GEOLOGY OF THE CADOMIN EAST (83F/3) MAPSHEET

Willem Langenberg and Dale Fietz

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cadomin East (83F/3 East) mapsheet was mapped on a scale of 1:50 000. Some 4000 meters of Cretaceous and Tertiary strata are present in the area. The largely Tertiary Coalspur Formation contains the major economic coal seams, which were mined in the past and may well be mined in the near future. In addition, the upper Brazeau Formation contains coal seams up to 4 meters thick. These Brazeau coals have been insufficiently explored to make resource calculations or to establish seam correlations.

The economic coal seams of the Coalspur Formation are present in the area in three parallel bands in the Entrance Syncline and Coalspur Triangle Zone. The Mercoal band is the southernmost, contains the Mercoal Project of Manalta and dips to the northeast. The Coalspur band is in the middle and dips generally to the southwest. The Robb band is the northernmost band and contains northeast dipping strata and is less deformed than the Coalspur band.

Acknowledgements

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INTRODUCTION

The Coalspur Coalfield may well contain Alberta's next new coal mine and for this reason the AGS is performing mapping of the coal-bearing strata in this area. Another reason is that no recent geological maps exist of this area; the only available geological map is from MacKay, published in 1929. Fieldwork was performed during three weeks in the summer of 1989. The area is heavily forested and consequently the exposure of bedrock is limited. The main exposures are along McLeod River and MacKenzie Creek. Other exposures are along road, rail-road cuts and ridges formed by competent rock units.

Methodology

Information from outcrops and drill holes were collected with the TRIPOD Structural Geological Information System (Charlesworth et al., 1989). The coordinates of outcrops and drill holes are in a UTM grid (Zone 11). A geological map (enclosure) and cross sections (in preparation) were constructed with this computer system.

Outcrops

Information from 125 outcrops were entered in the database. Additional outcrop information was obtained from Johnston, 1985, and unpublished coal company exploration reports.

Drill holes

Information from 458 coal exploration drill holes were entered in the database. Most of these holes were drilled by Manalta, Luscar, Denison and Crows Nest Resources (Shell). The codes for the stratigraphic picks (including coal picks), that were entered in the database, are given in Appendix 1.

In addition, stratigraphic picks (done by the ERCB) from 12 oil and gas wells in this area were entered in the database (see maps by Carter Mapping Limited, 1987 and 1989).

STRATIGRAPHY

Some 4000 meters of Cretaceous and Tertiary strata are present in the area. The stratigraphic units are discussed separately from oldest to youngest.

Blackstone Formation

The formation consists largely of dark marine shale and siltstone, with minor beds of sandstone, bentonite and some ironstone concretions. Some 500 m of Blackstone sediments may be present in the hanging wall of the Brazeau Thrust

(enclosed map), although there may be structural repeats present. Its age is late Albian to late Turonian. Stott (1963) distinguishes 4 members in this formation, but they are not easily mappable in this poorly exposed area.

Cardium Formation

The Cardium Formation consists of marine sandstone, siltstones and shale. It forms a useful marker horizon for mapping purposes, because it is relatively thin (about 80 m) and the sandstones forms ridges, that are easy recognizable on the aerial photographs. The marine sandstones often contain hummocky cross beds and trace fossils. The Blackstone and Cardium formations form a coarsening upwards succession, indicative of a fall in relative sea-level.

Four members can be recognized in outcrop (Stott, 1963), but are too thin to be mappable on a 1:50 000 scale. The age of the formation is late Turonian to early Coniacian.

Wapiabi Formation

The Wapiabi Formation includes all the beds between the Cardium Formation and the greenish sandstones of the Brazeau Formation and is about 600 m thick. The age of the formation is Turonian to Campanian. Stott(1963) distinguishes 7 members in the Wapiabi Formation. However, the only easily mappable unit on a 1:50 000 scale is formed by the marine sandstones of the Chungo Member. For this reason the Wapiabi Formation is divided into the Upper and Lower Wapiabi members, whereby the base of the Chungo Member is used as marker horizon.

