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Coal Reserves of the Matewan Quadrangle, Kentucky

A Coal Recoverability Study

By Timothy J. Rohrbacher, Dale D. Teeters,
Gerald L. Sullivan, and Lee M. Osmonson



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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UNIT OF MEASURE ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Btu	British thermal unit	%	percent
ft	foot	in	inch
M	million	lb	pound
MBtu	million British thermal unit		

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COAL RESERVES OF THE MATEWAN QUADRANGLE, KENTUCKY

A COAL RECOVERABILITY STUDY

By Timothy J. Rohrbacher,¹ Dale D. Teeters,² Gerald L. Sullivan,² and Lee M. Osmonson²

ABSTRACT

This report presents a U.S. Bureau of Mines study that incorporates coal mining factors, coal recovery factors, and economic factors into the definition of an economically recoverable coal resource. The relationship between these factors to the Energy Information Administration's estimate of U.S. coal resources—the "Demonstrated Reserve Base"—is discussed. The Matewan 7-1/2 minute quadrangle in eastern Kentucky was selected as the initial study area. Results indicate that of the original 1,193 million tons of resource in the quadrangle, only 89 million tons (7.5%) are economically recoverable at a cost of \$25 per ton or less. At the current production rate of 5.3 million tons per year, this represents only 16.8 years of remaining reserves.

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INTRODUCTION

The availability and amount of coal resources in the United States has been debated for years. Past estimates were based on gross estimates of coal in the ground and did not address the amount that might realistically be available for production after environmental and technological restraints were considered. Many technological, economic, and social changes have taken place that have impacted the coal industry since the last Bureau of Mines' comprehensive coal resource base was published in 1975 (1)³. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to control sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions from coal-fired powerplants will significantly change the mining and marketing of coal. Legislation and regulations on mine reclamation have increased the complexity and costs of coal mining. Also, new safety and health standards, with the associated taxes, have increased the cost of mining operations. Advancements in mining technology in underground and surface operations have changed the economic competitiveness of certain coal fields (2-9).

Concerns about securing environmentally acceptable and reliable energy sources have continually surfaced during the past 15 years and have resulted in many revised estimates of the coal reserves in the United States (1, 10-14). The Energy Information Administration (EIA) regularly updates the "reserve base" (established by the Bureau in 1974) with new information from the State geological surveys, the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), and coal industry production information. At the present time, the Demonstrated Reserve Base (DRB) of coal for the United States is estimated to be about 475 billion short tons (14). Even at consumption rates of 1.0 billion tons per year and a previously accepted recovery rate of 50%, there would appear to be ample available coal resources for several centuries. However, if the effects of mined-out prime reserves, environmental, industrial, economic, and social considerations are assessed and the technical aspects of the minability and washability of the individual seams are considered, the amount of coal that would be available and economically recoverable would be far less than that stated in the literature (1-3, 14).

³Italic numbers in parentheses refer to items in the list of references preceding the appendixes at the end of this report.

In 1986, the USGS and the Kentucky Geological Survey (KGS) began a coal availability study (15-16) of an area within the central Appalachian coal region—the Matewan 7-1/2-minute quadrangle—in order to determine the resources available for mining after environmental and technological restrictions were considered. The success of the Matewan pilot study in determining available resources gave motivation for an expanded program. Coal Availability Studies were undertaken in West Virginia, Virginia, and Kentucky in cooperation with the USGS. Preliminary results from these studies indicate only about 50% of the original resources are available for mining. The question of how much of the available resources were economically recoverable was still unanswered.

The Bureau's expertise in coal mining technology and economics, together with the data collected for the Coal Availability Studies, combined with experience gained in completing more than 70 detailed coal mine technical and economic assessments, and its active research role in the coal industry, could answer this important question. Therefore, the Bureau devised a program to determine the recoverable resources and associated mining costs for quadrangles where the available resources had already been determined. The Matewan quadrangle, located on the Kentucky - West Virginia border, (fig. 1) was chosen as the prototype area. Only the Kentucky portion of the quadrangle (approximately 90% of the land area) was evaluated. Twenty-one coal seams were identified by the KGS to contain minable resources (fig. 2). A discussion of the basic assumptions and methodologies used during the analysis is provided in appendixes B and C.

KGS-USGS COAL AVAILABILITY CONCEPT

Three pertinent steps were defined in the KGS-USGS Coal Availability Study (16):

1. Study area selection.
2. Data collection and assimilation.
3. Resource estimation.

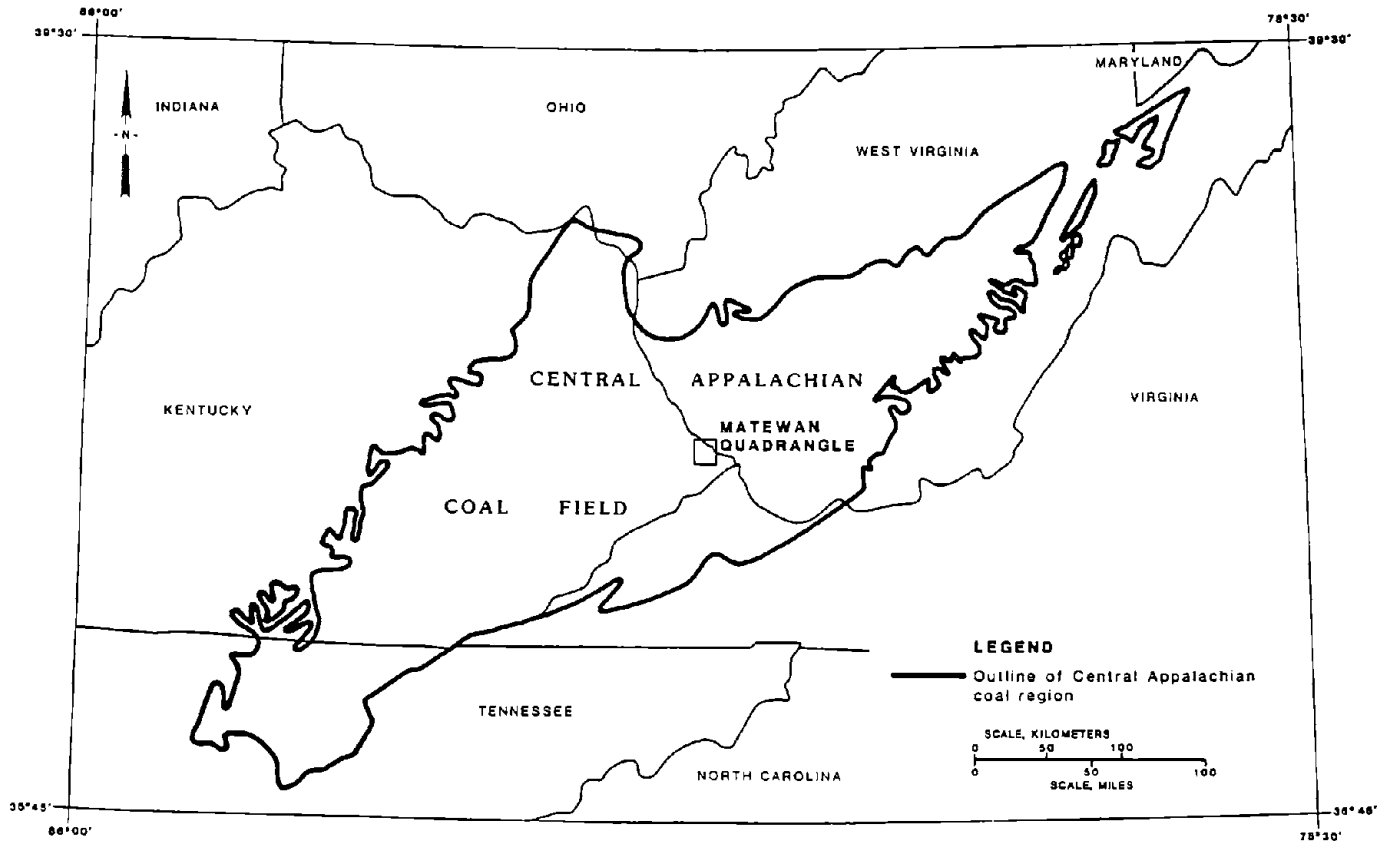


Figure 1.—Study area location.

Mineable coal was defined by the KGS-USGS Coal Availability study as follows:

ORIGINAL COAL RESOURCES
 minus
 COAL MINED AND COAL ABANDONED
 DURING MINING
 equals
 REMAINING COAL RESOURCES
 minus
 COAL RESTRICTED BY LAND-USE
 CONSIDERATIONS
 minus
 COAL RESTRICTED BY TECHNOLOGICAL
 CONSIDERATIONS
 equals
COAL AVAILABLE FOR MINING.

USBM COAL RECOVERABILITY CONCEPT

Following review meetings in Denver, CO, and Reston, VA, and preparation of a project outline, the authors conducted a preliminary recoverability and costing study of three Upper Elkhorn coal seams in the Matewan

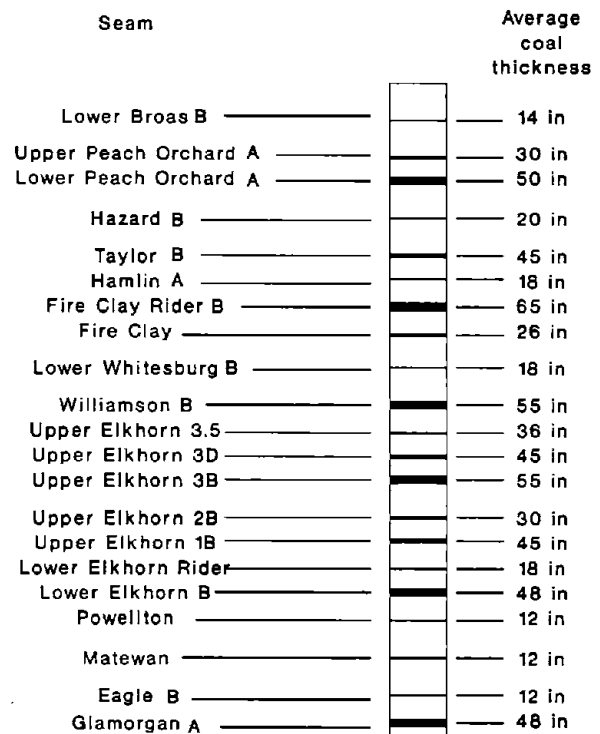


Figure 2.—Matewan quadrangle coal stratigraphy.

quadrangle. That preliminary evaluation showed excellent correlation with the USGS computer model for minable resources (98% agreement). Perhaps more importantly, however, the preliminary evaluation resulted in the establishment of an outline for the Bureau's program methodology, as well as the development of recovery and costing models. The Bureau's study incorporated the KGS-USGS methodology, reviewed the restrictions and modified the resources accordingly, addressed mining and recovery losses, and finally applied the mine operating economics. The following integrated pathway that resulted established a uniform, consistent methodology to be applied throughout the study:

COAL AVAILABLE FOR MINING
 minus
 MINING LOSSES
 minus
 WASHING LOSSES
 equals
 RECOVERABLE RESOURCES
 restricted by
 MINE OPERATING COSTS
 equals
 ECONOMICALLY RECOVERABLE RESOURCES
 (RESERVES).

OBJECTIVES

Realistic coal resource assessments are important for the consideration of legislation and regulations affecting coal production and for the direction and implementation of research aimed at maximizing recovery and ensuring environmental protection. Major national concerns that prompted the KGS-USGS Coal Availability program and the Bureau's Coal Recoverability program are:

1. Potential production disturbances in the world petroleum supply.
2. The requirement for low-sulfur (compliance) coal as a result of the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990.
3. The social and economic disruptions that may occur in the United States as coal mining shifts from high-sulfur coals of the East and Midwest to low-sulfur coals of the West.
4. Growing recognition of the need to mitigate the environmental consequences of past, present, and future coal mining.
5. The need for accurate coal resource, recovery, and cost estimates that will contribute to relevant government policy decisions.

6. The need to determine mineral value and development potential of coal resources on public lands controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service.

The objective of the Bureau's Coal Recoverability program is to address the following concerns:

1. Developing a methodology to calculate recoverable coal resources and the associated mine operating costs.
2. Using that methodology to improve estimates of the National Coal Reserve Base.
3. Determining the probable effects that clean air legislation and other environmental restrictions would have on coal production.
4. Developing baseline information to help with policy and legislative decisions affecting the competitiveness of coal mining in the United States and the State economies dependent on coal production.
5. Assisting Federal land managing agencies in the evaluation of coal resources on public lands.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report is the culmination of efforts by several State and Federal agencies working toward the common goal of determining the economically recoverable resources within a specific area of the central Appalachian coal region. Anne Allen, mining engineer, (USBM, AFOC, Anchorage, AK) provided the graphics used with this report, as well as assistance with the calculation of coal reserves. Matt Plis, mining engineer, (USBM, IFOC, Denver, CO) developed the "COALVAL" program used extensively during the study to facilitate the interactive data sheets, and assisted with the determination of coal reserves. The KGS and

USGS provided the geological modeling and data files from which resources were calculated. James C. Cobb, assistant state geologist (KGS), and his staff provided detailed geological information, a tour of the Matewan quadrangle area, and a review of the final report manuscript. M. Devereux Carter, Nancy K. Gardner, and Margaret F. Johnson (USGS, Reston, VA) contributed countless hours of training, resource calculations, computer guidance, and assistance in coordinating the Coal Availability program with the Bureau's Recoverability program. William G. Miller, manager of the USGS's

National Coal Resource Data System (NCRDS), Reston, VA guided the Bureau acquisitions of hardware and software to insure compatibility with NCRDS. Carol L. Molnia and Vicky L. Clark (USGS, Denver, CO) provided computer assistance.

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PROGRAM DESIGN

After examination of the KGS and USGS Availability project in early 1989, a preliminary recoverability methodology was developed, as were map needs and formats, preliminary work schedules, and mining restriction criteria. Geological and geographic information was provided by the KGS, Lexington, KY. This information included: coal correlations, coal croplines, coal thickness and parting data, coal quality data, digitized restrictions to mining, mined-out areas, oil and gas wells, cemeteries, etc. Locations of all mining, wash plant, and waste disposal permits in the Matewan and surrounding quadrangles were obtained from the regional office of the Kentucky Department of Surface Mine Reclamation Enforcement, in Pikeville, KY. The Matewan quadrangle area was toured so that the locations of wash plants, railroads, highways, haulage roads, streams, and rivers could be verified, and other pertinent mining infrastructure could be noted, such as trends in the terrain and haulage routes. Several mines in and around the Matewan quadrangle were evaluated for operational details. An indepth literature and industry search for state-of-the-art mining methods and equipment and current production rates was undertaken, and recovery rates from practical mine design and mine surveys were investigated in other localities with similar mining configurations. Normal planning variables, such as seam thickness, floor and roof quality, seam hardness, seam quality, parting and coal content within a seam, and depth of seams, were collected. Industry and Government sources were used for equipment costs and cost indexes, productivity, transportation costs, coal quality verses coal realization, taxation, etc.

The available coal resources, as determined by the USGS and cooperating State geological surveys, are the original resources minus the mined-out resources, resources restricted from mining by environmental factors, and resources restricted from mining by technological factors. Only coals 14 in or more in thickness and less than 1000 ft below the surface are considered. All coal croplines and restrictions are digitized for area and volume/tonnage calculations. Environmental restrictions include towns, highways, streams, cemeteries, and major gas and electrical lines. Technological restrictions include coal less than 28 in thick for underground mining, barrier pillars between mines, oil and gas wells penetrating mines, and coal quality.

