UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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FEDERAL COAL RESOURCE OCCURRENCE AND COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL MAPS OF THE WHITEHORSE 7 1/2-MINUTE QUADRANGLE, McKINLEY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

[Report includes 19 plates]

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WHITEHORSE QUADRANGLE
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INTRODUCTION

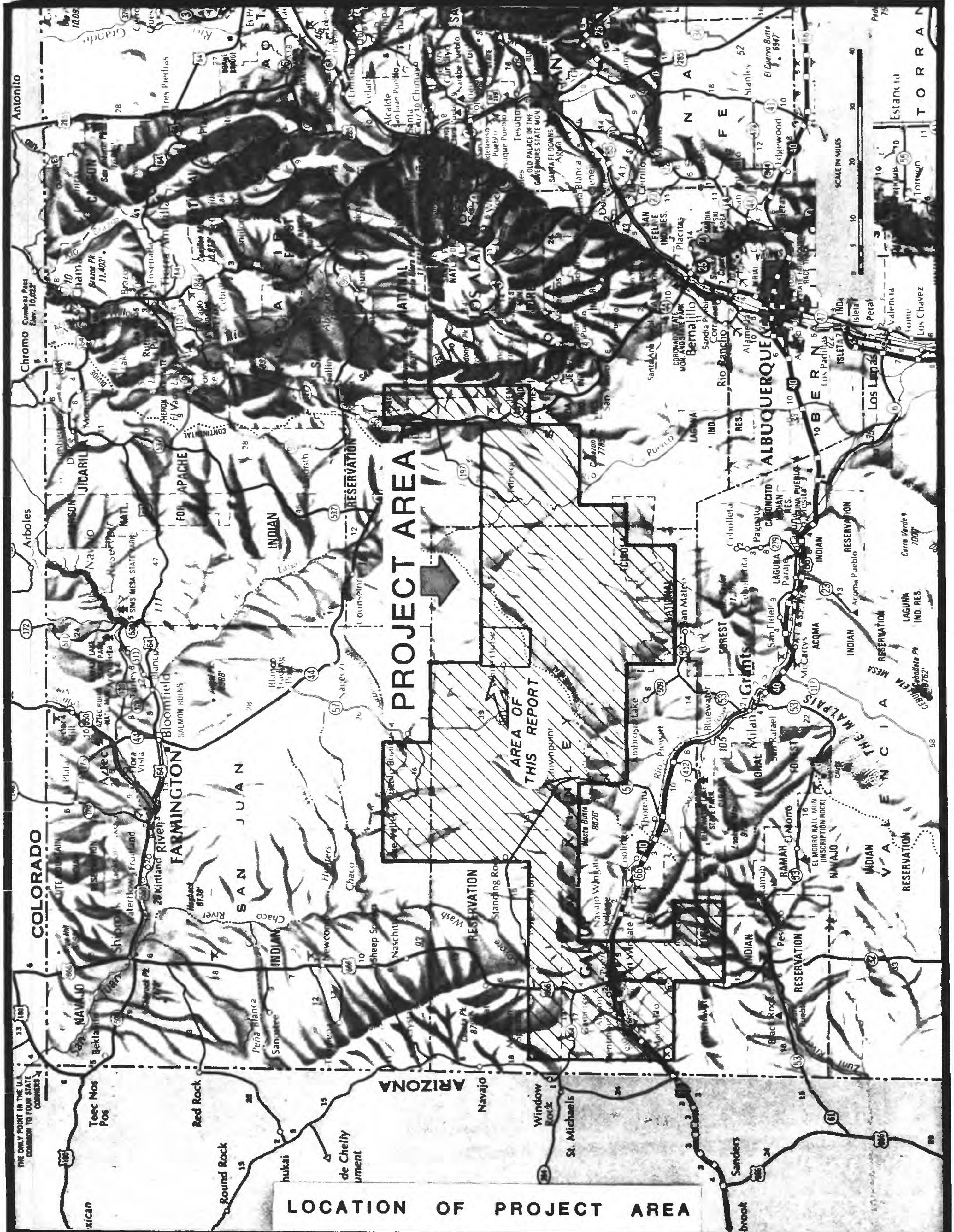
Purpose

This text complements the Coal Resource Occurrence (CRO) and Coal Development Potential (CDP) maps of the Whitehorse 7½ minute quadrangle, McKinley County, New Mexico. These maps and report are part of an evaluation of fifty-six 7½ minute quadrangles in northwestern New Mexico, which were completed under U. S. Geological Survey Contract No. 14-08-0001-17459 (see figs. 1 and 2).