Lower Wapiabi members

The lower members are the Muskiki, Marshybank, Dowling, Thistle and Hanson members, which are dark grey, marine shales and siltstones. The Marshybank Member contains a larger percentage of siltstones and the Thistle Member consists of calcareous shales (Stott, 1963), but these members could not be mapped separately.

Upper Wapiabi members

The upper members are the Chungo and Nomad members. The Chungo consists of about 70 metres of fine grained, often reddish-brown weathering sandstones and minor siltstone. Hummocky cross-stratification and trace fossils, such as Planolites sp. and Skolithos sp., indicate that these sandstones are largely marine and clearly distinctive from the younger alluvial sandstones of the Brazeau, Coalspur and Paskapoo formations. Marine bivalves can be found.

The Nomad Member consists of dark grey marine shales in between the Chungo sandstones and the greenish sandstones of the Brazeau Formation. This member is about 30 metres thick.

Brazeau Formation

The Brazeau Formation, together with the Coalspur and Paskapoo formations forms part of the Saunders Group (Jerzykiewicz, 1985). The Brazeau Formation consists of about 1200 metres of sandstones, shales and some coal seams above the marine shales of the Wabiabi Formation and below the basal Entrance Conglomerate of the Coalspur Formation. Some exploration for coal in the Brazeau Formation has been performed by Luscar and Crows Nest Resources. Up to 4 metres of coal has been reported in their drilling programs.

Coalspur Formation

The Coalspur Formation (Jerzykiewicz, 1985) contains a 600 metres thick continental succession of interbedded sandstones, mudstones and thick economic coal seams. The base of the Coalspur Formation is the so-called Entrance Conglomerate. Thick coal seams interbedded with coaly shales and numerous bentonites occur in the upper part of the formation. This interval is known as the Coalspur coal zone (ERCB, 1989). Figure 1 shows the various coal seams in the area. The Val d'Or and Mynheer seams are recognizable in the whole area between Hinton and Coal Valley. The Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary is at the base of the Mynheer coal seam (Jerzykiewicz and Sweet, 1986). The Coalspur Formation represents a nonmarine, fluvially dominated environment of deposition.

Paskapoo Formation

The Paskapoo Formation consists of at least 1000 metres thick alluvial sandstones and mudstones above the uppermost coal seam of the Coalspur Formation, which is the Val d'Or Seam in the Cadomin area.

STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY

The major structures of the area are, from north to south the Pedley Thrust and Coalspur Triangle Zone (formerly called Coalspur Anticline), Entrance Syncline, Mercoal Thrust, Brazeau Flats, Brazeau Thrust, Brazeau Syncline and Cadomin Syncline. The economic coal seams of the Coalspur Formation are present in the area in three parallel bands in the Entrance Syncline and Coalspur Triangle Zone. The Mercoal band is the southernmost, contains the Mercoal Project of Manalta and dips about 30 degrees to the northeast. The Coalspur band is in the middle and contains the structurally thickened Coal Valley pod east of the map area and dips generally to the southwest. The Robb band is

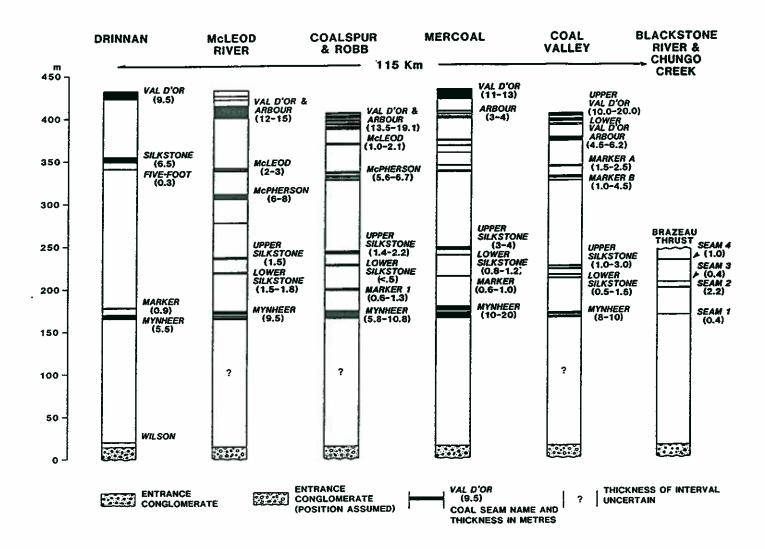


Figure 1. Nomenclature and correlation of coal seams of the Coalspur coal zone (from Jerzykiewicz, 1985).