These coal availability estimates give the resource in coal-only thickness, reliability, and depth (surface minable or underground minable) classes. The restrictions to mining are estimated individually so that the magnitude of resources made unavailable because of cemeteries, oil and gas wells, protected lands and streams, and other factors is known.

The USGS and State availability program defines coal resources in terms of coal-only tonnages, (any parting greater than 3/8 in is deleted from the seam thickness). This methodology was then modified and expanded, the results of which include a different definition of coal resource availability, and herein lies a major difference between the KGS-USGS program and Bureau program methodologies. The difference between the KGS-USGS Coal Availability program and the Bureau's Coal Recoverability program is the Bureau's use of total coal seam thickness in determining mining methods, resource recovery, and applicable mining costs. The Bureau assumptions and methodology reflect recovery of some coal in the mining of full seams that would have been excluded in a coal-only scenario (i.e., seam parting of up to 50% of the total seam thickness is included in the minable resource number). Also, the Bureau did not limit the mining of the coal if the coal had high-sulfur or high-ash content; instead, operating costs became the limiting factor for the reserve. Thus, high-sulfur coal is limited in reserve by its lower sales price. Ash content, denoting in-seam parting and out-of-seam dilution, is accounted for by (1) the additional cost of washing the run-of-mine (ROM) product, and (2) the percentage of ROM product washed out during cleaning, thereby effectively lowering the clean or salable tonnage recovered and raising the cost per ton to produce the coal. The Bureau's recoverability program defines coal resources in terms of total seam (coal plus partings) tonnages. Table 1 compares the two programs with respect to this and other significant definition differences.

As a result of the redefinition of coal resource availability, the Bureau's estimation of the total original, in-place, resource for the Matewan quadrangle is 21% more than the KGS-USGS estimate; however, due to significant differences in estimated resource losses determined for previously mined resources and restrictions to future mining, the Bureau's estimate of the remaining

minable resource is less than the KGS-USGS estimate by 14%. In any event, this revised minable tonnage, derived from USGS and KGS coal availability data, formed the foundation upon which the Bureau's recoverability program fully developed. Table 2 shows the different resource tonnage estimates of the KGS-USGS and the Bureau.

Table 1.—Coal resource definition differences—KGS-USGS coal availability program and USBM coal recoverability program

Criterion	KGS-USGS	USBM
Tonnage inclusion	Coal-only . . .	Coal plus partings (total seam).
Minimum mining thickness, in:		
Surface minable	14 (coal-only)	12 (coal plus partings).
Underground minable	28 (coal-only)	24 (coal plus partings).
Minimum mining cover (UG)	NAp	100 ft.
Maximum mining cover (UG)	1,000 ft	NAp.
Maximum mining highwall . . .	200 ft	20:1 ratio.
NAp Not applicable.		

Table 2.—Comparison of KGS-USGS and USBM coal resource estimates for the Matewan quadrangle

(thousand tons)

Resource categories	KGS-USGS	USBM
Total original, in-place, resource	986,498	1,193,132
Previously mined resource (includes mining losses).	128,307	147,970
Remaining original, in-place, resource	858,191	1,045,162
Resource lost due to restrictions (technical, environmental, and social).	244,998	344,840
Remaining minable, in-place, resource	613,193	700,322

The Bureau's recoverability methodology, which consists of removing the resources lost during mining and washing, results in recoverable resources. Mining economics are then applied to the recoverable resources to determine the amount of coal that can be mined at a profit. To determine the resource recovery, mining assumptions were made and preliminary mine plans were developed for each seam. Coal mining and washing recovery models were developed and applied to the resource data (appendix B). The recoverable resources were then incorporated into the mine cost models (appendix C) to calculate the economically recoverable resources (i.e., reserves) at different levels of the coal market. This easily acknowledges the fact that the reserve base, or "economically recoverable coal base" will change with changes in energy prices.

Many elements influence the cost of mining a ton of coal. Major factors to be considered are (1) geology of the resource to be mined; (2) Federal, State, and local taxes; (3) royalties; (4) payroll; (5) productivity; (6) transportation; and (7) preparation costs. The geology of the resource includes engineering properties of the roof and floor of the seam (which directly effect the mine recovery possible from a resource and may add external dilution to the seam), thickness and continuity of the seam, thickness and continuity of in-seam noncoal partings, and coal quality. These factors often dictate the mining methods to be used and directly affect the wash plant recovery which, in turn, affects the cost per ton of clean or salable coal. Federal, State and local taxes often have little correlation to efficiency or productivity, but can be a large cost consideration. Royalties can often become a very large part of the total cost. Royalties frequently do not vary with the price of coal, and usually have minimum payments required; therefore, as the coal price (or realization) or productivity decrease, the royalties become a larger percentage of the overall costs. Payroll, and the related burden rates, is usually the single largest contributor to coal mine costs. Productivity (tons of clean coal per employee shift) is sometimes the deciding factor between profit and loss. Transportation of the coal from the mine to the preparation facility and/or the train or barge load-out facility may account for 10% to 20% of the total operating cost. Preparation costs can have a significant impact on the cost per ton of clean coal produced, and although the Bureau has used a cost per raw ton figure in the cost models, the models allow analysis of the ROM product recovery from the plant and establish the preparation costs per clean ton of salable coal (e.g., \$2 per ton for a ROM coal preparation cost, coupled with a 50% recovery in the preparation plant, equals \$4 per ton for a clean coal preparation cost).

The quality of the coal being mined does not necessarily have a direct effect on the cost to mine or wash that coal; however, the quality does affect the price that can be received for the salable product. The 1990 Clean Air Act amendments effectively broaden the range of the definitions of compliance coal to include coals between 1.0 lb SO₂ per MBtu and 1.5 lb SO₂ per MBtu that will allow through blending and selective burning to meet the new compliance standards on a system wide basis. For this report, compliance coal meets the EPA standard for potential emissions from utilities burning the coal, when no sulfur dioxide (SO₂) reduction processes are used (17); the current standard is dependent upon the minimum allowable total emissions within an affected area and is no more than 1.2 lb of SO₂ per MBtu of heat input.

COAL QUALITY

Information concerning the quality of the coals within the Matewan quadrangle ranges from extensive to extremely limited. As may be expected, the most productive coal seams have the greatest available amount of coal quality information, whereas the nonproductive seams have little or no coal quality information specific to the quadrangle. Coal seam quality data for the seams of the Matewan quadrangle is presented in table 3. It should be noted that seams of high production, such as the Upper Elkhorn 1B and the Lower Elkhorn, have more statistically supportable averages than others of lower production.

Due to the variability of coal characteristics throughout central Appalachia, an attempt was made to use coal quality analyses specifically from the Matewan quadrangle to compile the table's information. In this regard, two publications (18-19) were indispensable as sources of coal quality data, as they include individual coal sample information from, adjacent to, or near the Matewan quadrangle for all but two of the coal seams. For those two coal seams, Powellton and Eagle B, a Bureau publication (1) was used, although this source only furnished coal quality data by seam on a county-average basis.

As can be seen in table 3, all the coals within the quadrangle are low- or medium-sulfur, high-volatile, bituminous varieties. On an as received basis, sulfur content ranges from a low of 0.4% (Lower Elkhorn and Powellton seams) to a high of 2.1% (Williamson B seam), and ash content ranges from a low of 2.7% (Upper Elkhorn No. 1B seam) to a high of 16.67% (Hamlin A

seam). Heating values range from a low of 10,643 Btu per lb (Upper Peach Orchard A seam) to a high of 14,630 Btu per lb (Upper Elkhorn No. 1B seam). If the standard of 1.2 lb of SO₂ per MBtu is considered, there are almost equal amounts of compliance coals and noncompliance coals within the Matewan quadrangle. Since coal quality data for all but two of the listed seams is very limited, the table data represents only a very restricted characterization of the coal within the Matewan quadrangle and is not statistically supported for precise quality portrayal.

In addition to coal quality characteristics, the table also indicates the sales price for each seam's coal. The sales prices, as listed in the table, are based on sulfur and ash contents and Btu heating values of the coals for central Appalachian "District 8" coal prices (f.o.b., mine) for May 1990.

The quality of a coal is not considered a restriction to its minability; however, it can be a factor in the marketability of that coal. The Matewan quadrangle quality data is limited, but there is sufficient data to estimate sulfur trends for the area. Increasing concerns for the environment and increasing regulation of environmental pollutants require a better understanding of the coal qualities than is now available. A simple change in the SO₂ requirement from 1.2 lb per MBtu to 1.0 lb per MBtu reduces the compliance coal in the Matewan quadrangle by 37% of that available at 1.2 lb of SO₂ per MBtu for the \$25 per ton cost (190 M tons to 119 M tons), and by 39% at \$30 per ton (150 M tons to 91 M tons).

RESULTS

Table 4 shows that the total original, in-place, resource for all seams in the Matewan quadrangle is 1,193 M tons, of which 148 M tons have been mined out. Resource losses due to restrictions amount to another 345 M tons. Subtracting these, a minable resource of 700 M tons, or 59% of the original resource, remains (fig. 3). When this resource available for mining was theoretically "mined out," 231 M tons were left in the ground as barrier pillars, in seams located too close to other seams, etc. By comparing in-seam parting thickness and density, to coal thickness and density, it was possible to calculate the coal and parting losses due to the preparation process. This loss amounts to 106 M tons. When these two values are subtracted from the "minable resource" number, the resultant 363 M tons (30% of original in-place resource) remains as a "recoverable resource." The fact that only 30% of a natural resource is

available for recovery is noteworthy. Figure 4 illustrates the various resource losses and availabilities.

The "recoverable resource" was then evaluated with the costing models to determine the amount of economically recoverable resource remaining. The results further reduce the amount of recoverable coal, depending upon the economics assumed at the time of the study. Finally, the amount of economically recoverable coal that met standards for SO₂ emissions (compliance coal) was determined.

At \$25 per ton realization, only 7.5% (89 M tons) of the original resource was economically recoverable. Roughly half (44 M tons) has a potential SO₂ content less than 1.2 lb per MBtu. The remainder (46 M tons) has a potential SO₂ content greater than 1.2 lb per MBtu (or noncompliance). It was found that 75% of the "recoverable resource," or 274 M tons, was uneconomic in the \$25 per ton market.

Table 3.—Coal quality
(Quantitative analysis—as received basis)

Coal seam	Sulfur, %		Ash, %		Btu, per lb		Potential SO ₂ , lb/MBtu		Volatility rank ¹	Sulfur/compliance categories ²	Sales price ³
	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range	Average	Range			
Broas B (upper and lower combined).	0.78	-	13.31	-	11,492	-	1.35	-	Bitum., high-vol. A ..	Low-sulfur, noncomp. coal ...	\$23.96
Upper Peach Orchard A	.55	-	10.04	-	10,643	-	1.03	-	Bitum., high-vol. B ..	.do.	22.19
Lower Peach Orchard A	.67	-	5.13	-	13,411	-	.99	-	Bitum., high-vol. A ..	Low-sulfur, comp. coal	28.00
Hazard B	.6	-	6.3	-	13,445	-	.89	-	.do.	.do.	28.07
Taylor B	.7	-	6.6	-	13,600	-	1.03	-	.do.	Low-sulfur, noncomp. coal ...	28.39
Hamlin A	.64	-	16.67	-	11,751	-	1.09	-	.do.	.do.	24.50
Fire Clay Rider B	1.6	-	7.89	-	13,673	-	2.34	-	.do.	Medium-sulfur, noncomp. coal	27.12
Fire Clay	.81	-	6.75	-	13,912	-	1.16	-	.do.	Low-sulfur, noncomp. coal ...	29.05
Lower Whitesburg B	.7	-	5.2	-	13,930	-	1.01	-	.do.	.do.	29.08
Williamson B	2.1	-	6.65	-	13,605	-	3.09	-	.do.	Medium-sulfur, noncomp. coal	26.99
Upper Elkhorn (No. 3.5, No. 3D, & No. 3B combined).	1.8	-	5.5	-	13,610	-	2.65	-	Bitum., high-vol. A ..	.do.	27.00
Upper Elkhorn No. 2B	.7	-	5.0	-	12,960	-	1.08	-	.do.	Low-sulfur, noncomp. coal ...	27.06
Upper Elkhorn No. 1B	.57	0.5-0.8	3.76	2.7-6.1	14,287	13,730-14,630	.80	0.69-1.15	.do.	Low-sulfur, comp. coal	29.83
Lower Elkhorn (Rider and B combined).	.57	.4-.85	5.12	3.6-8.29	14,010	13,240-14,380	.81	.60-1.20	.do.	.do.	29.25
Powellton	.4	-	5.8	-	13,750	-	.58	-	.do.	.do.	28.71
Matewan	1.3	-	8.3	-	13,480	-	1.93	-	.do.	Medium-sulfur, noncomp. coal	26.74
Eagle B	1.1	-	5.6	-	14,260	-	1.54	-	.do.	.do.	28.29
Giamorgan A	.6	-	6.75	-	14,030	-	.86	-	.do.	Low-sulfur, comp. coal	29.29

¹According to the USGS Coal Resource Classification System (Circ. 891).

²Low-sulfur coal contains 1% or less total sulfur, on an as-received basis; medium-sulfur coal contains >1% and <3% total sulfur, on an as-received basis; and high-sulfur coal contains 3% or more total sulfur, on an as-received basis (USGS Circ. 891); compliance coal meets the current EPA standard for potential emissions (no more than 1.0 pounds of SO₂ per million Btu of heat input) from utilities burning coal, when no sulfur-dioxide reduction processes are used (KY Geol. Surv. Inf. Circ. 9, ser. XI, 1982).

³May 1990 prices adjusted for sulfur, ash, and BTU quality.

NOTE.—Dash indicates no range.