The purpose of this Coal Resource Occurrence-Coal Development Potential program, which was conceived by Congress as part of its Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, is to obtain coal resource information and to determine the geographical extent of Federal coal deposits. In addition, the program is intended to provide information on the amount of coal recoverable by various mining methods and to serve as a guide for land-use planning.

The U. S. Geological Survey initiated the program by identifying areas underlain by coal resources. These areas were designated Known Recoverable Coal Resource Areas based on the presence of minable coal thicknesses, adequate areal extent of these coal deposits, and the potential for developing commercial quantities of coal at minable depths.

This report is limited to coal resources which are 3,000 feet (914 m) or less below ground surface. Published and unpublished public information was used as the data base for this study. No new drilling or field mapping was performed as part of this study, nor were any confidential data used.

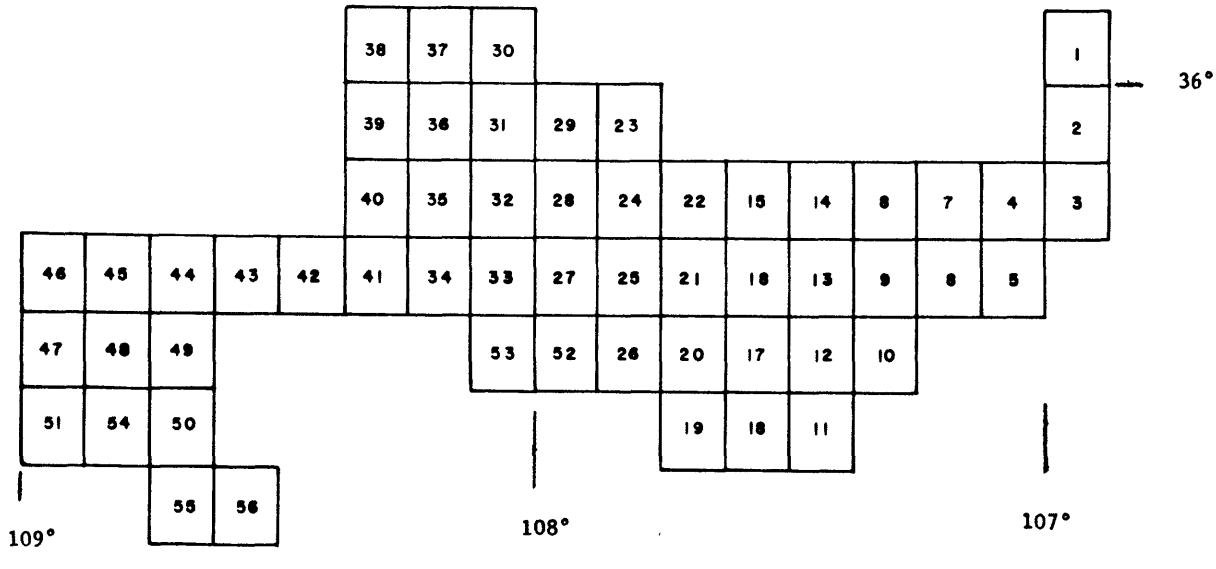


LOCATION OF PROJECT AREA

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2.--Index to USGS 7 1/2-minute quadrangles and coal resource occurrence/ coal development potential maps for the southern San Juan Basin area, New Mexico