the northernmost band and contains northeast dipping strata and is less deformed than the Coalspur band. In the Entrance Syncline, the Coalspur coals are buried at various depths (up to 1 km) and may form exploration targets for coal-bed methane.

The Pedley Thrust appears to have at least 1 km of southwest directed displacement. This fault defines the Coalspur Triangle Zone. The Mercoal Thrust may have about 2 km of southwest directed displacement and defines a triangle zone that probably formed before the Coalspur Triangle Zone. The Brazeau Thrust shows at least 3 km of northeast directed movements and places Blackstone shales on top of the Brazeau Formation. The Brazeau Syncline has an overturned southwest limb and is a tight fold.

COAL QUALITY

Coal Rank

Fourteen coal outcrops have been sampled by the AGS and the GSC between 1986 and 1989. Nine of the outcrops are of the Coalspur Formation and 5 are of the Brazeau Formation. The vitrinite reflectance analyses are presented in Appendix Random vitrinite reflectances of the Coalspur Formation samples range between 0.48 and 0.63 %, which indicates a high-volatile bituminous B and C coal rank. Formation coals range from 0.62 to 0.67 % random vitrinite reflectance, which indicates largely high-volatile bituminous B coal rank. These Brazeau coals have been insufficiently explored to make resource calculations or to establish seam They may justify additional exploration, correlations. because the quality of these coals appears to be reasonable For example, Rogan and Eldin from limited analyses. (unpublished Luscar report on the Oppelt property, Appendix 5) report on a 4 m thick seam with an average ash content of 25.3 % (dry basis), which includes 7 to 8 thin clay partings.

Coal Exploration Drill holes

Twenty five drill holes contain coal quality information (see also Macdonald et al., 1989). Coal quality data generated includes:

- 119 complete Proximate Analyses from 20 drillholes
- 180 analyses of Ash and Moisture from 18 drillholes
- 86 analyses of Sulphur from 10 drillholes
- 6 analyses of Heating Value (as-received basis) from 2 drillholes
- 157 analyses of Heating Value (air-dried basis) from 22 drillholes
- 15 analyses of Heating Value (dry basis) from 1 drill hole
- 15 complete Ultimate Analyses from 4 drill holes
- 9 analyses of FSI from 4 drill holes.
- 30 complete Ash Analyses from 16 drill holes.
- 19 complete Ash Fusibility Temperatures from 15 drill holes.
- 10 (reducing atmosphere only) Ash Fusibility Temperatures from 1 drill hole

- 3 Hardgrove Grindability Index (HGI) determinations from 3 drill holes
- 70 analyses of Equilibrium Moisture from 14 drill holes
- 3 Specific Gravity determinations from 3 drill holes.

Weighted averages of proximate analyses for the Paleocene Coalspur Formation coals (raw) have been generated for 18 of the drillholes. Results are presented in Appendix 3.

REFERENCES

- Carter Mapping Limited (1987): Cadomin mapsheet 83F3 & 6 (oil and gas well locations), Scale 1:50000.
- Carter Mapping Limited (1989): Foothills mapsheet 83F2 & 7 (oil and gas well locations), Scale 1:50 000.
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- ERCB (1989): Reserves of Coal, Province of Alberta. ERCB Report ST89-31.
- Jerzykiewicz, T. (1985): Stratigraphy of the Saunders Group in the central Alberta Foothills a progress report; Geological Survey of Canada, Paper 85-1B, pp.247-258.
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APPENDIX 1. HORIZON CODES FOR THE PICKS IN THE DATABASE OF THE COALSPUR MAPPING PROJECT

