



CENTRAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

BOWRON BASIN (93H/12, 13)

By G. H. Klein

Coal has been known on the Bowron River for over a hundred years. Since the early nineteenth hundreds the coal has received intermittent attention with shafts sunk, adits and declines driven, and diamond drilling done. The most recent work was done by Norco Resources Ltd., who drilled 20 holes in 1977 on Coal Licences 148, 163, and 164.

GENERAL SETTING

The coal, considered to be Cretaceous or Tertiary in age, is found mainly in one location on the Bowron River where it occurs as a number of seams on the west bank of the river in the vicinity of the workings. The coal, classified as a 'high-volatile B bituminous' is found in the lower portion of a series of shale, sandstone, and conglomerate beds, which diamond drilling has indicated to be up to 700 metres thick. Glacial deposits limit exposure of the sedimentary sequence to a very few known locations, and that the coal is exposed at all appears to be fortuitous.

Associated with the coal is resin, which is a constituent of the coal and enclosing sediments.

Radioactivity is noted in the coal outcrop in thin shale bands, with two narrow bands yielding about four times background. Uranium in the form of thucolite has been identified from this location.

The sedimentary sequence, which occupies a trough, is bounded by Mississippian and older volcanic and metasedimentary rocks. Contacts are hidden by glacial drift.

The 1977 field season work consisted of geological mapping of the Bowron River from Haggan Creek to Highway 16 and mapping of the older rocks in the northern portion of the study area.

The objectives of this work are to outline the area of sedimentary rocks in which coal and economic minerals may occur, and to indicate the structural setting of the deposit.

REFERENCES

- B.C. Ministry of Mines & Pet. Res.*, GEM, 1969, p. 422; 1970, p. 528.
Geol. Surv., Canada, Radioactivity in Western Canadian Coals, Paper 70-52, pp. 14, 16.
Minister of Mines, B.C., Ann. Rept., 1948, pp. 233-240; 1960, p. 238; 1967, p. 459; 1968, p. 468.