

EXPLANATION

COAL RESOURCE RATING CRITERIA

The following resource rating criteria are organized on scale of 1 - low to 5 - high potential. A rating of 1 indicates virtually no possibility for substantial coal discoveries, and no known coal in the area. Categories 2 and 3 are for possible but unverified occurrences of coal. A 5 is the highest possible rating under this system. The letters "a" through "m" that may accompany the numbers 2 through 5 are meant to clarify and justify the number ratings assigned. In some cases, more than one letter is used, as in "2a". These letters are only explanatory, like footnotes, and do not weight the ratings.

The areas outlined in heavy black on the map have been calculated according to the U.S. Geological Survey resource classification system (U.S.G.S. Circular 881), using available surface and subsurface data. The kinds and reliability of data available determine how the resource potential is calculated (see "Coal Reserves," Glossary).

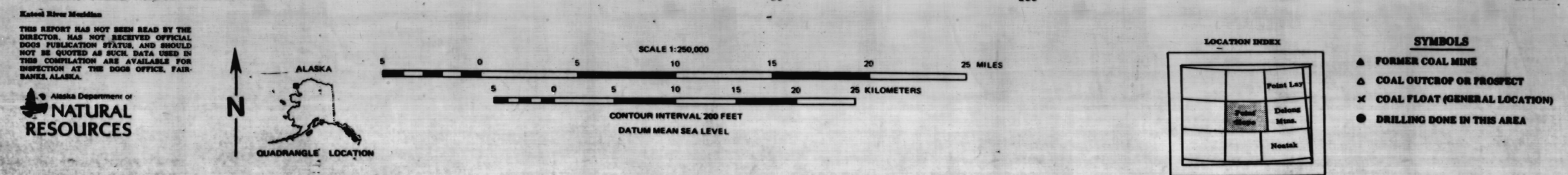
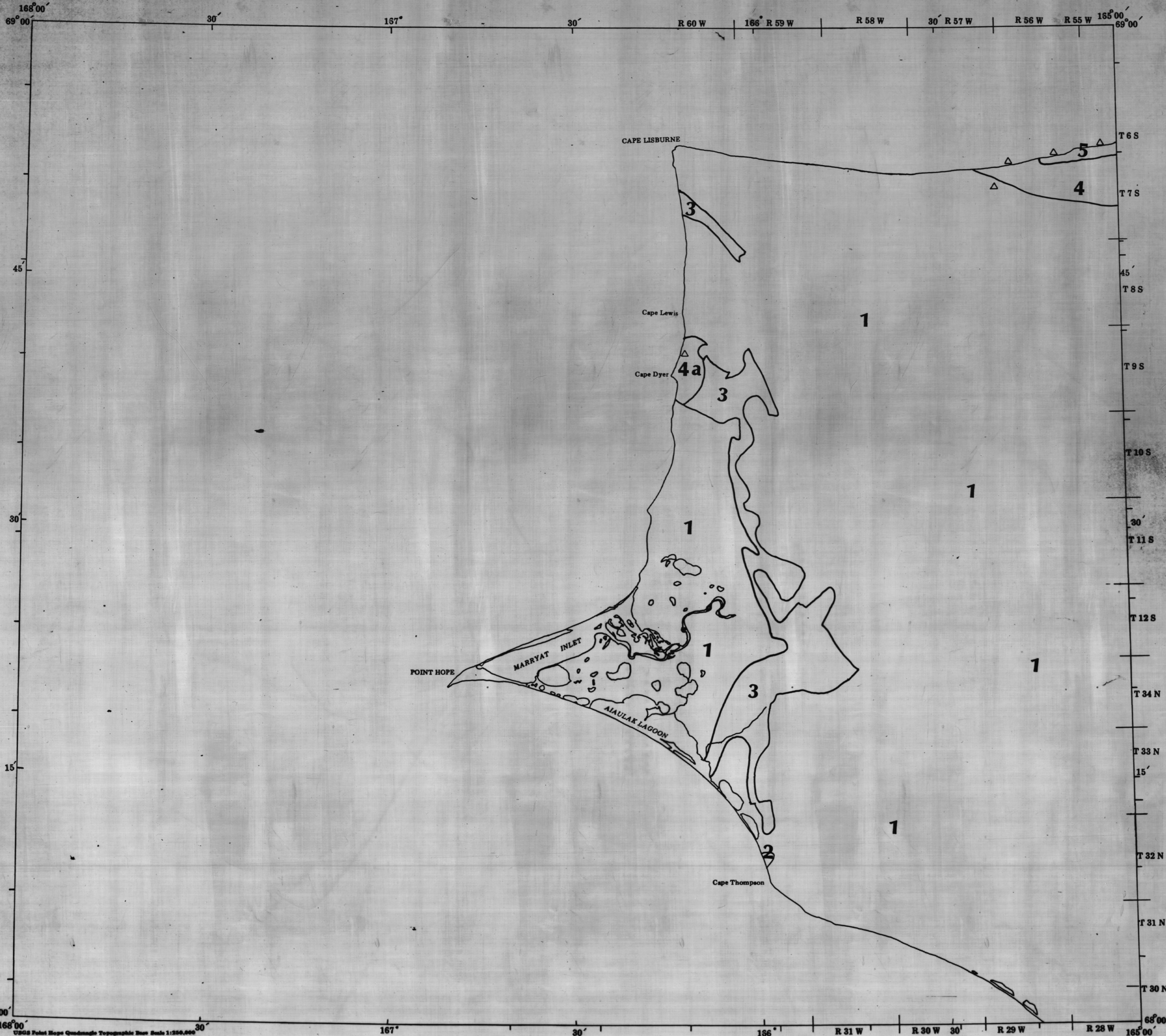
- 1** Very low to low possibility for substantial coal discoveries; sedimentary and other rock units not known to host coal; these "barren" units vary from map to map; this rating based almost entirely on published general, broad-brush geological maps.
 - a** units with very minor coal no shows elsewhere; possibly favorable rocks but no coal known at location;
 - b** queried rock unit or undifferentiated group (two or more rock units mapped together); so presence of coal-bearing unit is uncertain;
 - c** cover of recent (Quaternary) unconsolidated sediments suspected of being underlain by a formation that hosts coal elsewhere;
 - d** Tertiary basin; most of the coal on the Seward Peninsula is lignite (lower quality coal) found within Tertiary-aged sedimentary rocks confined in areas called basins (see "basin," Glossary); therefore, all such basins on the Peninsula potentially contain coal deposits;
 - e** unverified report of coal occurrence; off-hand reference to coal in published geological report; other second-hand or unconfirmed reports.
- 2** Low to medium possibility for substantial coal discoveries; these ratings based mostly on published general, broad-brush geology:
 - a** units with very minor coal no shows elsewhere; possibly favorable rocks but no coal known at location;
 - b** queried rock unit or undifferentiated group (two or more rock units mapped together); so presence of coal-bearing unit is uncertain;
