The East Kootenay coalfields
British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2018-6

Context

The East Kootenay coalfields are a large and important coalfield in the East Kootenay region of southern British Columbia, covering an area of approximately 12,000 square kilometers. The coalfield is composed of several coal-bearing formations, including the Elk Mountain Formation and the Mist Mountain Formation, which are part of the Triassic Epoch. The coalfield is characterized by a thick sequence of coal-bearing strata that have been folded and faulted during the Cenozoic Era, resulting in a complex structure that is divided into several coal-bearing basins.

Geology

The Elk Mountain Formation is the dominant coal formation in the East Kootenay coalfields, and it is a part of the Triassic Epoch. The formation is composed of sandstone, siltstone, shale, and mudstone, and it is confined by the Elk Mountain thrust fault to the north and the Kootenay thrust fault to the south. The Elk Mountain Formation is divided into several coal-bearing horizons, including the Elkview Coal, the Fording River Mine, and the McRae Coal. The Elkview Coal is the most important coal formation in the East Kootenay coalfields, and it is composed of several coal seams that are highly stratified and have a high coal content. The Fording River Mine is another important coal formation in the East Kootenay coalfields, and it is composed of several coal seams that are located in the Elk Mountain thrust fault to the north.

For further information


Coal Creek mine, 1950s

The Coal Creek mine was operated from the late 1940s to the mid-1950s, and it was one of the largest coal mines in the East Kootenay coalfields. The mine was located in the Elk Mountain thrust fault, and it was operated by the Coal Creek Mining Company. The mine produced coal for the local market, and it was also used to supply coal to the local smelters. The mine was finally closed in the mid-1950s due to low production and high costs.

History

The history of coal mining in the East Kootenay coalfields dates back to the late 1800s, when coal was first discovered in the region. Coal mining was primarily for local consumption, and it was used for heating and transportation. In the 1900s, coal mining became more important, and it was used to supply coal to the local smelters. The mining industry continued to grow until the mid-1950s, when it declined due to low production and high costs.

References


Coal quality

The coals from the East Kootenay coalfields are generally of medium rank, and they have a high volatile content. The coals are also low in ash and have a low sulfur content. The coals are generally classified as bituminous coals, and they are used for power generation and industrial applications.

Present day production and exploration

The East Kootenay coalfields are currently not in production, and there is no significant exploration activity in the region. The coalfields are currently underlain by a thick sequence of coal-bearing strata that have been folded and faulted during the Cenozoic Era, resulting in a complex structure that is divided into several coal-bearing basins. The coalfields are currently underlain by a thick sequence of coal-bearing strata that have been folded and faulted during the Cenozoic Era, resulting in a complex structure that is divided into several coal-bearing basins.