Table 4.—Coal seam resources, restrictions, and process losses
(thousand tons)

Coal seam	Original resources	Mined out resources	Restricted resources			Process losses		Recoverable resources
			Land use restrictions	Technologic restrictions	Barrier restrictions	Mining losses	Washing losses	
Broas	56	0	0	(46)	0	47	0	56
Upper Peach Orchard A	4,752	0	104	22	56	1,067	1,567	1,936
Lower Peach Orchard A	1,161	0	12	404	46	316	0	382
Hazard	3,123	0	40	1,016	80	810	476	701
Taylor B	11,566	8	173	1,662	829	3,113	811	4,969
Hamlin A	9,397	0	189	3,140	673	2,220	377	2,798
Fire Clay Rider	25,206	133	612	1,417	1,845	7,230	4,559	9,410
Fire Clay	40,782	1,346	674	1,601	3,002	11,209	7,115	15,836
Lower Whitesburg	66,291	0	991	2,316	4,498	17,217	8,136	33,133
Williamson B	115,881	2,667	1,396	7,258	8,362	26,668	19,317	50,212
Upper Elkhorn 3.5	84,194	3,230	634	13,730	5,904	20,858	8,877	30,960
Upper Elkhorn 3D	73,681	0	1,048	5,214	5,128	21,363	5,584	35,343
Upper Elkhorn 3B	132,252	3,839	1,917	18,821	9,613	34,561	18,802	44,699
Upper Elkhorn 2B	125,989	17,265	1,885	74,290	9,722	7,720	2,515	12,593
Upper Elkhorn 1B	145,030	2,729	2,609	9,140	10,404	42,141	14,009	63,998
Lower Elkhorn Rider	75,172	0	1,755	60,125	5,214	3,321	1,093	3,664
Lower Elkhorn B	224,886	116,747	3,834	15,447	17,989	21,774	9,032	40,063
Powellton	6,034	0	437	3,246	0	1,087	440	823
Matewan	9,703	0	64	5,096	682	1,574	467	1,819
Eagle B	6,802	6	206	5,203	470	396	85	436
Glamorgan	32,175	0	1,121	9,743	2,221	7,178	2,453	9,459
Totals	1,194,133	147,970	19,701	238,845	86,738	231,870	105,715	363,290

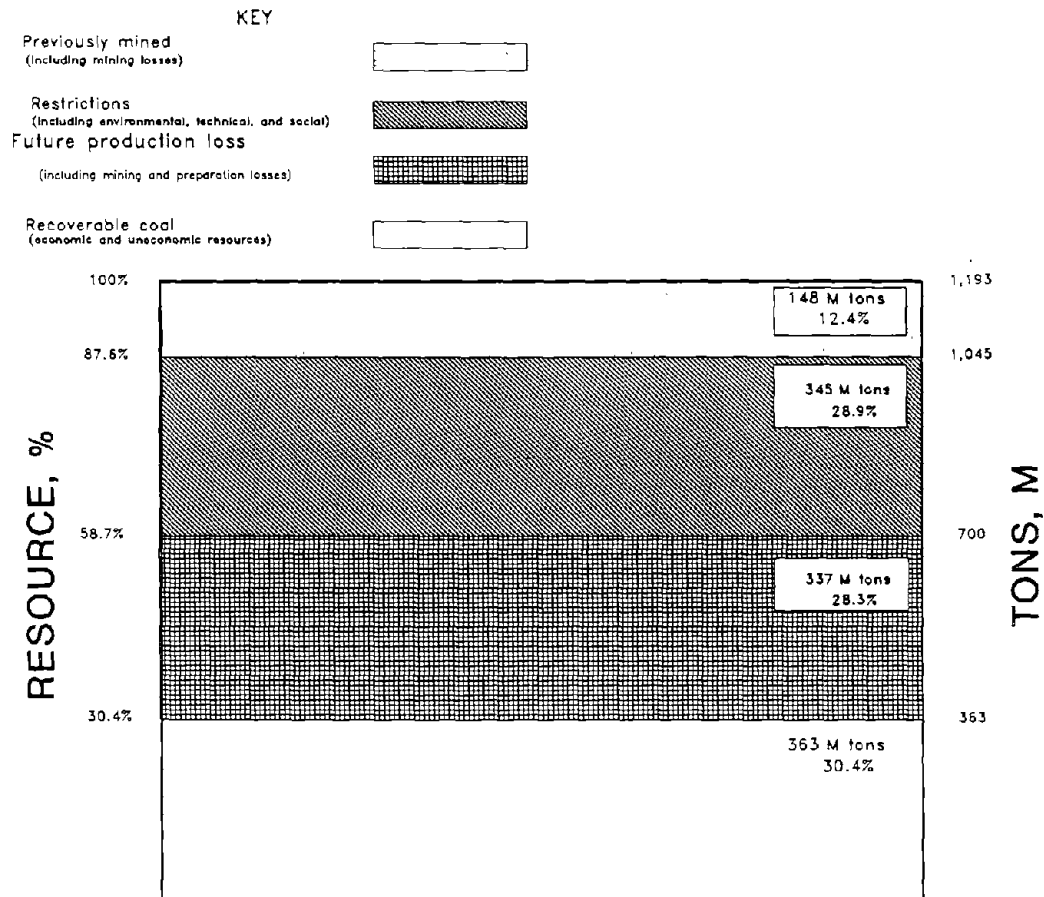


Figure 3.—Coal resource graphical summary.

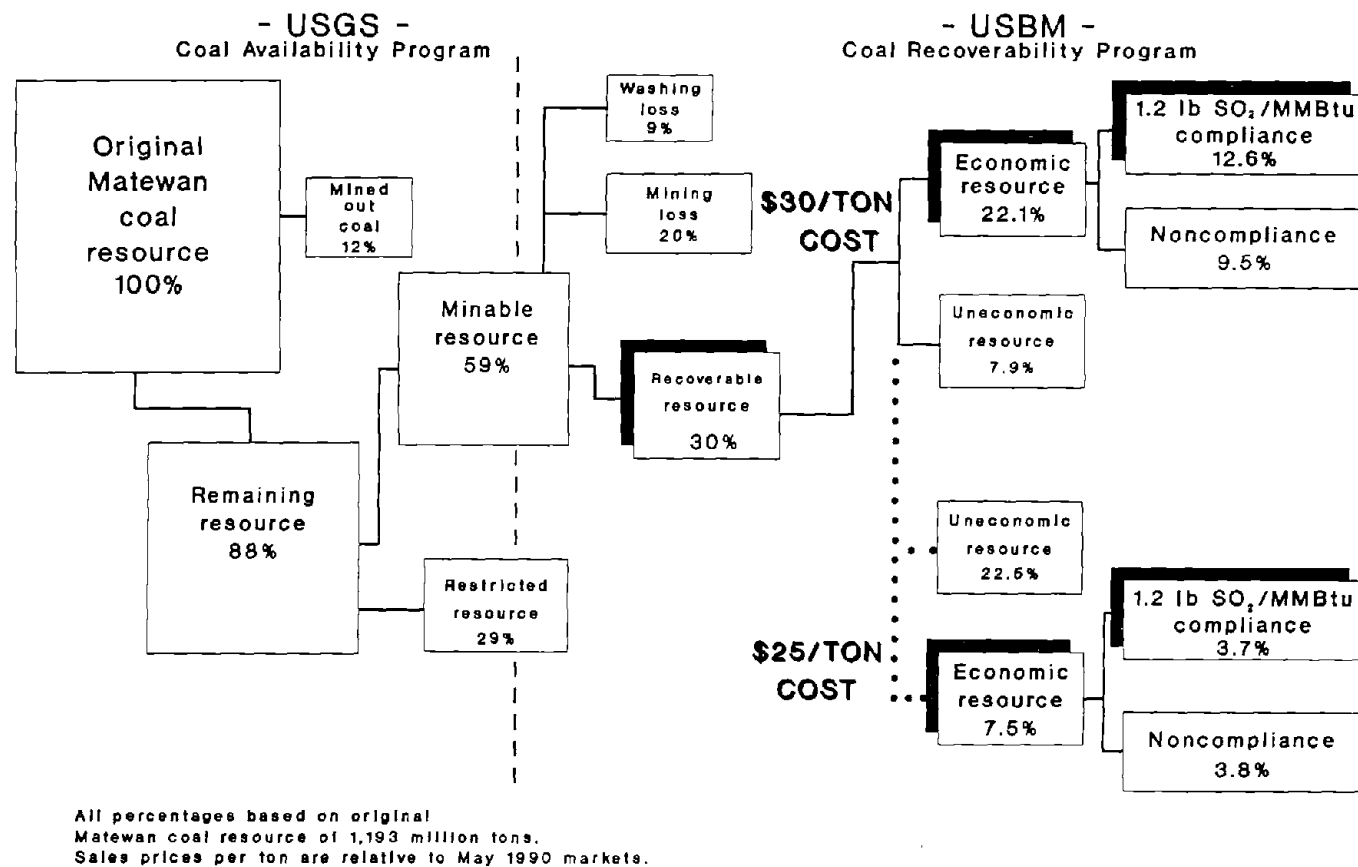


Figure 4.—USGS/USBM coal resource programs - Matewan quadrangle results chart.

The numbers improve when a realization of \$30 per ton is used in the cost models. Then, 22.1% (264 M tons) of the original resource is economically available to mine, with 150 M tons having a potential SO_2 content less than 1.2 lb per MBtu and 114 M tons having a potential SO_2 content greater than 1.2 lb per MBtu. At \$30 per ton, 27% of the "recoverable resource," or 99 M tons, is uneconomical to mine.

If a more restrictive definition of compliance coal is used (e.g., no more than 1.0 lb of SO_2 per MBtu), the economically recoverable compliance coal is reduced to 25 M tons (2.1%), at \$25 per ton realization, and to 91 M tons (7.7%), at \$30 per ton realization. Table 5 summarizes this economic recoverability of the coal resource, at the two realization prices discussed above, by compliance and noncompliance categories.

Table 5.—Recoverable coal summary, by compliance category

Category	(million tons)					
	Total seam	% of total	<\$25/ton cost	% of total	<\$30/ton cost	% of total
Total original coal . . .	1,194					
Total recoverable coal	363	30.4	89	7.5	264	22.1
Recoverable compliance coal (<1.2 lb SO_2 /MBtu).	190	15.9	44	3.7	150	12.6
Recoverable noncompliance coal (>1.2 lb SO_2 /MBtu).	173	14.5	46	3.8	114	9.5
Recoverable compliance coal (<1.0 lb SO_2 /MBtu).	119	10.1	25	2.1	91	7.7
Recoverable noncompliance coal (>1.0 lb SO_2 /MBtu).	244	20.4	64	5.4	172	14.4

CONCLUSIONS

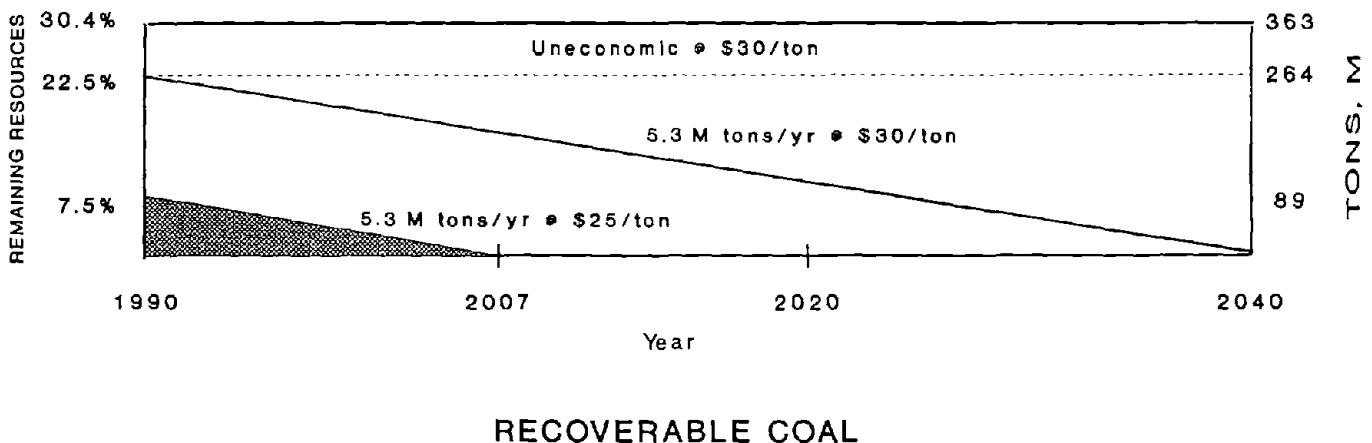
Without accurate data regarding the amounts and quality of economically recoverable coal, it is not possible to make informed decisions regarding national, regional, or local energy policies. Traditional procedures and methodologies used to estimate the coal reserve base have utilized historical mining recovery factors and applied them throughout coal regions to obtain the estimated recoverable coal tonnage. Restrictions relative to the environment and social concerns, site specific geology, mining and preparation technology, and economics have not been considered previously. However, as this study shows, these restrictions significantly impact the amount of coal that is ultimately recoverable.

Results of this study indicate that of the original 1,193 M tons of coal resources in the Kentucky portion of the Matewan 7-1/2 minute quadrangle, 148 M tons have been mined out and another 345 M tons are restricted from mining for a variety of reasons, resulting in a minable resource of 700 M tons. Subtracting the mining and processing losses reduces this to a recoverable resource of 363 M tons, or 30% of the original in-place resource. The next step was to apply economic constraints to this "recoverable resource." At \$25 per ton realization, only 89 M tons (7.5%) are economically recoverable. At \$30 per ton realization, only 264 M tons (22.1%) are economically

recoverable. Compliance constraints further reduce the amount of coal available.

The results of this study are for one quadrangle only, but suggest that the DRB is seriously overstated and that the DRB should be used with caution until further data are available. It is difficult to predict at this point of the study whether or not the Matewan results are representative of other quadrangles in the central Appalachian region. What is predictable is that at the current production rate of 5.3 M tons per year, if prices do not improve dramatically, the coal industry in the Matewan quadrangle has only 16.8 years until the economic reserves are depleted (fig. 5).

If similar results are found in subsequent investigations, a strong argument can be made that traditional coal producing regions may soon be experiencing resource depletion problems far greater and much sooner than previously thought. This will affect not only the coal industry, but the entire social and economic infrastructure of large areas. As production shifts from one region to another, so will jobs, people, and businesses. Entire government base structures will be directly affected by the industry migration. This migration may be brought about due to the need for additional national reserves, as demand increases, or for reserves that meet regulatory requirements.



Sales prices per ton are relative to May 1990 markets; quality is not considered.
Production per year at 1990 level.

Figure 5.—Economic life projections for available resource.

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APPENDIX A.—GLOSSARY

Available coal resources.—Coal resources, minable by either surface or underground methods, that are unencumbered by land-use, environmental, societal, regulatory, or technologic restrictions as applied within a specific state or region. In this study, available resources are derived by the following formula:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{ORIGINAL COAL RESOURCES} \\
 \text{-minus-} \\
 \text{COAL MINED AND LOST-IN-MINING} \\
 \text{-equals-} \\
 \text{REMAINING COAL RESOURCES} \\
 \text{-minus-} \\
 \text{COAL RESTRICTED BY LAND-USE} \\
 \text{CONSIDERATIONS} \\
 \text{-minus-} \\
 \text{COAL RESTRICTED BY TECHNOLOGIC} \\
 \text{CONSIDERATIONS} \\
 \text{-equals-} \\
 \text{AVAILABLE COAL RESOURCES}
 \end{array}$$

Buffer zone.—The area surrounding a restrictive feature (mine, town, cemetery, oil or gas well, stream, etc.) in which mining is not permitted.

Coal availability/minable resource.—Refer to available coal resources.

Coal realization.—The conversion, economically, of coal into cash (i.e., the price for which coal sells).

Coal recoverability.—Refer to Recoverable coal.

Coal reserve.—Refer to Reserve.

Coal resources.—Deposits of coal in the earth's crust in such amounts that physical extraction is currently or potentially feasible.

Coal seam.—A bed or stratum of coal.

Coal washing/preparation.—The process of cleaning (i.e., removing ash, etc.) or preparing run-of-mine coal to meet market specifications and to make it suitable for a particular use.

Compliance coal.—Coal that meets New-Source Performance Standards (NSPS), set forth by the EPA, for SO₂ emissions. This is coal that is in compliance without use of SO₂-reduction processes, such as scrubbers. The current maximum limit from new-source coal-fired powerplants is 1.2 lb of SO₂ per MBtu of heat input.

Deep coal resources.—Coal resources that would most probably be mined by underground mining methods.

Deep-mine barrier pillars.—Unmined coal left around the peripheries of active or abandoned underground mines due to mine-safety requirements. Also referred to as deep-mine barriers.

Dilution.—The contamination of coal with barren rock from the roof and floor of an excavation.

Environmental restrictions.—Refer to land-use restrictions. Examples of these restrictions are cemeteries, towns and residences (social constraints), ground slopes greater than 65%, major streams, and lakes (environmental constraints).

Floor rock.—The rock immediately underlying a coal bed. Where the coal section is overturned (inverted), the mining floor is actually above the coal bed, stratigraphically.

Interburden.—The rock between two coal beds. When two potentially minable coal beds occur within a minimum acceptable distance above or below one another, one (often the thinner of the two) will not be mined.