 - c** cover of recent (Quaternary) unconsolidated sediments suspected of being underlain by a formation that hosts coal elsewhere;
 - d** Tertiary basin; most of the coal on the Seward Peninsula is lignite (lower quality coal) found within Tertiary-aged sedimentary rocks confined in areas called basins (see "basin," Glossary); therefore, all such basins on the Peninsula potentially contain coal deposits;
 - e** unverified report of coal occurrence; off-hand reference to coal in published geological report; other second-hand or unconfirmed reports.
- 3** Medium to high possibility for substantial coal discoveries:
 - f** coal bearing formation close to exposed coal, e.g. other end of basin or syncline (see 2d, above, and Glossary) from known coal deposits;
 - g** scattered, small surficial coal shows or float (see Glossary) that may be weathering out of a hidden coal deposit;
 - h** "mined out" or formerly subeconomic sites where future investigation may reveal usable coal resources;
 - i** Cretaceous basin (see 2d, above, and Glossary): composed of Cretaceous-aged rocks known elsewhere to contain medium to large tonnages of good quality (subbituminous to bituminous) coal; rated higher than 2d both because of likely higher coal quality and because of high tonnage potential demonstrated, for example, by the large Cretaceous-aged Cape Beaufort coal field.
- 4** Known coal, lesser occurrences, and/or less well studied than 3's:
 - j** marginal because of low rank (low Btu), low tonnage, structural complexity, or thin beds (even if coal is good quality and present in large amounts, thin beds may mean too much admixed waste).
 - k** indicated and inferred resources (see Glossary) of 5's in favorable geology.
 - m** may include cases where drilling has disclosed some coal but where its extent is still unknown.
- 5** Known coal, medium to large measured resources (see Glossary) of usable quality coal. There is a large size difference between the smallest and largest but even the smallest is known to contain reserves that might be mineable under the right conditions. For example, the Chicago Creek coal deposit, on the Seward Peninsula, contains only one known thick bed of coal and is confined to a topographic basin (see Glossary); estimated tonnage for this deposit is a fraction of those calculated for the Deadfall syncline; and the Chicago Creek coal is lignite, while the Deadfall syncline coal is of higher, bituminous rank. Nevertheless, Chicago Creek rates a 5 as easily as the Deadfall syncline, for it contains potentially marketable coal, in adequate tonnage, close to tidewater.