| HORIZON CODE | HORIZON DESCRIPTION | REMARKS |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| BH | Bottom_of_Hole | no geological picks in this DH |
| Р | Paskapoo Formation | |
| CS . | Coalspur Formation | |
| œ | Coalspur Coal; top 1st coal in DH | |
| CP CP | Coalspur Coal; btm 1st coal in DH | |
| ω | Coalspur Coal; top 2nd coal in DH | |
| CN | Coalspur Coal; btm 2nd coal in DH | |
| CM | Coalspur Coal; top 3rd coal in DH | |
| CL CL | Coalspur Coal; btm 3rd coal in DH | |
| CK | Coalspur Coal; top 4th coal in DH | |
| CJ | Coalspur Coal; btm 4th coal in DH | |
| CI | Coalspur Coal; top 5th coal in DH | |
| œ | Coalspur Coal; btm 5th coal in DH | |
| M6 | Marker 6 (top of) | |
| ٧ | Val d'Or Coal Zone (undif'd) | |
| VL | Top of Unit 6 of Val d'Or | |
| VK e | Btm of Unit 6 of Val d'Or | |
| VJ | Top of Unit 5 of Val d'Or | |
| VI | Btm of Unit 5 of Val d'Or | |
| VH | Top of Unit 4 of Val d'Or | |
| VG . | Btm of Unit 4 of Val d'Or | |
| VF | Top of Unit 3&2 of Val d'Or | |
| VE | Btm of Unit 3&2 of Val d'Or | |
| VD | Top of Unit 1U of Val d'Or | |
| vc | Btm of Unit 1U of Val d'Or | |
| VB | Top of Unit 1L of Val d'Or | |
| VA | Btm of Unit 1L of Val d'Or | |
| AT | Top of Arbour | |
| AB | Btm of Arbour | |
| ப | Top of Unit 3 of McLeod | |

| Œ | Btm of Unit 3 of McLeod | |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| រា | Top of Unit 2 of McLeod | used as McLeod undif'd |
| LC | Btm of Unit 2 of McLeod | as above |
| LB | Top of Unit 1 of McLeod | |
| LA | Btm of Unit 1 of McLeod | |
| PD | Top of Unit 2 of McPherson | |
| PC | Btm of Unit 2 of McPherson | |
| PB | Top of Unit 1 of McPherson | used as McPherson undif'd |
| PA | Btm of Unit 1 of McPherson | as above |
| SF | Top of Unit 3 of Silkstone | |
| SE | Btm of Unit 3 of Silkstone | |
| SD | Top of Unit 2 of Silkstone | used as Silkstone undif'd |
| SC | Btm of Unit 2 of Silkstone | as above |
| SB | Top of Unit 1 of Silkstone | |
| SA | Btm of Unit 1 of Silkstone | |
| M1 | Marker 1 (top of) | |
| ML | Top of Unit 6 of Mynheer | |
| MK | Btm of Unit 6 of Mynheer | |
| MJ | Top of Unit 5 of Mynheer | |
| MI | Btm of Unit 5 of Mynheer | |
| MH | Top of Unit 4 of Mynheer | |
| MG | Btm of Unit 4 of Mynheer | |
| MF | Top of Unit 3 of Mynheer | use as Mynheer undif'd |
| ME | Btm of Unit 3 of Mynheer | as above |
| MD | Top of Unit 2 of Mynheer | |
| MC | Btm of Unit 2 of Mynheer | |
| MB | Top of Unit 1 of Mynheer | |
| MA | Btm of Unit 1 of Mynheer | |
| Cr | Cretaceous (undif'd) | |
| EN | Entrance Conglomerate | |
| В | Brazeau Formation | |
| BT | Kbz coal; top 1st coal in DH | |
| BS | Kbz coal; btm 1st coal in DH | |
| BR | Kbz coal; top 2nd coal in DH | |
| ₽Q | Kbz coal; btm 2nd coal in DH | |
| BP | Kbz coal; top 3rd coal in DH | |