Land-use restrictions.—Constraints placed upon mining by societal policies to protect those surface features or entities that could be affected by mining. Since laws and regulations can be modified or repealed, the restrictions, including industrial and environmental restrictions, may change.

Lost-in-mining.—Unrecoverable coal remaining in the ground within a mine after all feasible extraction is completed. Includes coal that is (1) left to support mine roofs, (2) too thin or impure to mine, (3) unsafe for mining (e.g., bad roofs, faults, etc.), and (4) unmined around oil, gas, water, and disposal wells, shafts, conduits, haulageways, tunnels, and airways.

Mining methods.—The systems employed in the exploitation of coal seams and ore bodies. The method adopted depends on a large number of factors, the main ones being the quality, shape, size, and depth of the deposit, accessibility, and capital available.

National Coal Resources Data System (NCRDS).—The U.S. Geological Survey computer system for storage, retrieval, and manipulation of stratigraphic, geochemical, and coal resource-related data. The NCRDS stratigraphic data base contains information on more than 150,000 coal data points; the NCRDS geochemical data base includes analyses on nearly 13,000 coal samples. NCRDS graphics programs calculate and tabulate resources according to the specifications of the USGS coal-resources classification system. A national network of users and State co-operators is tied into NCRDS for interactive data retrieval, manipulation, and coal resource assessment.

Original coal resources.—Coal resources, containing 33% or less ash, that lie under less than 6,000 feet of overburden and are either 14 or more inches thick (for anthracite and bituminous coal) or 30 or more inches thick (for subbituminous coal and lignite); the coal must exist in such form and amount that physical extraction is currently or potentially feasible.

Operating costs.—The sum of mining, beneficiation, and administration costs.

Outcrop.—That part of a coal bed or rock strata that appears at the surface (crops out).

Overburden.—Any material, consolidated or unconsolidated, that lies between a coal deposit and the surface.

Parting.—A small layer of rock in a coal seam.

Perennial stream.—A stream which flows continuously throughout the year.

Process losses.—Coal losses due to mining and washing.

Production.—The yield or output of a mine, metallurgical plant, or quarry.

Recoverable coal.—Coal that is, or can be, extracted from a coal bed during mining (see Reserve).

Recovery.—The proportion, or percentage, of coal (or ore) that is mined from the original deposit.

Recovery factor.—The percentage of total, estimated in-place coal that is potentially recoverable or, for a more precise determination, the percentage of total, estimated in-place coal that is actually mined. Recovery factors are generally about 50% for underground mining methods and from 80% to 90% for surface mining methods.

Reserve.—That part of a mineral deposit which could be economically and legally extracted or produced at the time of the reserve determination. When dealing with metaliferous minerals, reserves are customarily stated in terms of "ore"; however, when other materials (coal, oil shale, tar

sands, limestone, etc.) are involved, a more appropriate term (such as "recoverable coal") may be substituted.

Restricted coal resources.—Coal resources that are determined to be unminable because of current land-use or technologic restrictions.

Roof rock.—In underground mining, the rock immediately overlying a coal bed. Often the upper part of a coal bed is left unmined to serve as a roof for the mining operations.

Strip ratio.—A numerical expression showing the proportional relationship of a unit amount of waste material to a similar unit amount of ore or mineral material; the waste material must be removed in order to gain access to the target material.

Surface coal resources.—Coal resources, usually within a few hundred feet of the surface, that would most probably be mined by surface mining methods.

Technologic restrictions.—Constraints, relating to economics and safety, placed upon mining by the state of technology or prescribed by law; the restrictions could change with advances in science or modifications in the law. In this report, geological factors are included as technologic restrictions.

Yield-Mine.—See Recovery.

Yield-Plant.—Ratio of salable product produced, including impurities, to the total input of the mine to the plant.

APPENDIX B.—ASSUMPTIONS

MINING METHODS

Local and practical mining methods were employed in the feasibility type mine planning. Four surface mining methods were examined: area stripping, mountain top removal, contour stripping, and auger mining. Contour stripping, auger mining, and mountain top removal were considered applicable; area stripping was not. Continuous miner and longwall operations were planned for deep mining, due to their high productivity, but conventional mining was not considered; however, it is recognized that conventional methods (drill, cut, and shoot) would have to be employed where geological conditions dictated. Recovery rates were determined for the applicable mining methods, and for the deep mining methods simple regression curves were fitted to the accumulated data for production rates; these were used to assign production rates for the deep mining methods by configuration and mining height. Surface transportation of coal, both washed and run-of-mine (ROM), was addressed by measuring haulage distances to known wash plant locations and rail loadouts.

Mine Recovery Factors

For many years a convenient rule of thumb of 50% has been used when estimating the amount of recoverable reserves in a loosely defined resource or mining area. This type of average does not consider either the minability of deposits, changes in technology, or changes in demand for coal. It is impossible to predict accurately the eventual recoverability of all coal deposits; however, a current average of recoverabilities depicting today's technology and economics will be useful for estimating deposits that are presently minable.

Lowrie (20)¹ makes a very good observation that bears repeating.

"The rationale, traditionally, for using the convenient figure of 50 percent as an acceptable approximation of average recovery is that it compensated for losses which were not ordinarily included at individual mines. This is an indefinite generalization which allows broad interpretation and perhaps erroneous exclusion of potentially recoverable deposits. Marginal deposits or those not ordinarily considered profitable or minable today, such as those behind prior workings, of poor quality, under adverse physical conditions, undermined, or underlying surface structures and so on, may be minable later rather

than lost. Subsequent reevaluation of deposits as a result of changes in technology and economics should be made from a category other than lost, which has a permanent connotation. Definitive evaluation of losses attendant in mining such deposits should be deferred until the time of exploitation."

Each mining method considered for this project demonstrates a recovery unique to that particular method. For this reason, variations of each method were investigated. The investigation included creating several "typical" models and calculating the recoveries, analyzing published and unpublished recovery data from government and industry sources, and drawing upon personal experience.

Recovery Considerations

The mining methods considered in this report are:

1. Contour strip (surface), with two coal thickness categories: 12 in to 36 in, and greater than 36 in.
2. Auger (surface), with two coal thickness categories: 12 in to 36 in, and greater than 36 in.
3. Continuous miner, five entry system (underground), using two different pillar sizes: 40 ft by 40 ft, and 80 ft by 120 ft.
4. Longwall, three entry development (underground), using two different pillar sizes: 40 ft by 40 ft, and actual mine plan dimensions.

The following definitions that pertain to coal recovery, as used for this study, are derived from the USGS (21):

1. Recoverable coal.—The coal that is or can be extracted from a coal bed during mining. The term "recoverable" should be used in combination with "resources" and not with "reserves."
2. Recovery percent.—The percentage of coal extracted from a bed where the total tonnage originally in the bed is equal to 100%.
3. Recovery factor.—The estimated or actual percentage of coal, expressed as a decimal, that can be or was extracted from the coal originally in a bed or beds of an area, mine, district, field, basin, region, province, township, quadrangle, county, State, political province, nation, and (or) the world.

Six factors that are identified as significantly affecting recovery percentages in underground mines (20) are:

1. Pillaring system.
2. Top rock and conditions.

¹Italic numbers in parentheses refer to items in the list of references preceding the appendixes at the end of this report.

3. Bottom rock and conditions.
4. Marketability.
5. Coalbed thickness.
6. Productivity.

Thirteen factors that are identified as significantly affecting recovery percentages in strip mines (22) are:

1. Top coal removed with overburden.
2. Bottom coal left in place.
3. Coal lost in ribs between cuts.
4. Losses due to partings.
5. Losses due to other factors, such as equipment limitations and spillage.
6. Outcrops (coal exposed to weathering's degradation).
7. Utility, railway, and highway rights-of-way.
8. Streams.
9. Underground workings.
10. Oil and gas wells.
11. Property lines.
12. Buildings.
13. Other, such as landslide areas and cemeteries.

Five factors that are identified as significantly affecting recovery percentages in auger operations (22) are:

1. Auger diameter.
2. Auger spacing.
3. Average auger penetration.
4. Coalbed thickness.
5. Length of coalbed available for auguring.

Recovery Determination

A "typical" mine plan was drafted to scale with sufficient detail to incorporate the standard pillars, entries, and development works necessary to provide a representative scenario of the particular mining type under study. The mine plan was digitized, using the **GSMAP** computer program (23), to provide two dimensional digital information of the mine plan. The digitized data was reproduced on paper by a pen plotter to verify its accuracy. The areas of all pillars were then calculated by the **GSMAP** program. The accuracy and methodology of digitizing using **GSMAP** was checked on three seams using multiple-pass planimetry. The mining and restriction areas were nearly identical between methods.

Standard, or "average," recovery factors were established for each of several conditions and mining methods. It is recognized these are not, and cannot be considered, definitive under all conditions, but reflect today's technology and economic conditions more accurately than the often used 50% factor.

The following mine recovery factors are used for this study:

1. For contour strip mines.—78% where the coal seam is less than 36 in thick, and 93% where the coal seam is greater than 36 in thick.
2. For auger mines.—30%.
3. For continuous miner mines.—62% where the pillars are 40 ft by 40 ft, and 57% where the pillars are 80 ft by 120 ft.
4. For longwall mines.—84% where the pillars are 40 ft by 40 ft, and 78% where the pillars vary in size.

Recovery Model Dependencies

The resource recoverability calculations consist of the entire process of determining, from raw data, the amount and salability of coal from the area in question. The viability and accuracy of the calculations and associated modeling is dependent upon (1) the existence of a proven geologic model of the coal bed, (2) mining methods, (3) mining recovery, (4) mining sequence, (5) coal quality, and (6) dilution factors. Also influencing the model are coal washability parameters, wash plant recovery, mine size optimization, equipment configurations, land ownership, and all of the various environmental, social, and technical restrictions to mining. Equally important is the care with which the data is collected and used. Throughout the modeling process, utmost care was taken to assure that current, state-of-the-art methods were employed and that error was minimized.

Production Rates

The rate of production for surface and underground mining operations has long been discussed, studied, and computerized. Information on many of the factors influencing production within a specific coal seam, as shown in table B-1, were not available during the data collection. Rather than calculate idealized production rates from the influencing factors, actual ROM production rates from Bureau evaluations and from industry and government publications were used. Contour strip and auger mining production rates were determined from mine evaluations and heavy equipment production charts and were fairly constant. Production rates for deep mining methods employing continuous miners or longwalls varied over a wide range. Longwall productivity appeared to correlate with mining height, and linear regression analysis proved this assumption to be correct, with very little scatter of the data points from the mean. Continuous miner productivity was found to have fairly good correlation to mining height after other mining factors had been accounted for. These other factors (e.g., available spare or standby equipment,

supersections, remote controlled equipment, extremely good mining conditions, and retreat pillar robbing) foster significantly higher production rates than normal. Development mining, development for longwalls, and some captive mines, have lower than normal production rates. When the mine circumstances were addressed, the continuous mining productivity could be broken out into high, normal, and low production rates, and linear regression analysis suggested good correlation between mining height and production rate. These regression analyses are shown in figures B-1A through B-1D.

Average production rates were determined for several ranges of mining heights and mining methods. Tables B-2 and B-3 show the production rates used in this study. These seam height configurations were used to specify production equipment sizing and capital costs for the mine costing models.

Table B-1.—Factors influencing mine productivity

Surface mining conditions	Deep mining conditions
Area of movement	Roof and floor conditions
Ground slope/dip of coal	Methane liberation
Production needed	Cutability
Overburden stability	Partings
Seam thickness	Dip of coal
Ground water/reclamation	Seam height
Overburden/coal interface	Ground water
Manpower experience	Production layout
Supervisors	Width of face
Maintenance force	Depth of cut
Equipment operators	Working time at face
Mining applications	Planned maintenance
Development	Remote controlled equip.
Panel production	Continuous haulage
Pillar extraction	

Table B-2.—Surface production rates by mining method

Mining method	Production per seam thickness	
	12-36 in	> 36 in
Contour stripping	5,200 BCY/shift	6,500 BCY/shift
Area stripping . .	8,500 BCY/shift	8,500 BCY/shift
Auger mining . .	175 tons/shift	250 tons/shift

BCY Bank cubic yards.

Table B-3.—Deep mine production rates by mining method

Mining method	Production (tons/shift) per seam thickness			
	24-42 in	42-72 in	72-96 in	> 96 in
Continuous miner	394	516	654	839
Longwall mining	NAp	1,609	2,451	3,575

NAp Not applicable.

Mine Design

A feasibility program utilizing the three main Upper Elkhorn seams was begun in 1989. Isopach maps of the

coal, interburden, overburden, previously mined areas, and land use restrictions were obtained from the USGS. Generalized mine plans were developed and the close proximity of the three seams to each other allowed the interaction from seam to seam to be studied during mine planning. This feasibility study demonstrated that preliminary mine plans and restrictions could be merged and an estimate of the recoverable resources could be made. Based on these findings, the program was expanded to include the remaining minable seams in the Matewan quadrangle and to develop mining cost models which would allow estimates of the economically recoverable resources.

The surface mining configuration was planned to operate with two separate fleets of equipment in two different locations at the same time. This procedure utilized support equipment, enhanced coal production and blending, and allowed sequencing of auger mining. The planning process assumed common ownership of surface and mineral rights and assumed that mining would be done in a logical, orderly manner for maximum recovery of the resource. Only contour stripping methods were applied in the Matewan quadrangle. Neither area mining nor mountain top removal was planned. The production parameters in contour stripping were dependent upon seam thickness. Seams 36 in thick or greater were assumed to have stripping rates of 6,500 BCY per shift, whereas seams that ranged in thickness from 12 in to 36 in had stripping rates of 5,200 BCY per shift. Mine bench widths varied, but a minimum of 80 ft was used for all stripping. The 80 ft minimum width allowed endloaders to safely load trucks and provided the trucks with enough room to turn around on the bench. Since the average ground slope is about 26 degrees (48.8%), the minimum bench width could be maintained with seam thicknesses of less than 24 in. These conditions, along with the thin interburden between many of the seams, would allow multiple seam stripping. For this reason, the 80 ft minimum width bench was used for all strip minable resources with seam thicknesses between 12 in and 24 in. During the surface planning, logical portal locations were noted for underground development. Surface mine production was evaluated using a work schedule of 8 hours per shift, 2 shifts per day, 5 days per week (240 days per year). It was assumed that the surface mining equipment would develop the "face-up" area for the deep mine portals, mine offices, and applicable stockpile areas. Reclamation plans would be developed which would leave enough bench area for production haul roads from the deep mine stockpiles.