DATA CONVERSION

Each number rating, 1 through 5, has typical typical levels of data confidence. A rating of 1 often implies limited geological data as well as lack of coal potential. A rating of 5 usually implies more and better data, as well as greater coal potential. It is, however, possible to have a rating of 1, signifying low or unproven coal potential, based upon a detailed geological mapping has shown that certain rock units are not coal-bearing. Conversely, it is also possible to have a high rating of 5, for which the data have been limited, but for which geologic conditions are highly favorable for significant coal resource potential, as in the case of a very good indication of the amount of coal in the area.

1 ton of coal = 146 gallons of fuel for electric power
 1 ton of coal = 176 gallons of fuel for home heating

Since the Btu value of coal varies considerably, 1 ton of a lower ranked coal, such as a lignite averaging 8,000 Btu/lb, is the equivalent of half as many gallons of fuel as a coal with an average of 12,000 Btu/lb. Conversely, 1 ton of 12,000 Btu/lb coal equals 1 ton of fuel oil, but it would take 2 tons of 8,000 Btu/lb coal, or twice as much, to generate the same amount of heat.



COAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL OF THE POINT HOPE QUADRANGLE, ALASKA 1985

GLOSSARY

- anticline/syncline** --- Rock structures formed from the large-scale folding of massive rock units; the upward folded portion of the rock is the anticline, with an inverted U-shaped cross section; the downward folded part is the syncline, with a U-shaped cross section.
- basin** --- 1) Structural: a syncline that dips toward in all directions (see "syncline"); usually formed by the oblique intersection of two synclines, or by downfaulting of underlying rock strata; the relationship of a structural basin to present topography is largely coincidental; for example, rocks (and coal) of the Cretaceous structural basins of the Point Hope Quadrangle probably formed in a relatively flat environment, were buried by continued sedimentation, and were later folded in two cross-cutting directions to form structural basins; present topography of these basins is a product of differential weathering of the various rock types of which they are composed.
 2) Topographic: sediments (and vegetable matter) deposited in an existing valley or basin, where they are capped into rock (and coal) by subsequent basins; for example, rocks of the Tertiary basins of the Deadfall Quadrangle are much younger than the rocks forming the old valleys they now occupy; such valleys or basins may be relatively undisturbed.
- bituminous coal** --- Coal that contains a high percentage of fusible impurities like clay, dirt, or rock fragments; if the material contains over 22% ash, it is considered to be carbonaceous rock rather than coal and is not included as coal in resource calculations.
- BTU** --- British thermal unit; one BTU equals the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit; the standard unit used in the United States to describe the heating value of fuels (most other countries use kilocalories per kilogram as a standard thermal unit).
- coal** --- A compact, light-weight, dark-brown to glossy-black rock composed of vegetable material that has been physically and chemically altered to a concentrated combustible product.
- coal float** --- Fragments of coal displaced from the parent coal bed by erosion; found in stream gravel, in talus (gravity-transported rock debris) at the bases of bluffs, in landslide material, and elsewhere downslope of a coal outcrop.
- coal reserves** --- Identified, recoverable coal resources:
 1. **measured** - identified unmined coal reserves with the highest degree of geological assurance; calculated by extrapolating % ash beyond coal outcrops and drill-hole intercepts; by convention includes only coal beds at least 14" thick.
 2. **indicated** - undeveloped coal reserves with a moderate degree of geological assurance; calculated by extrapolating coal outcrop and drill-hole data to a depth of 1,000' and for a horizontal distance of 1/2 to 1 mile.
 3. **inferred** - undeveloped coal reserves with the lowest degree of geological assurance; calculated by extrapolating coal outcrop and distribute data to a depth of 1,000' and a horizontal distance of 1 to 3 miles.
- coal resource** --- Natural deposit of coal in the earth's crust, occurring in a form and amount such that economic extraction is currently or potentially feasible; includes both reserves and presently non-economic deposits most likely to become mineable in the future.
- coal rubble** --- Similar to coal float, but often the fragments of a fractured sub-surface coal bed (not-jacked to the surface through freeze-thaw action, or the fractured and fragmented coal particles that accumulate from the weathering of a surface or near-surface coal occurrence; found close to the parent coal bed.
- coke** --- A form of coal, usually of bituminous rank, that softens and flows when heated to just below the point of ignition; during this process, volatile compounds escape as gases, leaving a dull-gray, porous mass called coke.
- deformation** --- Any physical change in the attitude, shape, or volume of rocks from the configuration they had when formed; folding, tilting, and warping are forms of deformation, as are compression (squeezing) and tension (stretching).
- dip** --- The angle a tabular rock unit forms with the horizontal.
- strike and dip of rocks** ---
- fixed carbon** --- The solid residue, other than ash, obtained by destructive distillation of coal; determined by definite prescribed ASTM methods.
- strike** --- The line formed by the intersection of the dip plane of a tabular rock unit with the horizontal; for example, if the dip is some angle toward the west, then the strike is north-south (see "dip").
- stripping ratio** --- The ratio of overburden (soil and rock covering the coal) to coal being mined by strip mining methods; reserve estimates usually omit coal deposits with stripping ratios higher than about 10:1 because these are seldom economic.
- volatile matter** --- In coal, those products, exclusive of moisture, given off as gas and vapor, determined by definite prescribed ASTM methods.
- Mississippian** --- The older 1/2 of the geologic period called the Carboniferous, during which many of the world's coal deposits formed; the Mississippian subdivision spans the time from 360 million to 320 million years ago; in this report, occurs only in the summary for the Point Hope Quadrangle.
- Cretaceous** --- Geologic period spanning the time from 140 million to 65 million years ago; many of Alaska's coals were formed during the Cretaceous period.
- Tertiary** --- Geologic period spanning the time from 65 million to 1.5 million years ago; many of Alaska's coals are Tertiary in age.
- Quaternary** --- Geologic period spanning the time from the end of the Tertiary through the present, or the last 1.5 million years.
- Types of Coal**
- | Rank | Subbituminous | Bituminous | Anthracite |
|---------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Subbituminous | Subbituminous-A: 8,100 to 9,500 Btu/lb.
Subbituminous-B: 8,100 to 11,000 Btu/lb. | Bituminous: Subbituminous to high volatile bituminous-C: 11,000 to 13,000 Btu/lb.
High volatile-A bituminous: 13,000 to 14,000 Btu/lb.
High volatile-B bituminous: 14,000 to 16,000 Btu/lb. | Anthracite: 16,000 to 19,000 Btu/lb. |

