

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF MINES
BOX 1391
JUNEAU, ALASKA

MINERAL INVESTIGATION REPORT

BERING RIVER COAL FIELD

James A. Williams
March 1955

Warren S. Moore, President of W. S. Moore Company of Duluth, Minnesota, having requested the Territorial Department of Mines for assistance in investigating mining possibilities in the Bering River Coal Field, was accompanied by the writer on a brief reconnaissance in the field on September 31, 1954. The field is mostly in the Cordova Quadrangle, some of it extending into the Bering Glacier Quadrangle. It lies about 50 miles east of Cordova and between latitudes $60^{\circ}15'$ and $60^{\circ}30'$ N and longitudes $143^{\circ}45'$ and $144^{\circ}20'$ W. Coal formations occur in a belt about 21 miles long and 2 to 5 miles wide. Mr. Moore was interested only in the portions of the field reported to contain coking coal, and the reconnaissance was limited to two short trips up streams cutting coking coal areas. The routes followed are shown in the accompanying vicinity map.

Further details on the field and its various coal formations can be found in U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 335, Controller Bay Region, Alaska, and on the geological maps, Plates V and VIII, contained therein. The reader is also referred to U. S. Geological Survey Circular 146, A Review of the Geology and Coal Resources of the Bering River Coal

Field, Alaska, by F. F. Barnes written in 1950, which is a brief compilation of many reports on the field or properties within the field.

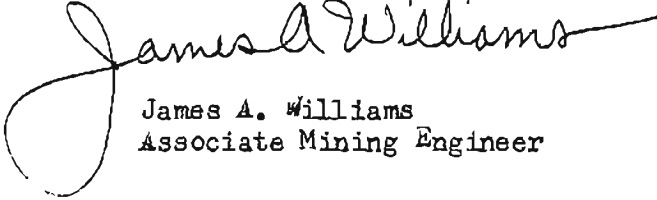
As Mr. Moore's company is an iron mining concern in Minnesota with open pit operations and equipment, he was primarily interested in the possible existence of strippable coal deposits. The reconnaissance revealed that, in the coking coal areas visited at least, economical stripping would not be likely because of the heavy timber (a logging operation would be necessary in some places first), steep terrain, and hard rock overburden. Mr. Moore also questioned the possibility of maintaining a haulage road for the necessarily large trucks in the wet climate of that area where rainfall averages in the neighborhood of 150 inches per year.