Auger mining followed closely behind the stripping operations and utilized the coal production equipment and support equipment. It was assumed that the stripping operation left the highwall and bench in a condition that would require little maintenance by the auger operations. Twin-headed augers were the chief production equipment,

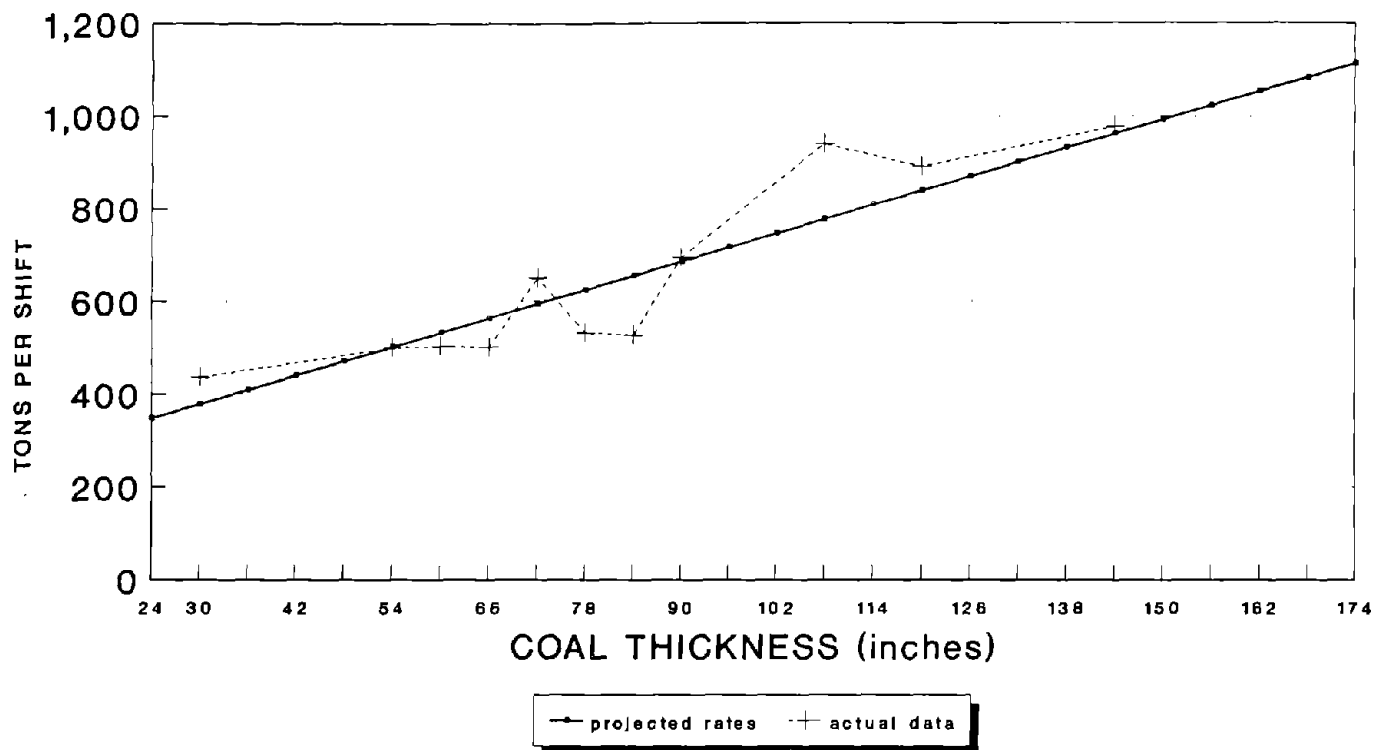


Figure B-1A.—Linear regression analysis: continuous miner-normal productivity.

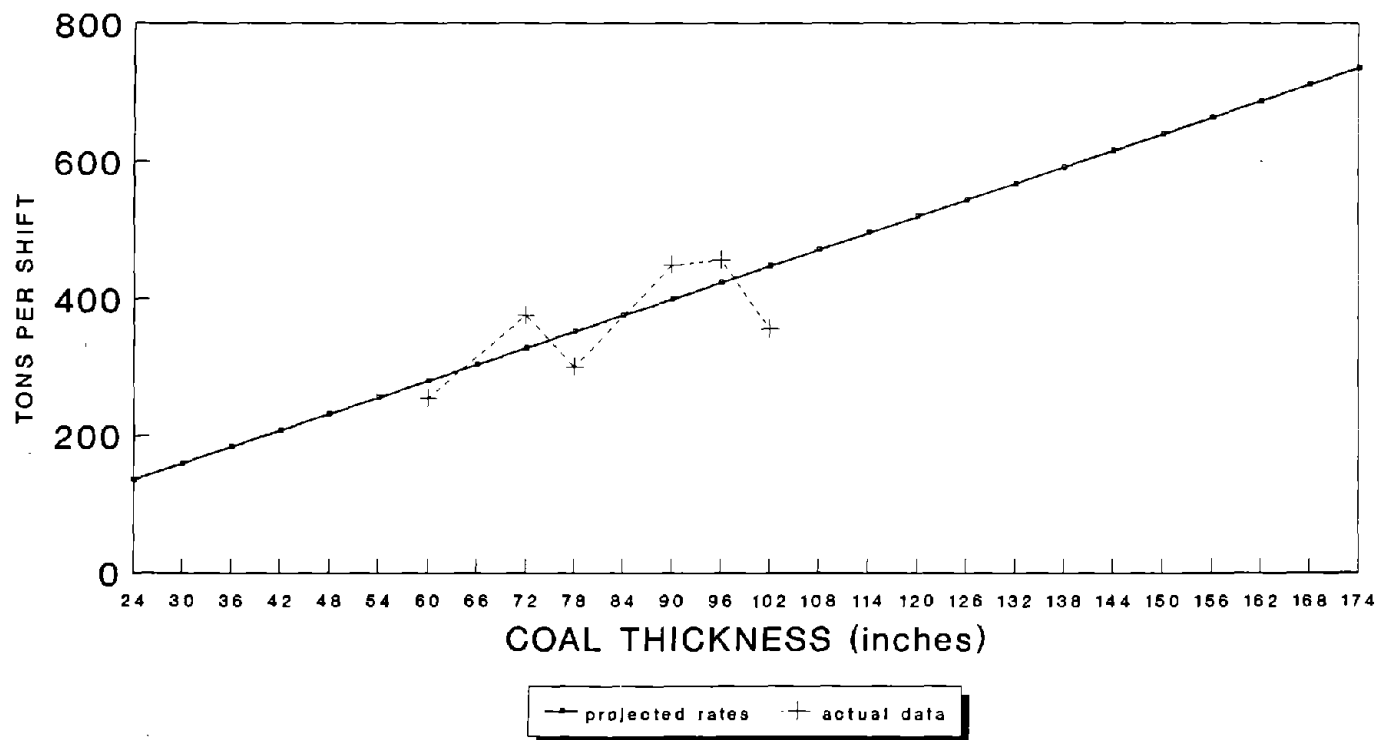


Figure B-1B.—Linear regression analysis: continuous miner-low productivity.

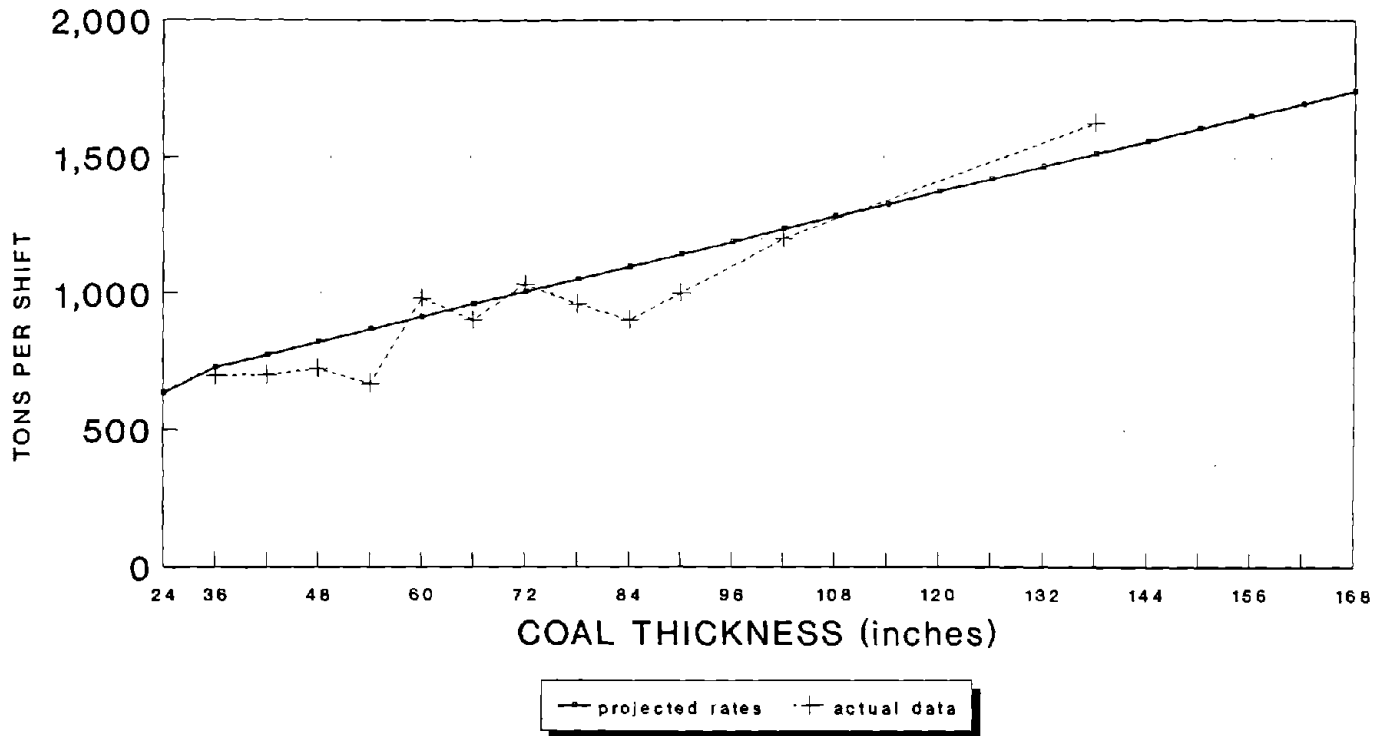


Figure B-1C.—Linear regression analysis: continuous miner-high productivity.

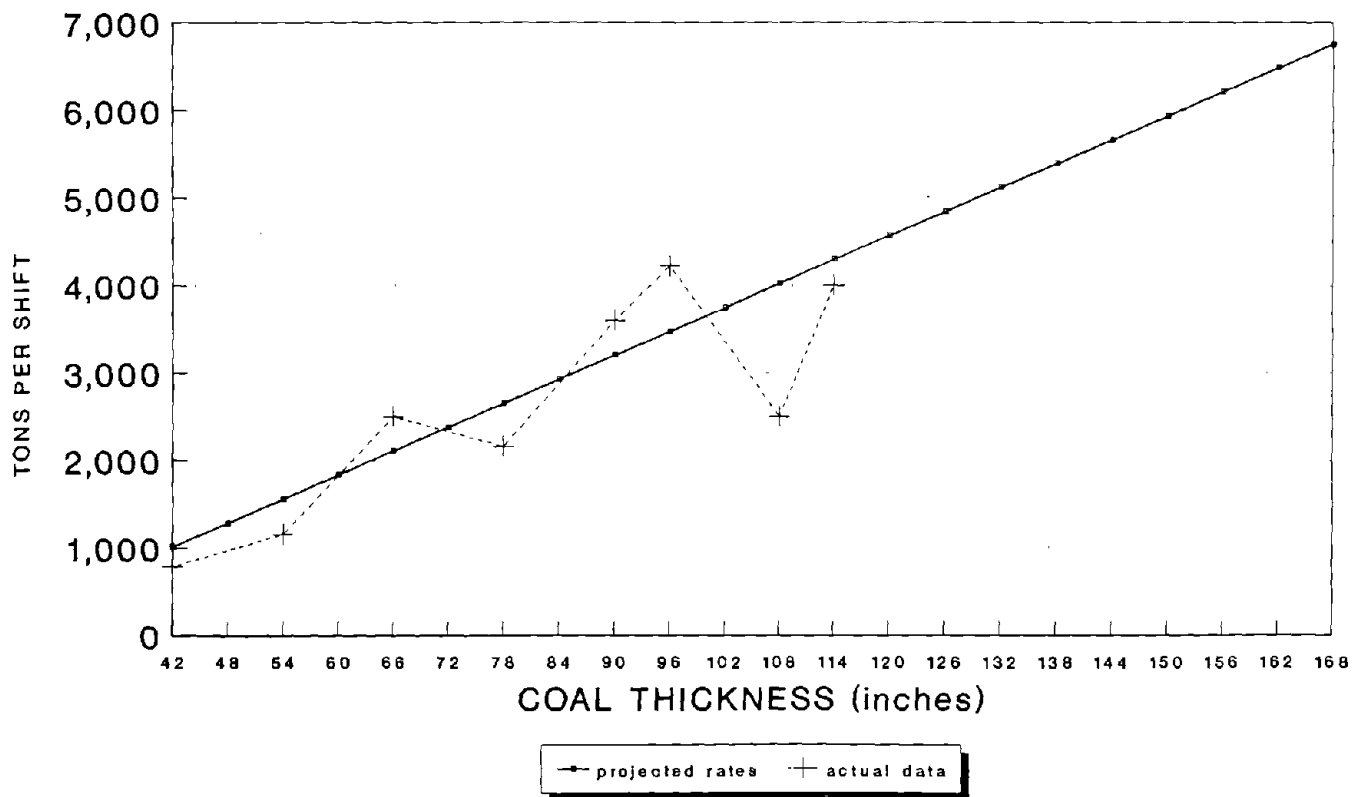


Figure B-1D.—Linear regression analysis: longwall productivity.

with a compliment of drill heads and auger steel matched to the coal seam thickness. Average recovery rates of 30% and average depth of holes of 60 ft were assumed. Highwall miners, while not specified, could be an option for the thicker seams.

Deep mine development was laid out with five mains, 18 ft to 20 ft wide, with normal offset barrier pillars and production panels employing room and pillar mining methods laid out at right angles to the mains. Submains were laid out beneath and parallel to the mountain ridges (spurs). Minimum panel widths were five entries and, as the panels approached the outcrop, the minimum advance was with two entries. Only mining with continuous miners and longwalls was considered. The use of conventional room and pillar mining (drill, cut, and shoot) is fairly common in the Matewan quadrangle; however, wherever possible, operators are turning to continuous miners. Also, it is recognized that some coal seams are best mined by conventional methods due to particular geological conditions. That information was not available to the authors in the detail necessary for planning; therefore, conventional mining methods were not addressed in this study. The optimum size operation was assumed to be two continuous miner production units, for continuous mining methods, and two continuous miners and one longwall panel for a longwall operation. Minimum mining heights for continuous miners was set at 24 in of seam thickness and 5 in of out-of-seam dilution. The longwall minimum seam thickness was 42 in, with 3 in of out-of-seam dilution. Because of mining height restrictions on equipment, continuous miner operations had four separate height ranges: 24 to 42 in, 42 to 72 in, 72 to 96 in, and greater than 96 in. Also because of restrictions on equipment, longwall mining had three mining heights: 42 to 72 in, 72 to 96 in, and greater than 96 in. Equipment specifications, capitalization, production, etc. were all determined by these mining heights in the recovery and costing models. In addition to the minimum thickness of 42 in of seam height for longwalls, at present a machine size limitation (motor to horsepower limitations), panels were laid out with three entries on both sides of the panel, a minimum width of 550 ft, and a minimum length of 4,000 ft. Areas considered for longwall mining had to contain enough coal resource to depreciate the longwall equipment used in that seam. In all longwall operations, there was more than minimum coal resources. All deep mine production was scheduled for 8 hours per day, 2 shifts per day, 5 days per week (240 days per year).

Development methodology for the basic mine plans is listed below:

1. Understanding of the coal bed to be planned and the superjacent and subjacent minable seams.

2. Identification of the effect of the land-use restrictions on the subject bed.

3. Ground slope determination, along the outcrop, to outline areas having an undisturbed slope greater than 32 degrees—for technical restrictions and for determining the highwall stripping ratio cutoff.

4. Surface mine design using the maximum 20 to 1 highwall ratio to determine the bench widths and stripping areas. Where the highwall ratio could be greater than 20 to 1, a minimum bench width of 80 ft was used.