Coal Rank - Based on Moist, Mineral Matter Free Btu/lb

Rank	Subbituminous	Bituminous	Anthracite
Subbituminous	Subbituminous-A: 8,100 to 9,500 Btu/lb. Subbituminous-B: 8,100 to 11,000 Btu/lb.	Bituminous: Subbituminous to high volatile bituminous-C: 11,000 to 13,000 Btu/lb. High volatile-A bituminous: 13,000 to 14,000 Btu/lb. High volatile-B bituminous: 14,000 to 16,000 Btu/lb.	Anthracite: 16,000 to 19,000 Btu/lb.

Coal Rank - Based on Dry, Mineral Matter Free Fixed Carbon %

Rank	Subbituminous	Bituminous	Anthracite
Subbituminous	Subbituminous-A: 69-78% Subbituminous-B: 69-78%	Bituminous: 78-84% Bituminous: 84-92% Anthracite: 92-94%	Anthracite: 92-94%

The many types of coal in Alaska are classified, or ranked, according to physical and chemical properties. A coal's rank is determined by laboratory testing of its properties using ASTM standardized methods. Rank is based primarily on heating value (Btu/lb.), and content of certain physical components. The main coal rank classification categories are: A) lignite - very low rank; B) subbituminous - low to medium rank; C) bituminous - medium to high rank; and D) semi-anthracite and anthracite - very high rank. Each of these rank classifications has distinctive characteristics (see below), and distinct properties that help to determine its optimum potential use. The uses that are appropriate for one type of coal may not be appropriate for another type.

Classification and use are determined by a coal's rank. Its heating capacity, and its weathering characteristics (how the coal behaves under weathering conditions) are often satisfactory for local use, such as home heating and power generation, but poor weathering behavior and low heating values typically make the long distance transportation and storage of low-rank coal impractical. Bituminous coals are of higher rank than lignite and subbituminous coals, and may be coking, caking or non-caking. Coking and caking coals soften and flow prior to ignition. The escape of volatile components, under heat, in the absence of oxygen, results in a dull-gray, porous mass called coke. Caking and non-caking bituminous coals are not suitable for metallurgical use, but have high heating values, and do not weather as badly as lower rank coals. Long distance transportation and storage of these coals may therefore be feasible. Anthracite, the highest rank of coal, has the highest heating value per pound, with the lowest volatile impurities, but there is very little anthracite coal in Alaska. At a very high fixed-carbon content, anthracite becomes graphite, which cannot be used for fuel.