Map No.	Quadrangle	Open-file report	Map No.	Quadrangle	Open-file report
1	Cuba	79- 623	31	Nose Rock	79- 641
2	San Pablo	79- 624	32	Becenti Lake	79-1124
3	La Ventana	79-1038	33	Heart Rock	79- 642
4	Headcut Reservoir	79-1043	34	Crownpoint	79-1125
5	San Luis	79-1044	35	Antelope Lookout Mesa	79-1376
6	Arroyo Empedrado	79-1045	36	Milk Lake	79-1377
7	Wolf Stand	79-1046	37	La Vida Mission	79-1378
8	Tinian	79- 625	38	The Pillar 3 SE	79-1379
9	Canada Calladita	79- 626	39	Red Lake Well	79-1380
10	Cerro Parido	79- 627	40	Standing Rock	79-1381
11	El Dado Mesa	79- 628	41	Dalton Pass	80- 026
12	Mesa Cortada	79- 629	42	Oak Spring	80- 027
13	Mesita del Gavilan	79- 630	43	Hard Ground Flats	80- 028
14	Rincon Marquez	79- 631	44	Big Rock Hill	80- 029
15	Whitehorse Rincon	79- 632	45	Twin Lakes	80- 030
16	Mesita Americana	79- 633	46	Tse Bonita School	80- 031
17	El Dado	79- 634	47	Samson Lake	80- 032
18	Cerro Alesna	79- 635	48	Gallup West	80- 033
19	San Lucas Dam	79- 636	49	Gallup East	80- 034
20	Piedra de la Aguila	79-1039	50	Bread Springs	80- 035
21	Hospah	79- 637	51	Manuelito	80- 036
22	Whitehorse	79-1040	52	Borrego Pass	80- 037
23	Seven Lakes NE	79- 638	53	Casamero Lake	80- 038
24	Kin Nahzin Ruins	79- 639	54	Twin Buttes	80- 039
25	Orphan Annie Rock	79-1041	55	Pinehaven	80- 040
26	Mesa de los Toros	79-1122	56	Upper Nutria	80- 041
27	Laguna Castillo	79- 640			
28	Seven Lakes	79-1042			
29	Seven Lakes NW	79-1123			
30	Kin Klizhin Ruins	79-1047			



Location

The Whitehorse 7 1/2 minute quadrangle includes acreage in Tps. 18 and 19 N., Rs. 7, 8, and 9 W. of the New Mexico Principal Meridian, McKinley County, northwestern New Mexico (see figs. 1 and 2). The town of Whitehorse is in the central western part of the quadrangle.

Accessibility

No paved roads pass through the Whitehorse quadrangle. An improved surface road connects from State Highway 57, 11 mi (18 km) west, to the town of Whitehorse. Several light-duty maintained roads and unimproved dirt roads traverse most parts of the area. The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad line passes about 25 mi (40 km) SW. of the quadrangle (see fig. 1).

Physiography

The Whitehorse quadrangle is in the Navajo section of the southernmost part of the Colorado Plateau physiographic province (U.S. Geological Survey, 1965). The topography of the quadrangle is characterized by mesas and flatlands dissected by numerous arroyos. Chaco Mesa is a prominent mesa in the northeastern corner of the area. The Continental Divide crosses the southern part of the quadrangle.

No perennial streams are present in this quadrangle. Local drainage is provided by several intermittent arroyos, including North Fork Arroyo Chico, Sand Springs Arroyo and Fajada Wash. Elevations within the quadgrangle range from 6,540 ft (1,993 m) in the northwest corner to over 7,460 ft (2,274 m) on Chaco Mesa.

Climate

The climate of this area is semiarid to arid. The following temperature and precipitation data were reported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the Star Lake Station. The Whitehorse quadrangle is about 10 mi (16 km) southwest of the Star Lake Station. Average total annual preipitation for thirteen of the previous fifteen years is 8.78 in. (22.30 cm). Intense thunderstorms in July, August, and September account for the majority of precipitation. The area is susceptible to flash flooding associated with these thunderstorms. Mean annual temperature for thirteen of the previous fifteen years is 46.4° F (8.0° C). The average daily temperatures in January and July are 23.1° F (-4.6° C) and 69.4° F (20.8° C), respectively.