5. Auger mining planned to coordinate with the stripping. Production tonnages were calculated by bench length, seam thickness, depth of auger holes, and normal recovery rate.

6. Underground mine development planned using working site areas prepared during stripping. Mains and submains were planned to be driven parallel to and beneath the mountain ridges.

7. Evaluation of seams for areas that met or exceeded the minimum longwall criteria. When a potential longwall area was found, the panels were laid out and the continuous miner plans were designed around the longwall plan.

8. Integration of the coal-haulage zone map with the mine plans. Original resources, restrictions, and minable resources were calculated for each haulage zone.

Using the above guidelines, the first mine plan maps were constructed for the Upper Elkhorn 3B seam (fig. B-2). Planning for the Upper Elkhorn 3D seam followed, with conflicts between the mining plans for the 3B and 3D seams resolved where necessary (i.e., where the interburden between the two seams was less than 40 ft). Next, the Upper Elkhorn 3.5 seam was planned. Since the interburden between the 3.5 and 3D seams exceeded 40 ft in thickness, there were no mining plan conflicts between these seams; however, the interburden between the Upper Elkhorn 3.5 and Williamson seams was thinner than 40 ft in many areas and caused major mining plan conflicts between the two seams. In this same way, mine plan maps of the other 18 coal seams were subsequently constructed.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Topography in the Matewan quadrangle is rugged, with valley wall slopes ranging from 15 to 32 degrees (27% to 63%) and valley floors sloping from 2 to 13 degrees (4% to 23%). Four major ridges control the watersheds in the quadrangle. During the initial tour and investigation of the quadrangle, the authors noted that coal was not transported over these main ridges. Indeed, only one ridge was crossed by a paved highway. Therefore, for the sake of efficiency, local practice was for all loaded trucks

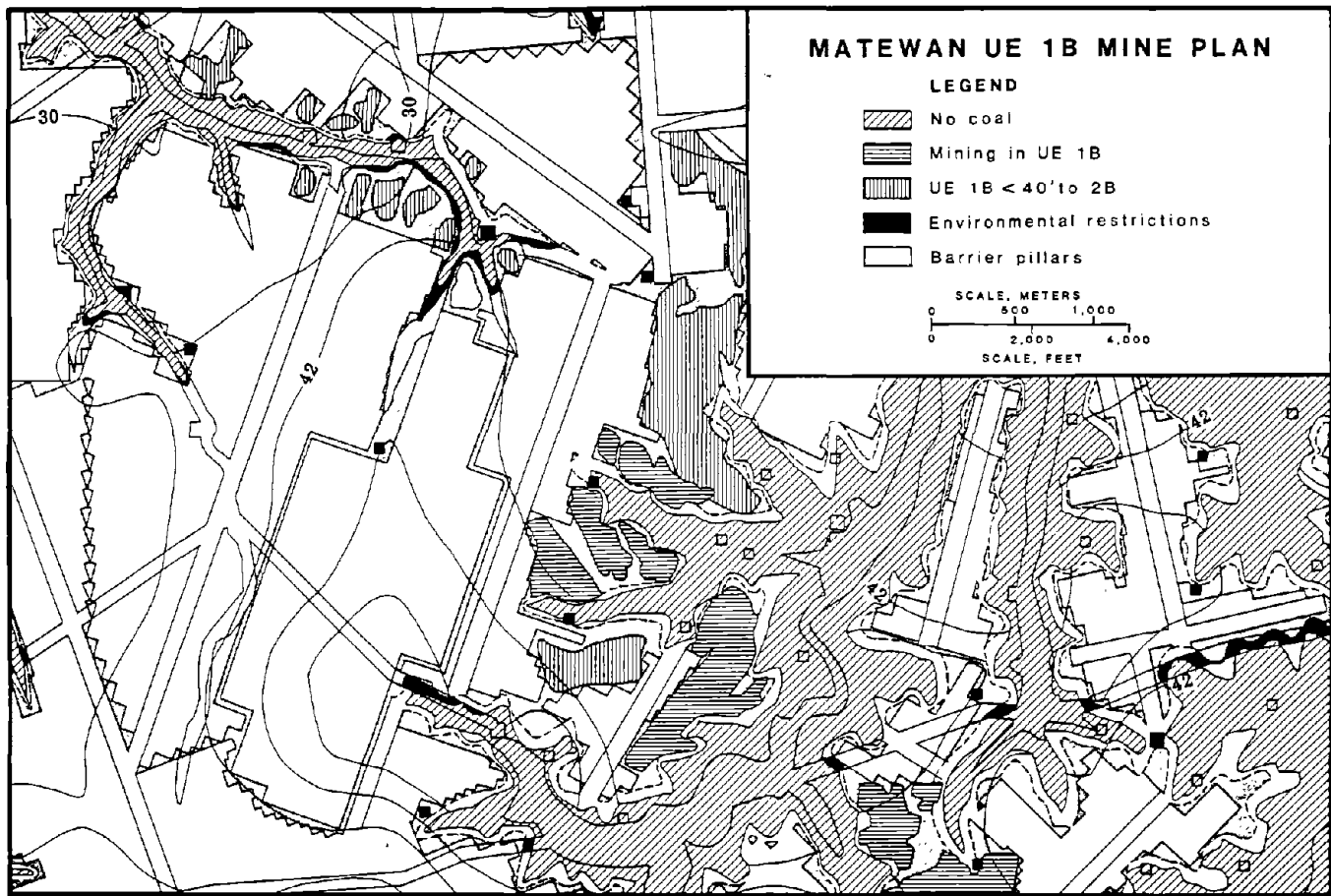


Figure B-2.—Typical feasibility-type mine plan.

to haul coal downhill, by the most convenient route, to their destination. Locations of preparation plants and train loadouts were obtained from the DSMRE permit maps. State, Federal, and county roads were located on the USGS 7-1/2-minute topographic map. After reviewing the geology and the potential for mining within the different watersheds, the quadrangle was divided into 16 haulage zones (fig. B-3). The geographical center of all minable coal beds was located in each haulage zone and assumed to be the mine coal stockpiling area. Haulage distances were estimated from the "stockpile area" to the closest preparation plant and/or rail loadout. In this haulage scenario, the following assumptions were made:

1. The closest wash plant always had the capacity to handle the delivered ROM coal.
2. Only wash plants with rail loadout were used, thus eliminating double handling of the coal. Studies were conducted to see if the costs would be less to haul to a

nearby mine washing facility, clean the coal, reload the trucks, and then haul to a rail facility. However, none of the Matewan quadrangle coal seams contained enough ash to justify loading the coal in a truck the second time. Of course, this justification is valid only if enough washing capacity is available from facilities with rail loading capabilities.

3. No new washing facilities were necessary; however, it was assumed that all wash plants were operated at high efficiency rates, with idealized labor needs, and at normal operating costs.

4. All surface haulage of coal was done by contractor owned and operated trucks. Coal haulage contract costs for the southeast Kentucky, southern West Virginia, and southwestern Virginia areas were calculated as a fixed cost per truck plus a cost per ton mile. These are included in the mine cost models as a basis for calculating the coal haulage costs. Escalating factors are used in the models

to keep costs on a current level. Table B-4 shows the one-way haulage distance and the cost assigned to each zone, for the Matewan quadrangle, as used in this study.

Table B-4.—Haulage distance one way and assigned cost by zone

Zone	Distance (miles)	Cost (dollars)
1	0.25	0.54
2	1.00	.65
3	1.00	.65
4	3.00	.95
5	1.75	.76
6	.65	.60
7	1.00	.65
8	3.00	.95
9	5.00	1.25
10	7.00	1.55
11	8.25	1.74
12	1.50	.73
13	3.00	.95
14	1.00	.65
15	1.00	.65
16	3.00	.95

The next recovery calculation deals with cleaning (washing) the ROM product to produce a salable product. The preparation plant recovery, and the resulting salable product, are calculated for each haulage zone by mining method and seam thickness category (tables B5-B8). Review of the central Appalachian coal quality data, modern coal preparation plants, and coal spot and contract markets provided a basis for the models. The following items were of considerable importance:

1. Coal washing did not significantly improve the sulfur content in the salable product (i.e., most of the sulfur was tied up in the organic material, not as pyrite; therefore, it could not be easily removed).
2. Most of the modern preparation facilities examined had processes that would recover an average of 94% of the available coal from the ROM tonnage and would substitute only 6% of the parting material for coal in the final washed product. These average figures were incorporated into the recovery model because definitive density and washability information was not available in sufficient detail for most seams in the quadrangle.
3. The assumed cutoff between washed and direct-shipped coal was based on an ash content of 9%, or greater, in the ROM product. In-seam parting material and out-of-seam dilution were assumed to be 100% ash.

Parting material density was assumed to be 2,400 tons per acre-foot. Coal was assumed to have a density of 1,800 tons per acre-foot.

The total recoverable resource is calculated by subtracting from the total original resource (including coal, in-seam parting, and mining dilution) previously mined-out and/or abandoned resources and resources unavailable due to environmental, technical, and barrier restrictions.

From the minable resources for each mining method, the associated mining and washing losses are subtracted. This results in the amount of recoverable resource that is available for sale, with no quality or mining cost restrictions included. Table B-9 exhibits the results of the recovery calculations for one seam. The recoverable resources—by haulage zone, mining method, and seam thickness category—are then used in the mine costing models to generate the operating costs for these recoverable coal tonnages.

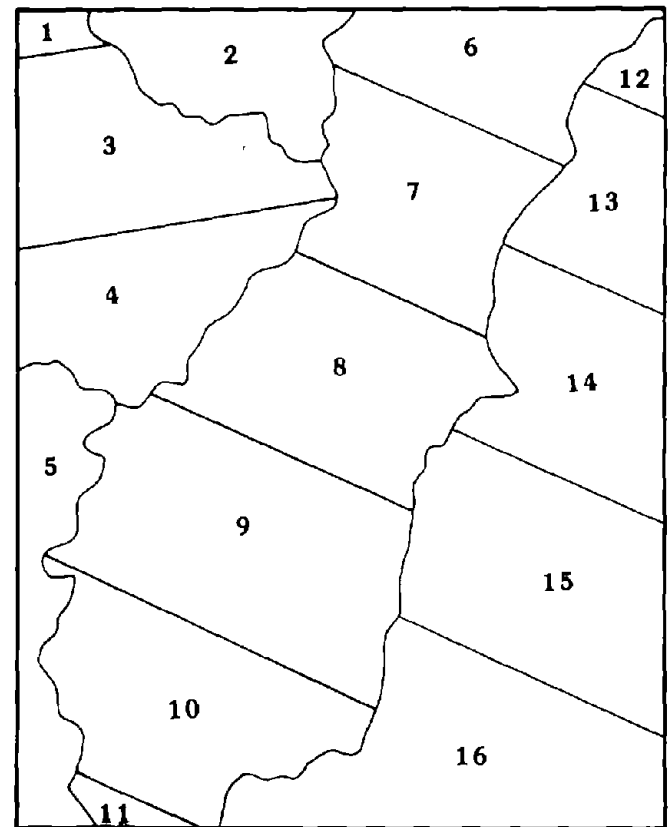


Figure B-3.—Matewan quadrangle haulage zones.

Table B-7.--Longwall-recoverable resources and cost ranges

***** LONGWALL SALES - ALL THICKNESSES *****										SalesableSaleableSaleableSaleableSaleable Tons in Tons in Tons in Tons in Tons in RANGE RANGE RANGE RANGE RANGE									
MATEWAN QUADRANGLE LOWER WHITESBURG B SEAM										SalesableSaleableSaleableSaleableSaleable Tons in Tons in Tons in Tons in Tons in RANGE RANGE RANGE RANGE RANGE									
Haul Zone	Thick (in)	Acres	Coal Tons	Parting Tons in seam	Dilution out of seam	Minable Resource	Washed Coal	Washed Parting	Washed Resource	% Mine Recovery	ROM Tons	WVP Recovery	Saleable Tons	Cost/ton (in car)	Tons in <\$25 RANGE	Tons in \$25-30 RANGE	Tons in \$30-40 RANGE	Tons in \$40-50 RANGE	Tons in >\$50 RANGE
1	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
1	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
1	>96	75.74	755800	16984	60592	833376	695336	3103	698439	0.78	650034	0.838	544783	\$24.62	0	544783	0	0	0
2	42-7	1.4	14115	556	560	15231	12986	45	13031	0.78	11880	0.856	10164	\$28.22	0	10164	0	0	0
2	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
3	42-7	38.42	358053	25510	30736	414299	329409	2250	331659	0.78	323153	0.801	258694	\$25.25	0	258694	0	0	0
3	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
3	>96	193.68	1595734	55573	154944	1806251	1468075	8421	1476496	0.78	1408876	0.817	1151667	\$25.58	0	1151667	0	0	0
4	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
4	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
5	42-7	32.57	298378	13151	26056	337584	274508	1568	276076	0.78	263316	0.818	215339	\$25.58	0	215339	0	0	0
5	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
5	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
6	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
6	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
6	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
7	42-7	45.25	441210	22322	36200	499732	405913	2341	408254	0.78	389791	0.817	318438	\$25.31	0	318438	0	0	0
7	72-9	37.82	380017	20877	15128	416022	349616	1440	351056	0.78	324497	0.844	273823	\$21.99	0	273823	0	0	0
7	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
8	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
8	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
8	>96	62.08	596766	43940	49664	690370	549025	3744	552769	0.78	538488	0.801	431160	\$26.47	0	431160	0	0	0
9	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
9	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
9	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
10	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
10	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
10	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
11	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
11	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
11	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
12	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
12	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
12	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
13	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
13	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
13	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
14	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
14	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
14	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
15	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
15	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
15	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
16	42-7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
16	72-9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
16	>96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0
					487 4440073	373880	5012866	4084867	22912	4107779	0.78	3910035	0.819	3204067		818606	2385461	0	0

TOTAL TONS <\$25 RANGE: 818,606
 TOTAL TONS \$25-30 RANGE: 2,385,461
 TOTAL TONS \$30-40 RANGE: 0
 TOTAL TONS \$40-50 RANGE: 0
 TOTAL TONS >\$50 RANGE: 3,204,067
 TOTAL TONS 3,204,067
 CHECK 3,204,067

