



# Data Systems

# COALFILE

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## BACKGROUND

The Geological Survey Branch maintains a large library of coal assessment reports, dating from 1900, submitted by exploration companies in compliance with the *Coal Act*. Exploration data from the assessment reports have been summarized and stored in a computer information system called COALFILE, to provide a quick and efficient method for handling the large volume of data. Refer to Geological Fieldwork, 1984 (Paper 1985-1, page 339) and 1985 (Paper 1986-1, page 235) for the history of the project. Information in COALFILE is useful in exploration planning and it provides a resource base for federal and provincial government agencies, and universities. Updating and maintenance of this file are an ongoing project.

## PROJECT STATUS

For details concerning the computer specifications and the type of data residing in COALFILE, refer to Geological Fieldwork, 1985 (Paper 1986-1, page 236).

TABLE 7-1-1.  
SUMMARY OF RECORDS STORED IN COALFILE

RECORD TYPE	TOTAL NUMBER OF RECORDS
Explore	682
Comment	467
Map	596
Trench	3122
Bulk	430
Borehole	6720

This year, information was extracted from the 1985 coal assessment reports received by the Ministry and appended to COALFILE. The hardcopy files were recatalogued and a new numbering system was implemented. These unique numbers reside in the computer for easy reference. Table 7-1-1 provides a summary of the number of records in the database for each file type.

## INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The type of output available from COALFILE is outlined in Geological Fieldwork, 1985 (Paper 1986-1, page 236). A detailed order form with associated costs for data requests is available in brochure form from the Ministry (COALFILE, Information Circular 1986-1).

There is a three-year confidential period for coal exploration assessment reports; only nonconfidential information is available to the public.

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## REFERENCES

- Kenyon, C. (1985): COALFILE, *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*, Geological Fieldwork, 1984, Paper 1985-1, pages 399-402.
- (1986): COALFILE, *B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*, Geological Fieldwork, 1985, Paper 1986-1, pages 235-236.

British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Geological Fieldwork, 1986, Paper 1987-1.