Land status

The Federal Government holds the coal mineral rights to approximately 40 percent of the Whitehorse quadrangle. For the specific coal ownership boundaries, see plate 2. It is not within the scope of this report to provide detailed land-surface ownership. All of the quadrangle is within the Hospah Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area. As of October 26, 1978,

there were no Federal coal leases, coal preference right lease applications, or coal exploration licenses within the Whitehorse quadrangle.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

Previous work

Early reports on the area include that of Dobbin (1932) who mapped an area which included the southern part of the Whitehorse quadrangle. He reported no coal outcrops within the quadrangle. Dane (1936) mapped coal outcrops in the Cliff House Sandstone and the Allison Member of the Menefee Formation in the northeast corner of the quadrangle. Shomaker, Beaumont, and Kottlowski (1971) discussed these same coals and noted that they were very thin. They consequently estimated no strippable reserves for the area. Shomaker and Whyte (1977) analyzed well log data from the area and estimated Menefee Formation coal reserves of 18.0 million short tons (16.3 million t) within 500 ft (152 m) of the surface in T. 18 N., R. 8 W. Nearly all of this area lies within the Whitehorse quadrangle.

Stratigraphy

Within the San Juan Basin, the shoreline positions of the Cretaceous seaways changed innumerable times. The overall regional alignment of the shorelines trended N. 60° W. - S. 60° E. (Sears, Hunt, and Hendricks, 1941). The transgressive and regressive shoreline migrations are evidenced by the intertonguing relationships of continental and marine facies. Rates of trough (geosynclinal) subsidence and the availability of sediment supplies are the major factors that controlled the transgressive-regressive shoreline sequences.

Exposed rock units in the Whitehorse quadrangle include some of the sedimentary units of Upper Cretaceous age. There is Quaternary alluvium along the drainages in the area.

The Upper Cretaceous Point Lookout Sandstone represents nearshore or littoral deposits which formed during the most extensive northeastward retreat prior to the final withdrawal of the Cretaceous seaways in the San Juan Basin (Sears, Hunt, and Hendricks, 1941). The Point Lookout Sandstone is composed of light gray to reddish-brown, fine to medium grained sandstone with interbedded shales and is about 100 ft (30 m) thick locally. The continental sediments deposited inland from the beach area during deposition of the Point Lookout Sandstone compose the overlying Menefee Formation.

The Menefee Formation consists of dark gray to brown, carbonaceous to noncarbonaceous shales, light gray sandstones, and coal beds, and is divisible into the basal Cleary Coal Member and the upper Allison Member. A massive channel sandstone sequence, which crops out in the northern portion of this quadrangle, defines the boundary between the two members. The Allison Member was defined as the Allison Barren Member (Sears, 1925) as containing only thin, noncommercial coal beds, although the Allison Member commonly contains relatively thick coal beds. The Cleary Coal Member ranges from 350 to 455 ft (107 to 139 m) thick, and the Allison Member is about 925 ft (285 m) thick where the full section is present.

The Cliff House Sandstone overlies the Menefee Formation in this area, and represents nearshore deposits which resulted from the final southwestward transgression in the San Juan Basin during Cretaceous time. It is composed of light gray, medium grained, occasionally calcareous sandstone with interbedded shales and locally contains coal beds. The Cliff House Sandstone

caps Chaco Mesa and is the youngest Upper Cretaceous unit exposed in the Whitehorse quadrangle. Thickness of the unit is about 150 ft (46 m) locally.

Depositional environments

The Cretaceous System sedimentary units in the quadrangle represent transgressive and regressive depositional conditions. There were innumerable minor cycles of widely varying duration and extent within the major sedimentary sequences. The paucity of data in this quadrangle and the intended scope of this report permit only general interpretations of the depositonal environments.

The Cretaceous coal deposits of the San Juan Basin are products of former coastal swamps and marshes. These swamps and marshes were supported by heavy precipitation and a climate conducive to rapid vegetal growth in moderately fresh water. Due to the relatively low sulfur contents of the San Juan Basin coals, Shomaker and Whyte (1977) suggest the coals formed in fresh water environments.