Table B-8.--Auger-recoverable resources and cost ranges

MATEMAN QUADRANGLE LOWER WHITESBURG B SEAM										***** AUGER SALES - ALL THICKNESSES *****										Saleable Saleable Saleable Saleable S									
Hauling Zone (in Acres) @1800t/AF@2400t/AF										SEAM THICK (feet) <----- Calculated auger data -----										ROM Tons Recovery XWP Saleable Tons Cost/ton (in car) Range									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
12-36	10.79	19641	2667	1.11	8521	24479	2347	26826	19829	211	20039	0.30	8048	0.747	6012	\$24.89	6012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	54.41	225566	596	0.00	20747	118813	5716	124528	109020	241	109261	0.30	37339	0.877	32778	\$22.04	32778	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	142.32	1154726	5341	4.32	27688	310982	12628	318009	287688	762	287688	0.30	73382	0.853	25275	\$22.83	25275	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	105.93	346067	3479	1.84	10977	126928	13692	332420	16713	222	16713	0.30	59746	0.883	37080	\$22.40	37080	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	59.45	156882	12849	2.30	31933	218859	10285	225136	11414	683	152095	0.30	67514	0.853	57629	\$22.86	57629	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	207.78	1515332	62701	4.18	41763	453126	12056	471182	405791	1212	407003	0.30	141414	0.863	122101	\$22.63	122101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	156.7	1282155	103926	1.98	8857	43574	2440	46014	40015	101	40116	0.30	13804	0.872	12035	\$22.27	12035	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	21.14	168462	3144	0.00	28596	350423	7878	358301	298217	1366	299583	0.30	107490	0.836	89875	\$18.86	89875	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	185.36	1885156	355855	6.45	25288	425813	6966	432780	329542	2983	332525	0.30	129834	0.768	99757	\$19.96	99757	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	348.17	3393343	604602	2.18	49914	797009	13750	811659	623062	5370	628432	0.30	243458	0.714	188532	\$20.72	188532	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	287.81	2683344	336389	5.76	43001	638905	11847	650552	523357	3317	525714	0.30	195226	0.808	157717	\$21.99	157717	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	141.63	1029807	129846	1.75	49294	219113	13580	232893	184984	1273	186257	0.30	98489	0.803	79085	\$22.77	79085	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	0.88	1697	0	1.07	723	320533	199	2119	0	0	263618	0.30	636	1.000	636	\$19.13	636	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.000	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	23.6	261032	108072	8.05	2579	56514	710	57220	36770	690	37460	0.30	17167	0.655	11238	\$23.01	11238	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	108.84	1168170	437802	7.00	12545	259112	3456	262568	173391	2964	176355	0.30	78730	0.672	52907	\$23.19	52907	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	28.73	216689	40722	4.78	5288	65987	1457	67444	51104	476	51866	0.30	20233	0.765	13474	\$22.02	13474	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-36	17.52	50811	4437	1.71	9014	39251	2483	41734	33200	226	33426	0.30	12520	0.801	10028	\$24.03	10028	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2120.62	16620460	2256580	4.80	472701	4779570	130221	4909791	3952319	24467	3976786	0.30	1472937	0.810	1193672	1188672	5000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOTAL TONS <\$25 RANGE: 1,186,722
 TOTAL TONS \$25-30 RANGE: 5,000
 TOTAL TONS \$30-40 RANGE: 0
 TOTAL TONS \$40-50 RANGE: 0
 TOTAL TONS >\$50 RANGE: 0

TOTAL AUGER MINABLE COAL TONS -4,208,216
 TOTAL AUGER MINABLE PARTING TON 571,354

Table 8-9.--Recoverable resources--one seam summary

HATHAWAY QUADRANGLE
LOWER WHITESBURG B SEAM

***** RECOVERABLE RESOURCE CALCULATION *****

	COAL TONS	PARTING TONS	DILUTION TONS	TOTAL IN- PLACE TONS	% OF TOTAL	% MINE RECOVERY	R.O.M TONS RECOVERED	% WASH RECOVERY	TONS FINISHED PRODUCT
TOTAL IN-PLACE RESOURCES =	57,459,000	5,887,298	2,945,034	66,291,332	100.00				
ACT/ABN UNDERG. MINES =	0	0	0	0	0.00				
ACT/ABN SURFACE MINES =	0	0	0	0	0.00				
MINED OUT RESOURCES =	0	0	0	0	0.00				
ENVIRON. RESTRICTIONS =	853,393	115,866	21,777	991,036	1.49				
TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS =	2,011,792	176,199	128,079	2,316,070	3.49				
BARRIER RESTRICTIONS =	3,907,212	342,207	248,749	4,498,168	6.79				
TOTAL RESTRICTIONS =	6,772,397	634,272	398,605	7,805,274	11.77				
SURFACE MINABLE RESOURCES:									
AUGER =	4,208,216	571,354	130,221	4,909,791	7.41	0.30	1,472,937	0.810	1,193,672
CONTOUR STRIP =	16,620,460	2,256,580	424,124	19,301,164	29.12	0.92	17,713,278	0.797	14,121,640
MOUNTAIN TOP REMOVAL =	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.000	0
UNDERGROUND MINABLE RESOURCES:									
CONTINUOUS MINER =	25,417,854	2,226,179	1,618,204	29,262,237	44.14	0.62	18,172,422	0.804	14,613,332
LONGWALL =	4,440,073	198,913	373,880	5,012,866	7.56	0.78	3,910,035	0.819	3,204,067
TOTAL MINABLE RESOURCES =	50,666,603	5,253,026	2,546,429	58,466,058	88.23	0.71	41,268,673	0.803	33,132,712

AUGER RESOURCES		PERCENT
MINABLE RESOURCES	4,909,791	100.00
MINE LOSS RATE	0.70	
TONS LOST IN MINING	3,436,854	70.00
WASH PLANT LOSS RATE	0.19	
TONS LOST DURING WASHING	279,266	5.69
TOTAL TONS RECOVERED	1,193,672	24.31

CONTINUOUS MINER RESOURCES		PERCENT
MINABLE RESOURCES	29,262,237	100.00
MINE LOSS RATE	0.38	
TONS LOST IN MINING	11,089,815	37.90
WASH PLANT LOSS RATE	0.20	
TONS LOST DURING WASHING	3,559,090	12.16
TOTAL TONS RECOVERED	14,613,332	49.94

CONTOUR STRIP RESOURCES		PERCENT
MINABLE RESOURCES	19,301,164	100.00
MINE LOSS RATE	0.08	
TONS LOST IN MINING	1,587,886	8.23
WASH PLANT LOSS RATE	0.20	
TONS LOST DURING WASHING	3,591,638	18.61
TOTAL TONS RECOVERED	14,121,640	73.16

LONGWALL RESOURCES		PERCENT
MINABLE RESOURCES	5,012,866	100.00
MINE LOSS RATE	0.22	
TONS LOST IN MINING	1,102,830	22.00
WASH PLANT LOSS RATE	0.18	
TONS LOST DURING WASHING	705,968	14.08
TOTAL TONS RECOVERED	3,204,067	63.92

MOUNTAIN TOP RESOURCES		PERCENT
MINABLE RESOURCES	0	0.00
MINE LOSS RATE	0.00	
TONS LOST IN MINING	0	0.00
WASH PLANT LOSS RATE	0.00	
TONS LOST DURING WASHING	0	0.00
TOTAL TONS RECOVERED	0	0.00

RESTRICTED RESOURCES		PERCENT
RESTRICTED TONS	7,805,274	100.00
BARRIER RESTRICTIONS	4,498,168	57.63

RECOVERABLE RESOURCES		PERCENT
TOTAL RESOURCES	66,291,332	100.00
RESOURCES PREV. MINED	0	0.00
RESTRICTED RESOURCES	7,805,274	11.77
MINING-LOSS RESOURCES	17,217,385	25.97
WASH-LOSS RESOURCES	8,135,961	12.27
RECOVERABLE RESOURCES	33,132,712	49.98

RECOVERABLE TONS COST SUMMARY

	AUGER	CONT. STRIP	MTN.TO	CONT. MINE	LONGWALL	TOTAL	PERCENT
TONS OF COAL IN <\$25 RANGE:	1,188,672	3,903,316	0	701,449	818,606	6,612,043	19.96
TONS OF COAL IN \$25-\$30 RANGE:	5,000	10,193,292	0	12,432,658	2,385,461	25,016,411	75.50
TONS OF COAL IN \$30-\$40 RANGE:	0	25,032	0	1,479,226	0	1,504,258	4.54
TONS OF COAL IN \$40-\$50 RANGE:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
TONS OF COAL IN >\$50 RANGE:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
TOTALS	1,193,672	14,121,640	0	14,613,332	3,204,067	33,132,712	100.00
CHECK	1,193,672	14,121,640	0	14,613,332	3,204,067	33,132,712	

ASSUMPTIONS AND RELEVANT INFORMATION:

COAL ACRES IN AREA =	2,120.62
AVE. AUGER PENETRATION =	60
LONGWALL EFFECTIVE RATIO =	20

COAL DENSITY (T/AC-FT) =	1.800
SQ.FT./ACRE =	43,560
BARRIER RESOURCE =	9,407,715
(tons in int.)	

APPENDIX C.—COST MODEL EXAMPLE

Once the mining type and the equipment to be used were finalized, the costs and depreciations associated with the equipment were developed. This procedure was done for each mining thickness category using that mining method in order to develop a total cost (f.o.b., rail car) for the coal for each haulage zone. In addition, these models were designed so that they can be updated by entering new information in the assumption list at the front of each model. Only the underground costing model is presented in table C-1, but a costing model was developed for each mining thickness category using each mining method.

The number of calculations involved in doing 21 seams, with as many as 16 haulage zones per seam and 9 types of mining per seam, required that an interactive model be developed. As stated previously, COALVAL accomplished this with Lotus 1-2-3 macros and linkage of spreadsheets. Furthermore, it soon became apparent, as this interactive model was being developed, that the use of the model would be useful and timesaving for the Bureau, the coal industry, and others looking into large resource modeling projects. Therefore, a fully developed and documented model that can be used in a generic situation is in the development stages.

Costing Models Layout

As mentioned before, the productivity of a mine is often directly related to the thickness of the coal seam being mined. This is true for both surface and underground mining operations. After deciding on the ranges of seam thickness that represented logical breaks in the productivity, the authors collected the mine equipment cost, production data for the equipment, and manning information that was based on the seam thickness involved with the model. As much as possible, the model was fashioned after a corporate cost sheet. The major factors were divided into direct and indirect operating costs, overhead, and preparation. The layout of the costing model includes a front page of 32 assumptions used in the cost calculations and a second page summary of the cost involved in operating the particular type of mine. Following that is the heart of the cost model—the specific information and detailed calculations that are used to develop the summary on page 2 of the cost model. Since the same thinking and assumptions are used in all models, only the values change from model to model. For each mining method, the model takes into account the following:

1. Mining unit: The major equipment required to make up a mining unit is listed. The number of operating units and shifts worked by each piece of equipment are noted. Then the repair and maintenance (R&M) cost per

hour, fuel and lubrication (F&L) cost per hour, and depreciation (DEPREC) cost per hour are entered. These values are derived from industry data and manufacturers' specifications and pricing lists. The respective costs for R&M, F&L, and DEPREC are then calculated for the predefined shift and daily totals. This result is then used in the line item, "DEPRECIATION," on page 2 of the cost sheet. Costs for depreciation are on a straightline basis and equipment life is relative to industry standards.

2. Payroll: Labor costs are made up of three general categories—production staff, auxiliary employees, and mine management and staff. The number of hourly and salaried employees needed to operate a mining unit is determined from Bureau publications, in-house property evaluations, published articles, "Coal Mining Technology" (9), and industry experience. The number of divisional and corporate staff (listed in "OVERHEAD" on page 2) depends on the size and structure of the corporation. Since it has been assumed that one entity owns or manages the entire resource (for maximum recovery), this study assumes that some divisional and corporate staff is needed, but the numbers are minimized to enable minimum effect on the profit. For hourly costs, both nonunion and United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) labor wages and burden must be considered. For this study, a range is used that uses information from the present UMWA contract and the norm for nonunion mines that have been evaluated in each geographical area. For salary costs, a norm between the most recently published "Coalfield Salary Survey" (24) and salaries observed in Bureau mine evaluations has been used. The burden used is from Bureau mine evaluations.

3. Taxes: Tax rates are generally available from each State office of taxation.

4. Development costs: Development costs are the costs associated with developing a property and are amortized on an annual basis.

Other items on the page 2 summary for each model are developed from the original list of assumptions, set out on page 1, and include:

1. Explosives: Drilling and blasting costs applicable to underground mining are not considered due to the exclusive use of continuous miners and longwall mining methods in the study. Surface drilling and blasting costs are derived from industry and Bureau publications.

2. Utilities: Utility costs, such as electricity and water, are public information available from the applicable rate control agency.

3. Auto expense: This cost is incurred for the use of vehicles by the supervisory personnel. Industry contacts

and Bureau mine evaluations are the sources for this information.

4. Insurance: Property insurance is based on a percent per \$100 property valuation. The sources for this expense are industry contacts and Bureau mine evaluations.

5. Professional services: The costs of professional services address such subjects as engineering and environmental services, coal crushing and processing, accounting, project management, safety, and training. These costs were obtained from industry contacts.

6. Trucking: One of the highest cost items in the mine operating cost is the transportation cost from the mine to the wash plant/loadout facilities served by the railroad. Based on present preparation plant locations within and

around the Matewan quadrangle, truck haulage routes and zones were developed so that loaded trucks haul downhill. Although paved roads pass through some gaps, all travel is confined to the same watershed from which the coal is mined. Mileage calculations are made from the estimated geographic center of each zone and the cost-per-ton mile applied to haul distances. Haulage costs vary from \$0.65 per ton to more than \$3 per ton.

7. Other: Several generalized costs, including road maintenance, roof control material, coal transportation, supplies, licenses, and permits, are accounted for within various other cost categories. These costs were obtained from industry contacts and Bureau mine evaluations.

Table C-1.--Standard costing model (example)

CONTINUOUS MINER/ROOM & PILLAR (WITH RETREAT CAVING)- MINE COSTS
(24-42" MINING HEIGHT)

ASSUMPTIONS:

394	-RAW TONS PRODUCED/UNIT-SHIFT	
240	-DAYS WORKED/YEAR - PRODUCTION EMPLOYEES	
240	-DAYS WORKED/YEAR - AUXILIARY EMPLOYEES	
2	-NUMBER OF CONTINUOUS MINER UNITS	
2	-SHIFTS/DAY - PRODUCTION	
5	-DAYS/WEEK - PRODUCTION EMPLOYEES	
5	-DAYS/WEEK - AUXILIARY EMPLOYEES	
3	-SHIFTS/DAY - PRODUCTION PLUS MAINTENANCE	
35%	-BURDEN RATE - HOURLY AND SALARY	
110%	-BLACK LUNG TAX (SAME AS \$1.10/TON)	
\$548	-OP. SUPPLIES/UNIT-SHIFT (ROOF SUPPORT MATERIALS, PIPE, ETC.)	
\$0	-EQUIPMENT RENT/UNIT/YEAR	
\$15,508	-GENERAL UTILITIES/MONTH	
\$700	-AUTO EXPENSES/SALARIED EMPLOYEE (PER MONTH)	
\$0.30	-PROPERTY INSURANCE/\$100 OF CAPITAL VALUATION	
\$0.05	-\$/TON PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (PERMITTING, ENGINEERING, ETC)	
\$362	-GENERAL EXPENSES/UNIT-SHIFT (CONTRACT SERVICES, MISC. EXPENSES)	
\$2.50	-\$/TON ROYALTY RATE	
\$0.15	-\$/TON RECLAMATION TAX (SMCRA)	
\$0.60	-\$/TON DEPLETION	
\$90,000	-OVERHEAD ALLOCATED/YEAR	
\$0.06	-RECLAMATION PROVISION (COST/CLEAN TON)	
\$1.00	-\$/TON RAIL LOADOUT COSTS	
\$2.85	-PREPARATION PLANT COST/RAW TON OF COAL	
\$0.65	-TRUCK HAULAGE COST (\$/RAW TON)	
80%	-COAL RECOVERED FROM WASH PLANT	
0%	-RAW MINED COAL DIRECTLY SALEABLE (WITHOUT WASHING)	
13%	-FACTOR FOR HOURLY PAYROLL (FOR O.T. & PERS. DAYS @ <= FIVE DAYS/WEEK WORK SCHED.)	
18%	-FACTOR FOR HOURLY PAYROLL (FOR O.T. & PERS. DAYS @ SIX DAYS/WEEK WORK SCHED.)	
18%	-FACTOR FOR HOURLY PAYROLL (FOR O.T. & PERS. DAYS @ SEVEN DAYS/WEEK WORK SCHED.)	
\$27.00	-COAL SALES PRICE/CLEAN TON (BASED ON QUALITY)	
128,640	-TOTAL EMPLOYEE-HOURS/YEAR	
18.82	-CLEAN TONS/EMPLOYEE-SHIFT	
23.52	-RAW TONS/EMPLOYEE-SHIFT	
\$29.24	-COST 1N CAR	

ALSO:

- THE CM MINE IS SET UP WITH TWO COMPLETE PRODUCTION UNITS. EQUIPMENT IS SCHEDULED FOR TWO SHIFTS/DAY, FIVE DAYS/WEEK, WITH GENERAL AND PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE AND BELT MOVES SCHEDULED FOR THE THIRD SHIFT EACH DAY, FIVE DAYS/WEEK.
- REPAIR, SUPPLY, AND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WILL BE SHARED BETWEEN PRODUCTION UNITS.
- ALL SURFACE SITE MAINTENANCE (SUCH AS, SNOW REMOVAL AND ROAD MAINTENANCE) WILL BE DONE BY THE SURFACE MINING OPERATIONS.
- PRODUCTIVITY IS ASSUMED TO BE A FUNCTION OF MINING HEIGHT AND MINING HEIGHTS ARE ASSUMED TO BE SEAM THICKNESS
- UNDERGROUND MINING CONFIGURATIONS LESS THAN 42" CONTRIBUTE 4" OF OUT-OF-SEAM DILUTION. CONFIGURATIONS GREATER THAN 42" CONTRIBUTE 2" OF DILUTION (UNDER IDEAL CONDITIONS).