BO

Kbz coal; btm 3rd coal in DH

BN

Kbz coal; top 4th coal in DH

BM

Kbz coal; btm 4th coal in DH

BK

Kbz coal; top 5th coal in DH

BJ

Kbz coal; btm 5th coal in DH

W Wapiabi Formation

CH Chungo &/or Solomon SS

Bd Badheart Formation Mu Muskiki Formation CR. Cardium Formation BL Blackstone Formation Ka Kaskapau Formation Do Doe Creek Member Dn **Dunvegan Formation** Sh Shaftesbury Formation Ва Base Fish Scale Zone

BI Blairmore Group
Vk Viking Formation

Mp Mountain Park Formation

Ls Luscar Formation

Gl Glauconitic Sandstone
Cd Cadomin Formation
Nk Nikanassin Formation

Fr Fernie Group

Rk Rock Creek Formation

Pk Poker Chip Shale

Nr Nordegg Formation

Sp Spray River Group

Rd Rundle Group

Tv Turner Valley Formation

El Elkton Member

Sd Shunda Formation

Pe Pekisko Formation

Bf Banff Formation

Ex Exshaw Formation

Wa Wabamun Formation

| Gr | | Graminia Formation |
|----|----|--------------------|
| Br | | Blue Ridge Member |
| CI | | Calmar Formation |
| Ni | | Nisku Formation |
| Ir | 10 | Ireton Formation |
| ᅜ | | Leduc Formation |
| Sw | | Swan Hills Member |
| Fo | | Elk Point Group |

APPENDIX 2. Vitrinite reflectance measurements

| UTM (m) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------|--------|----------|------|------|--|--|--|--|
| East | North | Seam | Th (m) |) Sample | Ro | SD | | | | |
| Coalspur Formation | | | | | | | | | | |
| • | 5894200 | | 0.15 | CS89-1 | 0.48 | 0.02 | | | | |
| 496100 | 5894200 | V | | CS89-1A | 0.59 | 0.02 | | | | |
| 495200 | 5895480 | V | | CS89-2 | 0.58 | 0.03 | | | | |
| 486580 | 5893850 | | | CS89-11 | 0.54 | 0.02 | | | | |
| 496230 | 5888640 | V | 2.0 | CS89-12 | 0.58 | 0.02 | | | | |
| 497530 | 5887450 | V | | CS89-14 | 0.51 | 0.02 | | | | |
| 494470 | 5890050 | A | | CS89-16 | 0.61 | 0.01 | | | | |
| 499080 | 5892550 | V | 4.0 | 69/86 | 0.63 | | | | | |
| 498550 | 5899500 | V | 4.0 | 68/86 | 0.50 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Formation | | | | | | | | | |
| 493870 | 5889200 | | | CS89-25 | | | | | | |
| 495420 | 5878650 | | 0.50 | CS89-36 | 0.67 | 0.03 | | | | |
| 491420 | 5883510 | | | CS89-65 | 0.65 | 0.02 | | | | |
| 498250 | 5877300 | | 0.40 | CS89-107 | 0.67 | 0.03 | | | | |
| 498450 | 5879180 | | 0.10 | CS89-110 | 0.64 | 0.02 | | | | |

Th=Thickness Ro=Random vitrinite reflectance SD=Standard Deviation V=Val d'Or A=Arbour

Appendix 3. Weighted averages of proximate analyses, Coalspur Formation coals, ERCB dataset (raw coal).

for the mapsheet 83F/3 (East Half).