Most of the coal-bearing units were deposited in coastal plain environments. The majority of the peat deposits formed in a transition zone between lower and upper deltaic sediments during periods of relative shoreline stability. Coals also formed in lake margin swamps inland from the coastal area. Shoreline oscillations and the subsequent influx of continental or marine debris upon the peat accumulations produced the vertical buildup or "stacking" of peat deposits. This sediment debris is represented by variable ash contents, rock partings, and splits within the coal seams.

The peat accumulated in lenses or pods which were generally parallel to the ancient shorelines. The coals in the lower portions of the coal-bearing units represent regressive depositional conditions (Sears, Hunt, and Hendricks, 1941). The coals in the upper portions of these units are relatively sporadic in occurrence.

Structure

The Whitehorse quadrangle is in the Chaco Slope structural division in the southern portion of the structural depression known as the San Juan Basin (Kelley, 1950). The rock units dip from about 1^{o} to 2.5^{o} NE., and are influenced by the Hospah anticline which extends into the southwestern corner of the quadrangle. No faults have been mapped in the quadrangle.

COAL GEOLOGY

In this quadrangle, the authors identified four coal beds and two coal zones in oil and gas well logs and Dane's (1936) surface mapping. These beds and zones are here informally called the Menefee Cleary No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 coal beds, Menefee Cleary coal zone, Menefee Allison No. 3 coal bed, and the Cliff House coal zone.

The Menefee Cleary No. 1 bed is the first persistent coal bed above the Point Lookout Sandstone. It occurs from 1 to 2 ft (0.3 to 0.6 m) above the Point Lookout Sandstone in this quadrangle, although in nearby quadrangles it is up to 15 ft (5 m) above the Point Lookout Sandstone. The Menefee Cleary No. 2 and No. 3 coal beds are 10 ft (3 m) and 51 to 67 ft (16 to 20 m) above the Point Lookout Sandstone, respectively. These beds

are inferred to be continuous although they may be several indivudual beds that are stratigraphically equivalent.

The Menefee Cleary coal zone contains up to seven beds which are 26 to 45 ft (8 to 138 m) above the Point Lookout Sandstone. These zone beds may be correlated for limited distances in portions of the area but they lack sufficient continuity with poorly defined stratigraphic position and cannot be designated as persistent coal beds.

The Menefee Allison No. 3 coal bed occurs near the top of the Allison Member, and the Cliff House coal zone is present near the base of the Cliff House Sandstone. The Cliff House coal zone consists of single beds which individually range from 1.0 to 3.0 ft (0.3 to 0.9 m) in thickness.

There are no published coal quality analyses for coal beds from the Whitehorse quadrangle. An analysis of a core sample of Cleary Coal Member beds sampled about 8 mi (13 km) SW. of the Whitehorse quadrangle, has been reported by Shomaker, Beaumont, and Kottlowski (1971) and is shown in table 1. The Cleary Coal Member beds analyzed are probably similar in quality to the beds in this quadrangle. Rank of the Cleary Coal Member seams is probably subbituminous A in this area.

Menefee Cleary coal zone

The Menefee Cleary coal zone is identified in all five drill hole logs and contains from 0 to 16.5 ft (0 to 5 m) of total coal. Coal data from the southern adjacent Hospah quadrangle were also used in the construction of isopach, structure contour, and overburden-interburden isopach maps of the Menefee Cleary coal zone. Existence and character of the zone are unknown in the northern half of the quadrangle because of insufficient data.

Table 1. - Analysis of a coal sample from the Cleary Coal Member of the Menefee Formation.

(Core sample from sec. 36, T. 17 N., R. 10 W.)

[Form of analysis: A, as received; B, moisture free; C, moisture and ash free].

from Shomaker, Beaumont, and Kottlowski, 1971

Form of analysis	Proximate analysis (percent)				Sulfur	Heating Value (Btu/lb)
	Moisture	Volatile Matter	Fixed Carbon	Ash		
A	16.5	33.4	40.4	9.7	0.6	10,070
B	----	40.0	48.3	11.7	0.7	12,060
C	----	45.3	54.7	----	0.8	13,650

Remarks:

A moist, mineral-matter-free (MMMF) calculation using the Parr formula (American Society for Testing and Materials, 1973) yields a heating value of 11,256 Btu/lb (26,181 kJ/kg). The free-swelling index of the analysis shows the sample to be nonagglomerating.

