails provides additional access to the quadrangle. The closest railroad is the Chicago and Northwestern trackage which parallels U. S. Highway 18-20 in the southeastern corner of The Park Quadrangle.

Drainage patterns generate from the high, fairly rugged terrain located in the center of the quadrangle. The East and Middle Forks of Shawnee Creek flow southward into the North Platte River. Walker Creek and Twentymile Creek drain northward into the Cheyenne River system. Elevations attain heights of approximately 5550 feet (1692 m) above sea level, approximately 600 to 650 feet (183 to 198 m) above the valley floors.

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 159 million tons (144 million metric tons) of unleased federal coal resources in The Park 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 Park Quadrangle is located in an area where surface rocks are classified into the Fort Union Formation, the White River Formation, and the Arikaree Formation. Approximately 500 to 550 feet (152 to 168 m) of the Fort Union Formation and approximately 250 to 300 feet (76 to 91 m) of the White River Formation are exposed in The Park Quadrangle. Approximately 200 to 250 feet (61 to 76 m) of the Arikaree Formation are exposed in the study area.

Local. The Park Quadrangle lies on the eastern flank of the Powder River Basin, where the strata dip gently westward. The Arikaree Formation of lower Miocene age crops out over approximately two percent of the area located in the extreme southeast corner, and unconformably overlies the White River Formation. The Arikaree Formation is comprised of very fine-grained sandstones, conglomerates, siltstones, limestones, and altered volcanic ash beds. The White River Formation caps the higher elevations over approximately five percent of the quadrangle and unconformably overlies the Fort Union Formation in the southern quarter of the quadrangle. The White River Formation of Oligocene age is comprised of light-colored clays, soft sandstones and coarse conglomerates. The Fort Union Formation, that crops out over the remaining area, is comprised of very fine-grained sandstones, siltstones, claystones, shales, carbonaceous shales, and numerous coal beds. The structural configuration of the local coal zone is characterized by a north to northwestward dip of less than two degrees and a west-plunging anticline in the northern sections of Township 33 North, Ranges 68 and 69 West.

Because the coals in The Park Quadrangle are of limited areal extent, correlations with coal beds to the north is difficult. Intra-Search Inc., labels the coal beds in The Park Quadrangle as Local ₁, Local ₂, Local ₃, and Local ₄ coal beds.

III. Data Sources

Areal geology of the coal bed outcrops is derived from Winchester (1912). The coal bed outcrops are adjusted to the current topographic map of the area. In the southeastern corner of the quadrangle where outcrop and subsurface data are lacking, an insufficient data line is drawn.

The Local 1-2-3-4 coal zone is mapped throughout the northern eighty-five percent of The Park Quadrangle. Numerous coal bed outcrops are located in the southern portion of the study area. These thin, lenticular coal beds are traceable only for short distances (Winchester, 1912). Therefore, these unnamed coal beds are not easily correlated with subsurface data in the area. The outcrop map is derived and enlarged from a 1:125,000 scale publication (Winchester, 1912). Numerous irregularities in outcrop elevations and the areal geology-topographic map relationship emphasize that this map presents a generalized configuration of the coal bed outcrops. Horizontal accuracy of the outcrop locations is estimated at plus or minus 1000 feet (305 m). The structural elevation control points established on the outcrop configurations are considered to be plus or minus 50 to 100 feet (15 to 30 m) in accuracy. The insufficient data line delineates an area of no control in the southeastern corner of The Park Quadrangle.

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 drill holes 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 downhole 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'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 Park Quadrangle is published by the U. S. Geological Survey, compilation date, 1970. 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 Occurrence

Fort Union Formation coal beds that are present in all or part of The Park Quadrangle include, in descending stratigraphic order, the Local 1, Local 2, Local 3, Local 4, and Local 5 coal beds. The Local 1, 2, 3, and 4 coal beds are mapped as a coal zone because they occur at depths greater than 500 feet (152 m) throughout approximately fifty percent of the quadrangle, and because individually they average less than 5 feet (1.5 m) in thickness. The Local 5 coal bed is not mapped due to depth of occurrence, thinness, and limited areal extent. A complete suite of maps (structure, isopach, mining ratio, overburden, identified resources, and areal distribution of identified resources) is prepared for the Local coal zone. The following physical and chemical analyses are published for a sample from a local coal bed in Township 32 North, Range 69 West, Section 11:

COAL BED NAME	Lab	ASH %	FIXED CARBON %	MOISTURE %	VOLATILES %	SULFUR %	BTU/LB
Local (*)	10711	5.8	36.5	24.8	32.9	1.18	8300

(*) Winchester, D. E., 1912

The Coal Data Sheet, Plate 3, shows the downhole identification of coal beds within the quadrangle is interpreted from 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 Local ₂ coal bed underlies the entire quadrangle, it is designated as datum for the correlation diagram. Local coal bed 2 and Local coal bed 4 have the largest areal extent.