*N.B. -1.0 = missing data

| Hole Number | UTM Le East | ocation North | Depti Upper | | H2O AR | | | —Dry (VM | | > FC | <dry< th=""><th>/ Ash CV</th><th>Free—> FC</th></dry<> | / Ash CV | Free—> FC |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|-----------|------|-------|----------------|-------|-----------|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 434506 | 499774 | 5884821 | 93.04 | 111.94 | -1.00 | | | -1.00 | | | | | |
| 432708 | 498229 | 5886197 | 0.00 | 75.21 | -1.00 | 2.83 | 23.30 | 33.40 | 23.37 | 54.92 | 37.82 | 30.77 | 62.18 |
| 288712 | 499372 | 5885664 | 27.83 | 42.45 | -1.00 | 2.50 | 9.20 | 36.60 | 28,49 | 54.20 | 40.31 | 31.38 | 59.69 |
| 288688 | 498041 | 5887222 | 27.29 | 44.71 | -1.00 | 3.30 | 8.20 | 38.10 | 28.61 | 53.70 | 41.50 | 31.16 | 58.50 |
| 288720 | 497754 | 5887280 | 105.23 | 112.23 | -1.00 | 3.10 | 9.30 | 36.80 | 28.19 | 53.90 | 40.57 | 31.08 | 59.43 |
| 288738 | 497498 | 5887998 | 43.95 | 58.65 | -1.00 | 3.30 | 8.90 | 37.00 | 28.62 | 54.10 | 40.61 | 31.42 | 59.39 |
| 432625 | 497389 | 5887247 | 38.04 | 43.16 | -1.00 | 3.98 | 14.67 | 32.39 | 26.75 | 55.41 | 37.96 | 31.35 | 64.93 |
| 432757 | 497280 | 5887117 | 38.94 | 57.04 | -1.00 | 3.58 | 36.90 | -1.00 | 19.07 | -1.00 | -1.00 | 30.20 | -1.00 |
| 433110 | 498008 | 5887182 | 60.58 | 75.89 | -1.00 | 4.66 | 22.67 | -1.00 | 23.89 | -1.00 | -1.00 | 30.87 | -1.00 |
| 422022 | 492212 | 5891356 | 33.21 | 293.04 | -1.00 | 5.87 | 31.10 | 27.10 | 21.23 | 41.80 | 39.45 | 30.77 | 60.55 |
| 416776 | 498397 | 5899545 | 85.32 | 94.02 | 10.70 | 6.03 | 33.11 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 |
| 416784 | 498426 | 5899580 | 49.98 | 76.40 | -1.00 | 4.50 | 18.92 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 | -1.00 |
| 415935 | 499659 | 5898556 | 25.20 | 72.60 | -1.00 | 3.94 | 19.65 | 27.61 | 22.65 | 46.16 | 33.94 | 27.84 | 56.76 |
| 416008 | 499702 | 5898593 | 47.44 | 63.42 | -1.00 | | | -1.00 | | | | | |
| 416099 | 499464 | 5898959 | 143.45 | 234.70 | -1.00 | . – | | | | | | | -1.00 |
| | | 5899101 | 59.66 | | -1.00 | | | | | | | | -1.00 |
| | | 5899651 | 123.58 | 217.40 | | | | | | | | | -1.00 |
| | | 5899160 | 135.34 | 385.54 | | | | | | | | | 61.00 |

- APPENDIX 4. Unpublished reports on file or on fiche at the ERCB.
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- Denison Mines Limited Coal Division. 1981-11-17.
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- Denison Mines Limited Coal Division. 1981-07-10.
 Application for Exploration Approval and ERCB Permit,
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- Miller, D. C. 1975. Vitaly Coal Leases, Hinton Alberta. Bethlehem Copper Corporation. Report initially filed with Alberta Energy and now resides at the ERCB Library (Calgary).
- North Canadian Oils Limited. 1975-07. Bryan Mountain Coal Prospect - Robb, Alberta, Canada - Exploration Application. ERCB Application No. 8675. Fiche of Application from ERCB Records Center.

- APPENDIX 5. Unpublished reports made available to the Alberta Geological Survey.
- Dentherm Resources Limited Denison Mines Limited. 1982-08. Coalspur Feasibility Study Volume 2 Geology. Report contains reduced regional geological map; approximate scale of reduced map 1:90 000.
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- Rogan, M. N. and Eldin, A. K. 1979-02. Luscar Ltd. A Drilling Reconnaisance and Geological Summary of the Oppelt Property.
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 Department. Report contains 1:25 000 scale detailed
 geological maps.