Menefee Cleary No. 3 coal bed

The Menefee Cleary No. 3 coal bed was identified in four drill hole logs in the quadrangle and in several additional logs immediately south of the quadrangle. The bed ranges from 0 to 4.0 ft (0 to 1.2 m) in thickness. Existence and character of the bed are unknown in the northern half of the quadrangle because of insufficient data.

Menefee Cleary No. 2 coal bed

The Menefee Cleary No. 2 coal bed was identified in one drill hole log, and is therefore inferred to be limited in areal extent to an isolated, lenticular pod in the southwest corner of the quadrangle. The bed ranges from 0 to 6.0 ft (0 to 1.8 m) in thickness. Existence and character of the bed are unknown in the northern half of the quadrangle because of insufficient data.

Menefee Cleary No. 1 coal bed

The Menefee Cleary No. 1 coal bed was identified in all five of the drill hole logs in the quadrangle and in several additional logs immediately south of the quadrangle. The thickness of the bed ranges from 0 to 5.0 ft (0 to 1.5m). Existence and character of the bed are unknown in the northern half of the quadrangle because of insufficient data.

COAL RESOURCES

The U. S. Geological Survey requested resource evaluations of the Menefee Cleary No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 coal beds, where the beds are 3.0 ft (0.9 m) or more thick. The evaluation is restricted to Federal coal lands.

The following procedures were prescribed by the U. S. Geological Survey for the calculation of reserve base. Criteria established in U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1450-B were used to areally divide the beds into measured, indicated, and inferred reserve base and hypothetical resource categories. Reserve base was calculated for each category, by section, using data from the isopach and overburden maps (plates 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15). The acreage in each category (measured by planimeter) multiplied by the average coal bed thickness and subbituminous coal conversion factor (1,770 tons of coal per acre-ft) yields the reserve base for that category. Coal beds with 3.0 ft (0.9 m) minimum thickness are included in reserve base and reserve data rather than the 28 in. (71 cm) minimum thickness prescribed in U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1450-B. Reserve figures are derived from reserve base totals by applying recovery factors of 85 percent and 50 percent for coal beds 0 to 200 ft (0 to 61 m) and 200 to 3,000 ft (61 to 914 m) deep, respectively. All reserve base and reserve values are rounded to the nearest 10,000 short tons (9,072 t).

Total reserve base data for the Menefee Cleary No. 3, No. 2, and No. 1 coal beds, which include all reserve base categories, are shown by section on plate 2. Reserve base and reserve data in the various categories are shown on plates 16, 17, and 18.

The U. S. Geological Survey also requested a resource evaluation of the Menefee Cleary coal zone, where the total zone coal thickness is 5.0 ft (1.5 m) or greater. Total identified Menefee Cleary coal zone resources are 26.52 million short tons (24.06 million t). No reserves are calculated for the coal zones. Total hypothetical resources are tabulated separately on plate 2 and in table 3.

COAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

The factors used to determine the development potential are the presence of a potentially coal-bearing formation, and the thickness and overburden of correlative coal beds. The U. S. Geological Survey supplied the criteria to evaluate the coal development potential for Federal lands in this quadrangle. These criteria are based on current industry practice, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1450-B, and anticipated technological advances. All available data were utilized for the surface and subsurface coal development potential evaluations.

Any area underlain by a potentially coal-bearing formation with 200 ft (61 m) or less of overburden has potential for surface mining. The U. S. Geological Survey designated the 200 ft (61 m) maximum depth as the stripping limit. Areas where a potentially coal-bearing formation is overlain by more than 200 ft (61 m) of overburden have no potential for surface mining. Areas with no correlative coal bed or a correlative coal bed less than 3.0 ft (0.9 m) in thickness and overlain by 200 ft (61 m) or less of overburden have unknown surface mining potential.