The combined thickness of the coal beds in the Local 1-2-3-4 coal zone varies from 0 feet (0 m) in scattered drill holes probably located in channel deposits to over 15 feet (5 m) in the northeastern quadrant along the northern quadrangle boundary. Total non-coal interburden within the Local coal zone ranges from 158 to 305 feet (48 to 93 m) in thickness. The structure contour map is drawn on top of the Local ₃ coal bed in a small area centered in Township 33 North, Range 68 West, Section 31, on top of the Local ₁ coal bed in the southern half of the northeastern quadrant, and on top of the Local ₂ coal bed throughout the remainder of the quadrangle. The Local coal zone dips generally to the north less than two degrees. A westward-plunging anticline occurs in the northwestern quarter of the quadrangle. The Local coal zone lies at depths of less than 500 feet (152 m) beneath the surface throughout approximately fifty percent of the study area.

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 Park 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 planimetry 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 sub-bituminous 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 planimetry 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 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 9) 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 less than five percent of The Park Quadrangle. The high potential area occurs in the southwestern quadrant along the coal bed outcrops. Less than five percent of The Park Quadrangle is considered to have moderate development potential for surface mining methods. The moderate potential areas are located along the northern edge of the high development potential areas. Approximately fifteen percent of the study area shows low surface mining potential. The low development potential areas occur in a band extending from northeast to southwest, and result from the high mining ratios generated by the thickness of the overburden and the thinness of the coal beds. The surface mining potential is unknown for approximately five percent of the study area due to the paucity of data. The remainder of The Park Quadrangle is non-federal or leased federal coal land. Table 1 sets forth the estimated strippable

reserve base tonnages for the Local 1, 2, 3, and 4 coal beds in the quadrangle.

Underground Mining Coal Development Potential. Subsurface coal mining potential throughout The Park 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) 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 Park 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 78 million tons (71 million metric tons) (Table 3). None of the coal beds in The Park 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 Park 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
Local 1-2-3-4 Zone	11,860,000	4,930,000	63,930,000	80,720,000
TOTAL	11,860,000	4,930,000	63,930,000	80,720,000

Table 2.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for Underground Mining Methods for Federal Coal Lands in The Park Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.

Coal Bed Name	High Development Potential	Moderate Development Potential	Low Development Potential	Total
Local 1-2-3-4	-----	-----	77,790,000	77,790,000
TOTAL	-----	-----	77,790,000	77,790,000

Table 3.--Coal Resource Base Data (in short tons) for In-Situ Gasification for Federal Coal Lands in The Park Quadrangle, Converse County, Wyoming.

Coal Bed Name	High Development Potential	Moderate Development Potential	Low Development Potential	Total
Local 1-2-3-4 Zone	-----	-----	77,790,000	77,790,000
TOTAL	-----	-----	77,790,000	77,790,000

SELECTED REFERENCES

- Baker, A. A., 1929, The northward extension of the Sheridan coal field, Big Horn and Rosebud Counties, Montana: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 806-B, p. 15-67.
- Brown, R. W., 1958, Fort Union Formation in the Powder River Basin, Wyoming: Wyo. Geol. Assoc. Guidebook, Thirteenth Annual Field Conf., p. 111-113.
- Dobbin, C. E., and Barnett, V. H., 1927, The Gillette coal field, north-eastern Wyoming, with a chapter on the Minturn district and north western part of the Gillette field by W. T. Thom, Jr.: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 796-A, p. 1-50
- Glass, G. B., 1975, Review of Wyoming coal field, 1975; Wyoming Geol. Survey Public Information circ. 4, p. 10.
- Jacob, A. F., 1973, Depositional environments of Paleocene Tongue River Formation: Am. Assoc. of Petroleum Geologists Bull, vol. 56, no. 6, p. 1038-1052.
- McKay, E. J., 1974, Preliminary geologic map of the Bertha 2 NW (Rocky Butte) Quadrangle, Campbell County, Wyoming: U. S. Geol. Survey Open-File Report 74-173, scale 1:24,000.
- Olive, W. W., 1957, The Spotted Horse coal field, Sheridan and Campbell Counties, Wyoming: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 1050, 83 p.
- Schell, E. M., and Mowat, G. D., 1972, Reconnaissance map showing some coal and clinker beds in the Fort Union and Wasatch Formations in the eastern Powder River Basin, Campbell and Converse Counties, Wyoming: U. S. Geol. Survey Open-File Report, scale 1:63,360.
- Taff, J. A., 1909, The Sheridan coal field, Wyoming: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 341-B, p. 123-150.

Weimer, R. J., 1977, Stratigraphy and tectonics of western coals, in Geology of Rocky Mountain Coal, A Symposium, 1976: Colorado Geol. Survey Resource Series 1, p. 9-27.

Winchester, D. E., 1912, The Lost Spring coal field, Converse County, Wyoming: U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 471-F, p. 472-515.