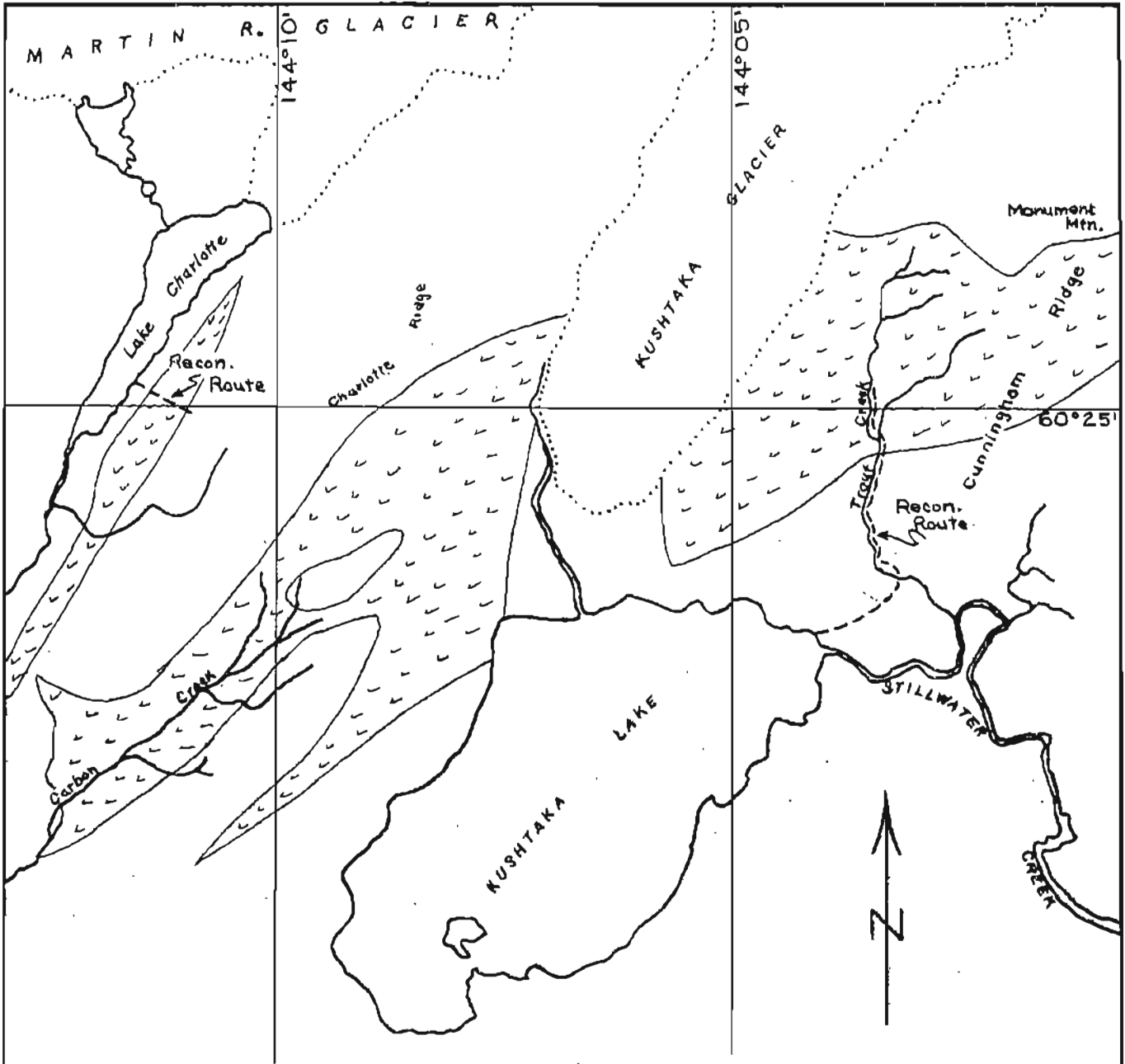
Other than the above surface conditions, the reconnaissance revealed little. Sample and measure points as shown on the above mentioned plates that were visited were sloughed in and grown over and could not be recognized. No coal outcrops could be found because of the dense growth, and very little coal float. In flying over the areas concerned, visible coal outcrops above timberline were rare. One can only conclude that in prospecting for coal in this part of the field, considerable digging and/or drilling will be required.

As material pertinent to current data on the Bering River Coal Field, there is appended to this report a complete list of the prospecting permits in force upon the field as obtained from the Anchorage Bureau of Land Management office September 30, 1954. The areas covered, as shown on the permits, can be easily found on the BLM township maps


covering the field which are in bound form and in the TDM files. All of these permits have been renewed at least once to the people holding them since their original issue although evidently no work has been done as required by law.

The bound BLM maps mentioned above show a number of government reservations in the field. An official of the BLM was of the opinion that these reserves could be obtained for mining if an operator were to press the issue.