Any area underlain by a potentially coal-bearing formation with 200 to 3,000 ft (61 to 914 m) overburden has potential for subsurface mining. Areas where a potentially coal-bearing formation is overlain by more than 3,000 ft (914 m) of overburden have no subsurface mining potential. Development potential for subsurface mining is unknown where a potentially coal-bearing formation within 200 to 3,000 ft (61 to 914 m) of the surface contains no identified correlative coal bed or a correlative coal bed less than 3.0 ft (0.9 m) thick. High, moderate, and low development potential areas have respective overburden values of 200 to 1,000 ft (61 to 305 m), 1,000 to 2,000 ft (305 to 610 m), and 2,000 to 3,000 ft (610 to 914 m).

Boundaries of coal development potential areas coincide with the boundaries of the smallest legal land subdivision (40 acre or lot). When a land subdivision contains areas with different development potentials, the potential shown on the map is that of the areally largest of the component areas. When an area is underlain by more than one bed, the potential shown on the map is that of the bed with the highest potential.

Reserve base (in short tons) in the various development potential categories for subsurface mining methods is shown in table 2.

The coal development potential maps are subject to revision. Map boundary lines and reserve base values are based on coal resource occurrence map isopachs, overburden isopachs, and coal bed correlations that are interpretive and subject to change as additional coal information becomes available.

Development potential for surface mining methods

Based on coal development potential criteria, all Federal coal lands have unknown development potential for surface mining methods in the Whitehorse quadrangle.

Development potential for subsurface mining methods and in situ gasification

The coal development potential for subsurface mining methods in the Whitehorse quadrangle is shown on plate 19. Based on coal development potential criteria, all Federal coal lands have high, moderate or unknown subsurface mining potential. Refer to table 3 for reserves and planimetered acreage, by section, for Federal coal lands with subsurface mining potential.

In situ gasification of coal has not been done on a commercial scale in the United States and criteria for rating the development potential of this method are unknown.

Table 2. - Reserve base data (in short tons) and hypothetical resources for subsurface mining methods for Federal coal lands in the Whitehorse quadrangle, McKinley County, New Mexico.

[Development potentials are based on thickness of overburden. To convert short tons to metric tonnes, multiply by 0.9072].

Coal Bed	High Development Potential (200'-1,000' overburden)	Moderate Development Potential (1,000'-2,000' overburden)	Low Development Potential (2,000'-3,000' overburden)	Total
Menefee Cleary No. 3	430,000	-----	-----	430,000
Menefee Cleary No. 2	4,400,000	780,000	-----	5,180,000
Menefee Cleary No. 1	80,000	520,000	-----	600,000
Total	4,910,000	1,300,000		6,210,000
Hypothetical Resources				
Menefee Cleary No. 2	-----	50,000	-----	50,000
Total	-----	50,000	-----	50,000

Table 3. - Reserves and planimetered acreage, by section, for Federal coal lands in the Whitehorse quadrangle with subsurface mining potential.

[To convert acres to hectares, divide acres by 2.471, to convert short tons to metric tonnes, multiply short tons by 0.9072].

Potential Category	Coal bed	Sec.	T. N.	R. W.	Acres (planimetered)	Reserves (in short tons)
High	Menefee Cleary No. 3	24	18	9	74.1	210,000
	Menefee Cleary No. 2	24	18	9	479.1	2,190,000
	Menefee Cleary No. 1	24	18	9	15.9	30,000
Moderate	Menefee Cleary No. 2	7	18	7	59.3	180,000
		12	18	8	13.5	40,000
		1			60.6	170,000
	Menefee Cleary No. 1	18	18	7	47.2	130,000
		7			45.9	130,000

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coal bed--A stratified sequence of coal, composed of relatively homogeneous material, exhibiting some degree of lithologic unity and separated from the rocks above and below by physically rather well defined boundary planes.

coal bed separation line--A line on a map plate separating areas where different coal beds or zones are mapped.

coal bench--One of two or more divisions of a coal bed separated by rock.

