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REVIEW OF PROVINCIAL COAL STUDY

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BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO AND POWER AUTHORITY

REVIEW OF

PROVINCIAL COAL STUDY

INTERIM REPORT

MARCH 1975

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Vancouver, B.C.

REVIEW OF PROVINCIAL COAL STUDY

A. INTRODUCTION

An evaluation was made of reports resulting from the provincial coal study prepared by Dolmage-Campbell and Associates for British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. The object of the evaluation was to look for any inconsistencies between reports, and to suggest any additions which would improve the reports.

It was found that the reports are well written particularly considering the amount of material presented. There are a number of areas particularly concerning format where the papers could be abbreviated. A few recommendations are made which should improve the usefulness of the reports.

B. DISCUSSIONS

1. Format

The format should be standardized with headings exactly alike and the type of material under each heading distributed in the same way. A standardized format would improve the readers ability at making comparisons among deposits.

Some parts could be combined to avoid repetition, particularly in the Similkameen report, where the reader is continually going from the Princeton basin to the Tulameen basin and back. Divisions such as the following could be used with most of the same headings preserved:

B. DISCUSSION - (Cont'd)

Summary and Conclusions

Introduction - Location, Physiography, Climate, References.

Geological Setting and Coal Measures

Regional Geology

- each area classified according to age or district

History and Ownership

Coal Geology and Reserves - discussion of formation, thickness, structure, etc.; coal measures, zones, seams, and grades.

Conclusions

Each coal deposit described in detail in one report should only be referenced in more general reports thereby condensing the study appreciably.

The classification of reserves and resources could be put in an introduction to all of the reports. The terms should be standardized from one report to another e.g. in the Similkameen report the term resource is redefined.

2. Comments on Specific Reports

Each deposit should be checked for ownership, formation name, age, etc. where applicable (e.g. in the East Kootenay report (P.28) the ownership of the Squaw Creek coal licences is not given, in the Southern Coalfields report the formation names for coalfields in the Nicola and Kamloops areas are not given).

B. DISCUSSION - (Cont'd)

It should be emphasized in the description of accessible coal resources in the Similkameen area that accessibility involves difficulties with, bad ground, considerable depth, long haulage, and difficulty in selectively mining bituminous coal.

A discussion of the possibility of mining bentonite as a by-product in the Princeton area may be warranted. Bentonitic layers up to 6 feet thick are described in the literature as being intimately associated with the coal.

From page 30 of the East Kootenay report the distinction between conditions where recoveries would be 50% to 95% versus 75% to 95% is unclear; it appears the two ranges are reversed. On page 31 the potential resources may possibly occur, probably is too definite for a potential resource. On page 31 the figure 188.8 million tons of proven and probable reserves of thermal coal appears to describe the same reserves given on page 50 as 171 million tons.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are suggestions for an introduction to the collective final draft of the reports:

1. map of British Columbia with some features for orientation e.g. major rivers, highways, and/or cities and perhaps indicating the gross geology.
2. this map would serve as a base for plotting the locations of all coal deposits where further work is recommended.
3. the map could be accompanied by a table giving a summary of: number on map, name of deposit, geological age, geological formation, tonnage (differentiate between surface and underground), BTU's/lb., and ash content where available.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS - (Cont'd)

The terms of reference and definitions of the terms proven, probable, possible, reserve, and resource could also be included in the introduction.

PTMcC:sm

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