James A. Williams
Associate Mining Engineer

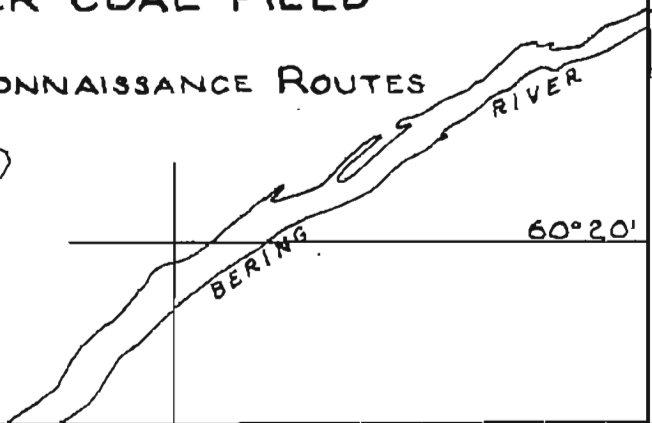


PORTION OF BERING RIVER COAL FIELD
 SHOWING
 COKING COAL AREAS AND RECONNAISSANCE ROUTES

LEGEND: Coking Coal Area 

SCALE: 1" = 1 Mile

Adapted from USGS Maps.
 J.A. Williams Terr. Dept. of Mines
 March 1955



Coal Prospecting Permit

Anchorage 018324

Chester Naramore
91 Ellison Avenue
Bronxville 8, N. Y.

Situated in the Bering River Coal Fields, in the Territory of Alaska, to wit: Leasing Blocks 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 and the northern two tiers of forties of Leasing Block 21, comprising: $E\frac{1}{2}$, Sec 20, $NW\frac{1}{4}$, $NW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 21, $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 21, $N\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 22, fractional $NW\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 23, $E\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$, $S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 16, All Sec 15, fractional $W\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 14, All in T17S, R7E, CRM, Alaska, approx. 2500 A.

Coal Prospecting Permit

Anchorage 018323

Philip M. Riefkin
518 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

Leasing Blocks 49 and 50 in the Bering River Coal Fields, Alaska, T17S, R8 and 9E, CRM, approx. 2160 acres, and comprising: T16S, R8E, Sec 35, $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 36, $S\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2}$, T17S, R8E, Sec 1, all except patented claim; Sec 12 $N\frac{1}{2}$; T17S, R9E, Sec 5, Lots 2, 3, 5, $SE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$, $W\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 6, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Coal Prospecting Permit

Anchorage 018322

Vincent G. Shinkle
1916 Eye Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Leasing Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in the Bering River Coal Field, Alaska, comprising: T18S, R6E, CRM Alaska, Sec 1, $S\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 2, Lots 1, 2, $S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$, $E\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 11, $E\frac{1}{2}$, $E\frac{1}{2}W\frac{1}{2}$; Sec 12, $W\frac{1}{2}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 13, $W\frac{1}{2}$, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $SW\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $NW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 14, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; Sec 23, Lot 1; Sec 24, $N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$, Lots 2 and 3: containing 2,305.86 acres.

Coal Prospect Permit

Anchorage 018325

Seymour S. Preston
2003 Finance Building
1428 South Penn Square
Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania

Leasing Blocks 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 comprising fractional Sec 12, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 13, T17S, R7E, $W\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2}$, $W\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 5; Fractional Sec 6; $NE\frac{1}{4}$, $W\frac{1}{2}$, $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SW\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 7; $W\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $NW\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8; Lot 1, Sec 18, T17S, R8E, CRM, containing 2040 acres more or less, all situated in Bering River Coal Fields, Alaska.

Coal Prospecting Permit

Anchorage 018326

Helen M. Harriman
Wordman Park Hotel
Washington 8, D. C.

8-18-52 - Mrs. Helen M. Harriman
677 Barnaby Street, N.W.
Washington 15, D. C.

Part of Leasing Block 42 in the Bering River Coal Fields, Alaska, as follows: T16S, R8E, CRM, Sec 34, $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 35, $S\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}SW\frac{1}{4}$; Leasing Blocks 43, 51, and 52 as follows: T16S, R8E, CRM, Sec 25, $W\frac{1}{2}$, $W\frac{1}{2}E\frac{1}{2}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}SE\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 34, $N\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 26, all; Sec 35, $N\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2}$, $S\frac{1}{2}NE\frac{1}{4}$, $N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$; Sec 27, $S\frac{1}{2}$; Sec 36, $N\frac{1}{2}$, $N\frac{1}{2}S\frac{1}{2}$. 2560 acres contained.