Table C-1.--Standard costing model (example)--Continued

TWO CONT. MINER UNITS (24-42" MINING HEIGHT)		
RAW TONS PER YEAR CLEAN TONS		
	378,240 302,592	
DIRECT COSTS		COST/TON
PAYROLL	\$2,484,775	\$8.21
BURDEN	\$869,671	\$2.87
FUEL & LUBES	\$88,932	\$0.29
EXPLOSIVES	\$0	\$0.00
OTHER PRODUCTION SUPPLIES	\$526,132	\$1.74
REPAIR PARTS/MAINT.SUPL.	\$417,720	\$1.38
UTILITIES	\$186,094	\$0.62
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$0	\$0.00
AUTO EXPENSE	\$58,800	\$0.19
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$15,130	\$0.05
RECLAMATION PROVISION	\$18,156	\$0.06
TRUCKING	\$245,856	\$0.81
GENERAL EXPENSES	\$347,603	\$1.15
TIPPLE COST	\$1,077,984	\$3.56
DEPRECIATION	\$446,769	\$1.48
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	\$6,783,621	\$22.42
INDIRECT COSTS		
DEPLETION	\$181,555	\$0.60
MINE DEV. AMORTIZATION	\$185,243	\$0.61
OVERHEAD	\$90,000	\$0.30
INSURANCE	\$14,865	\$0.05
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	\$471,663	\$1.56
TAXES	\$836,458	\$2.76
ROYALTIES	\$756,480	\$2.50
COST IN CAR	\$8,848,222	\$29.24

Table C-1.--Standard costing model (example)--Continued

EQUIPMENT OPERATING COST CALCULATIONS													
PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT	# UNITS 1ST SHIFT	# UNITS 2ND SHIFT	# UNITS 3RD SHIFT	HRS WORKED PER SHIFT	TOTAL R&M PER DAY	TOTAL F&L PER DAY	TOTAL DEPR PER DAY	R&M PER HOUR	F&L PER HOUR	DEPR PER HOUR			
CONTINUOUS MINERS	2	2	0	8	\$848.00	\$123.20	\$960.00	\$26.50	\$3.85	\$30.00	CONTINUOUS MINERS		
SHUTTLE CARS	4	4	0	8	\$416.00	\$112.00	\$420.16	\$6.50	\$1.75	\$6.57	SHUTTLE CARS		
ROOF BOLTERS	2	2	0	8	\$176.00	\$48.00	\$247.68	\$5.50	\$1.50	\$7.74	ROOF BOLTERS		
SCOOPS	2	2	0	8	\$136.00	\$32.00	\$98.88	\$4.25	\$1.00	\$3.09	SCOOPS		
SURF-4cy LOADER	1	0	0	4	\$20.00	\$17.44	\$20.60	\$5.00	\$4.36	\$5.15	SURF-4cy LOADER		
GRADER	1	0	0	1	\$4.00	\$3.16	\$4.79	\$4.00	\$3.16	\$4.79	GRADER		
DAILY TOTAL	12	10	0		\$1,600.00	\$335.80	\$1,752.11						
ANNUAL TOTAL					\$384,000	\$80,592	\$420,505						
AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT	# UNITS 1ST SHIFT	# UNITS 2ND SHIFT	# UNITS 3RD SHIFT	HRS WORKED PER SHIFT	TOTAL R&M PER DAY	TOTAL F&L PER DAY	TOTAL DEPR PER DAY	R&M PER HOUR	F&L PER HOUR	DEPR PER HOUR			
UTILITY SCOOP	1	1	1	8	\$96.00	\$24.00	\$74.16	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$3.09	UTILITY SCOOP		
PERSONNEL CARRIERS	3	3	1	1	\$17.50	\$3.50	\$8.05	\$2.50	\$0.50	\$1.15	PERSONNEL CARRIERS		
ROCK DUSTER	1	0	0	1	\$1.00	\$0.25	\$0.96	\$1.00	\$0.25	\$0.96	ROCK DUSTER		
SPARE SHUTTLE CARS	2	2	0	1	\$26.00	\$7.00	\$26.26	\$6.50	\$1.75	\$6.57	SPARE SHUTTLE CARS		
DAILY TOTAL	7	6	2		\$140.50	\$34.75	\$109.43						
ANNUAL TOTAL					\$33,720	\$8,340	\$26,264						
ANNUAL GRAND TOTAL					\$417,720	\$88,932	\$446,769						

Table C-1. --Standard costing model (example)--Continued

PAYROLL	# OF EMPS 1ST SHIFT	# OF EMPS 2ND SHIFT	# OF EMPS 3RD SHIFT	HRS/SHIFT	PAYROLL RATE/DAY	GRADE	BASE RATE	RATE/HR 1st SHIFT	RATE/HR 2nd SHIFT +0.30/hr	RATE/HR 3rd SHIFT +0.40/hr
PRODUCTION EMPLOYEES										
CONT. MINER OPER.	2	2	0	8	\$561.40	5	\$16.615	\$17.39	\$17.69	\$17.79
CONT. MINER HELPER	2	2	0	8	\$547.84	4	\$16.210	\$16.97	\$17.27	\$17.37
SHUTTLE CAR OPER.	4	4	0	8	\$1,071.08	3	\$15.843	\$16.59	\$16.89	\$16.99
ROOF BOLTER OPER.	4	4	0	8	\$1,122.81	5	\$16.615	\$17.39	\$17.69	\$17.79
SCOOP OPERATOR	2	2	0	8	\$535.54	3	\$15.843	\$16.59	\$16.89	\$16.99
Table continues to right and down										
TOTAL-1ST. SHIFT	14				\$1,902.53					
TOTAL-2ND. SHIFT		14			\$1,936.13					
TOTAL-3RD. SHIFT			0		\$0.00					
TOTAL PRODUCTION PAYROLL	28				\$3,838.66					
OVERTIME FACTOR					0.13					
TOTAL WITH O.T. PAY					\$4,337.69					
AUXILIARY EMPLOYEES										
SCOOP OPERATOR	1	1	0	8	\$267.77	3	\$15.843	\$16.59	\$16.89	\$16.99
POCKETMEN	2	2	0	8	\$535.54	3	\$15.843	\$16.59	\$16.89	\$16.99
SUPPLYMEN	1	1	0	8	\$262.83	1	\$15.548	\$16.28	\$16.58	\$16.68
LAMPMAN/WAREHOUSE	1	1	0	8	\$262.83	1	\$15.548	\$16.28	\$16.58	\$16.68
BELT MAINT/CLEANUP	2	2	2	8	\$792.49	1	\$15.548	\$16.28	\$16.58	\$16.68
MECHANICS	2	2	4	8	\$1,130.80	5	\$16.615	\$17.39	\$17.69	\$17.79
ELECTRICIANS	1	1	1	8	\$423.05	5	\$16.615	\$17.39	\$17.69	\$17.79
SURF. UTILITY OPER.	1	0	0	8	\$132.69	3	\$15.843	\$16.59	\$16.89	\$16.99
TOTAL-1ST. SHIFT	11				\$1,469.05					
TOTAL-2ND. SHIFT		10			\$1,360.37					
TOTAL-3RD. SHIFT			7		\$978.58					
TOTAL AUXILIARY PAYROLL	28				\$3,808.00					
OVERTIME FACTOR					0.13					
TOTAL WITH O.T. PAY					\$4,303.04					
TOTAL HRLY EMPLS PER SHIFT	25	24	7							
TOTAL HOURLY EMPLOYEES	56									
TOTAL ANNUAL HOURLY PAYROLL					\$2,073,775					

Table C-1.--Standard costing model (example)--Continued

MINE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF					
	# EMPL 1ST SHIFT	# EMPL 2ND SHIFT	# EMPL 3RD SHIFT	BASE SALARY PER YEAR	TOT SALARY PER YEAR
GENERAL MANAGER	1			\$57,000	\$57,000
PRODUCTION FOREMEN	2	2		\$42,000	\$168,000
MAINT. FOREMEN	1		1	\$40,000	\$80,000
MINE ACCNT/PUR.AGENT	1			\$40,000	\$40,000
MINE CLERK	1			\$18,000	\$18,000
TECHS./SURVEYORS	2			\$24,000	\$48,000
TOTAL ANNUAL SALARY					\$411,000
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WITH COMPANY AUTOS		7			
TOTAL SALARIED EMPLOYEES		11			
TOTAL RAW TONS PROD. COAL PER YEAR			378,240		
%RAW SALABLE			0%		
RAW TONS SALABLE			0		
RAW TONS COAL TO WASHER			378,240		
% REC			80%		
CLEAN TONS WASHED COAL			302,592		
TOTAL TONS COAL SOLD			302,592		
TIPPLE COST	COST PER TON	TONS/ YEAR	COST/ YEAR		
RAIL LOADOUT (RAW COAL)	\$1.00	0	\$0		
PREP PLANT (WASHED COAL)	\$2.85	378,240	\$1,077,984		
TOTAL TIPPLE COST			\$1,077,984		
TAXES	TAX RATE	TAXED PRODUCT	COST/ YEAR	COST PER TON	
SALES	5.00%	\$1,652,146	\$82,607	\$0.27	
SEVERANCE	4.50%	\$302,592	\$356,586	\$1.18	
REAL PROPERTY	\$1.09	\$185,243	\$604	\$0.00	
TANGIBLE PROPERTY	\$1.13	\$4,954,900	\$16,855	\$0.06	
RECLAMATION (SMCRA)	\$0.15	\$302,592	\$45,389	\$0.15	
STATE MINL TAX (UNMINED)	\$0.21	\$302,592	\$1,566	\$0.01	
BLACK LUNG TAX	\$1.10	\$302,592	\$332,851	\$1.10	
TOTAL TAX / YEAR			\$836,458	\$2.76	

TAX DEFINITION: 1) Sales taxes are based on the total capital cost/8 yr. ave. life + annual taxable items.

2) Severance taxes are based on the sold tons times their realization, minus the cost of road transportation.

3) Real property taxes are based on 30% of the assessed valuation times the amortization (property-buildings+ improvements) times the tax rate.

4) Tangible property tax is based on the total capital cost times the property assessment rate times the tax rate.

5) Federal reclamation taxes are based on the sold tons times the tax rate.

6) State mineral taxes on unmined reserves (annual planned production) is based on the sold tons times the coal value (usually the royalty rate) times the tax rate.

7) Black lung taxes are based on sold tons times tax rate.

TAX RATES: PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION					
STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE MINL TAX	
REAL PROP	REAL PROP	TANG PROP	TANG PROP		
0.45	0.6365	0.45	0.6839		\$0.21
		COAL	PROP	BLACK LUNG	
		VALUE/T	ASSES	TAX	
CONSTANTS:		\$2.50	30.00%	\$1.10	
		SEVERANCE	SALES		
		TAX	TAX		
		4.50%	5.00%		

TAX DEFINITION: 1) Sales taxes are based on the total capital cost/8 yr. ave. life + annual taxable items.
 2) Severance taxes are based on the sold tons times their realization, minus the cost of road transportation.
 3) Real property taxes are based on 30% of the assessed valuation times the amortization (property+buildings+improvements) times the tax rate.
 4) Tangible property tax is based on the total capital cost times the property assessment rate times the tax rate.
 5) Federal reclamation taxes are based on the sold tons times the tax rate.
 6) State mineral taxes on unmined reserves (annual planned production) is based on the sold tons times the coal value (usually the royalty rate) times the tax rate.
 7) Black lung taxes are based on sold tons times tax rate.

TAX RATES: PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION

STATE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTY	STATE MINL
REAL PROP	REAL PROP	TANG PROP	TANG PROP	TAX
0.45	0.6365	0.45	0.6839	\$0.21

CONSTANTS:

COAL	PROP	BLACK LUNG
VALUE/T	ASSESS	TAX
\$2.50	30.00%	\$1.10

SEVERANCE TAX 4.50%
 SALES TAX 5.00%

Table C-1.--Standard costing model (example)--Continued

UMWA WAGES - 1988 CONTRACT, UNDERGROUND MINING			
EFFECTIVE DATE	02/01/90		
GRADE 5 - BASE HOURLY RATE	\$16.615		
GRADE 4 - BASE HOURLY RATE	\$16.210		
GRADE 3 - BASE HOURLY RATE	\$15.843		
GRADE 2 - BASE HOURLY RATE	\$15.620		
GRADE 1 - BASE HOURLY RATE	\$15.548		
TRAINING RATES	\$14.974		
UNION WORK CLASSIFICATIONS - UNDERGROUND MINING			

GRADE 5			
A. CONTINUOUS MINING MACHINE OPERATOR		E. LONGWALL MACHINE OPERATOR	
B. ELECTRICIAN		F. WELDER, FIRST CLASS	
C. MECHANIC		G. ROOF BOLTER	
D. FIREBOSS			
GRADE 4			
A. CUTTING MACHINE OPERATOR		F. ROCK DRILLER	
B. DISPATCHER		G. CONTINUOUS MINER HELPER - TRAINEE	
C. LOADING MACHINE OPERATOR		H. ROOF BOLTER HELPER - TRAINEE	
D. MACHINE OPERATOR HELPER		I. MAINTENANCE TRAINEE (MAX. 12 MOS.)	
E. GENERAL INSIDE REPAIRMAN AND WELDER		J. ELECTRICIAN TRAINEE (MAX. 12 MOS.)	
GRADE 3			
A. DRILLER - COAL		D. FACEMAN	
B. SHOOTER		E. DUMPER	
C. PRECISION MASON (CONSTRUCTION)		F. SHUTTLE CAR OPERATOR	
GRADE 2			
A. MOTORMAN		D. ELECTRICIAN HELPER	
B. MAINTENANCE TRAINEE (MAX. 6 MOS.)		E. MECHANIC HELPER	
C. ELECTRICIAN TRAINEE (MAX. 6 MOS.)			
GRADE 1			
A. BELTMAN		G. PUMPER	
B. BENDER		H. TIMBERMAN	
C. BRAKEMAN		I. TRACKMAN	
D. BRATTICEMAN		J. WIREMAN	
E. GENERAL INSIDE LABOR		K. LABOR - UNSKILLED	
F. MASON			

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