coal conversion factor--A factor used to convert acre-feet of coal into short tons of coal; bituminous coal is 1800 tons/acre-ft; subbituminous coal is 1770 tons/acre-ft.

coal development potential--A subjective determination of the comparative potential of Federal coal lands for development of a commercially viable coal mining operation.

coal exploration license--An area of Federal coal lands in which the licensee is granted the right, after outlining the area and the probable methods of exploration, to investigate the coal resources. An exploration license has a term not to exceed 2 years and does not confer rights to a lease.

coal lease--An area of Federal coal lands in which the Federal Government has entered into a contractual agreement for development of the coal deposits.

coal split--A coal bed resulting from the occurrence of a noncoal parting within the parent coal bed which divides the single coal bed into two or more coal beds.

coal zone--A distinctive stratigraphic interval containing a sequence of alternating coal and noncoal layers in which the coal beds may so lack lateral persistence that correlating individual beds in the zone is not feasible.

Federal coal land--Land for which the Federal Government holds title to the coal mineral rights, without regard to surface ownership.

hypothetical resources--Undiscovered coal resources in beds that may reasonably be expected to exist in known mining districts under known geologic conditions. In general, hypothetical resources are in broad areas of coal fields where points of observation are absent and evidence is from distant outcrops, drill holes or wells. Exploration that confirms their presence and reveals quantity and quality will permit their reclassification as a Reserve or Identified Subeconomic Resource.

identified resources--Specific bodies of coal whose location, rank, quality, and quantity are known from geologic evidence supported by engineering measurements.

indicated--Coal for which estimates for the rank, quality, and quantity have been computed partly from sample analyses and measurements and partly from reasonable geologic projections.

inferred--Coal in unexplored extensions of demonstrated resources for which estimates of the quality and quantity are based on geologic evidence and projections.

isopach--A line joining points of equal bed thickness.

Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area (KRCRA)--Formerly called Known Coal Leasing Area (KCLA). Area in which the Federal coal land is classified (1) as subject to the coal leasing provisions of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and (2) by virtue of the available data being sufficient to permit evaluation as to extent, location, and potential for developing commercial quantities of coal.

measured--Coal for which estimates for rank, quality, and quantity can be computed, within a margin of error of less than 20 percent, from sample analyses and measurements from closely spaced and geologically well known sample sites.

mining ratio--A numerical ratio equating the in-place volumes, in cubic yards, of rocks that must be removed in order to recover 1 short ton of coal by surface mining.

overburden--A stratigraphic interval (composed of noncoal beds and coal beds) lying between the ground surface and the top of a coal bed. For coal zones, overburden is the stratigraphic interval lying between the ground surface and the structural datum used to map the zone.

parting--A noncoal layer occurring along a bedding plane within a coal bed.

Preference Right Lease Application (PRLA)--An area of Federal coal lands for which an application for a noncompetitive coal lease has been made as a result of exploration done under a coal prospecting permit. PRLA's are no longer obtainable.

quality or grade--Refers to measurements such as heat value; fixed carbon; moisture; ash; sulfur; phosphorus; major, minor, and trace elements; coking properties; petrologic properties; and particular organic constituents.

rank--The classification of coal relative to other coals, according to degree of metamorphism, or progressive alteration, in the natural series from lignite to anthracite (Classification of coals by rank, 1973, American Society for Testing and Materials, ASTM Designation D-388-66).

recovery factor--The percentage of total tons of coal estimated to be recoverable from a given area in relation to the total tonnage estimated to be in the Reserve Base in the ground.

reserve--That part of identified coal resource that can be economically mined at the time of determination. The reserve is derived by applying a recovery factor to that component of the identified coal resource designated as the reserve base.

reserve base--That part of identified coal resource from which Reserves are calculated.

stripping limit--A vertical depth, in feet, measured from the surface, reflecting the probable maximum, practical depth to which surface mining may be technologically feasible in the forseeable future. The rock interval, expressed in feet, above the stripping limit is the "strippable interval."

structure contour--A line joining points of equal elevation on a stratum or bed.