

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF MINES

(FROM Weekly Reports of Gideon A. Apell)

Date of - Nov. 12-13, 1944

BROAD PASS

Work started Sept. 27, and finished Oct. 10, 1944. The approximate cost of the field work at Broad Pass is \$1450.00: Trenching and sampling cost \$380.00, surveying \$180.00 and the balance (\$890.00) was freight and pro-rata cost of equipment and supplies.

Tentative results of work done by the Bureau at Broad Pass are:

96,000	tons	Stripping Coal(Lignite) 8' bed, dip 2° southerly, Av. 7' overburden.
800,000	"	Lignite, by underground mining. 8' bed, along south side of Coal Creek.
<u>90,000</u>	"	" about 600' southeast from end of RR "Y" at Broad Pass.
936,000	"	Total INDICATED COAL.

The entire area appears to be underlain by one or more beds of lignite giving an unlimited tonnage of INFERRED lignite. At least 2 beds of lignite are indicated and probably three beds. Definite data could not be acquired as to the number of beds; not more than one bed could be revealed in any dozer trench. The surveying was done by Brunton compass, hence elevations are only approximate. On account of the dips of the beds it seems likely that the bed exposed by the work along Coal Creek would be too deep to be shown by trenching at the southwest end of the area. There appear to be two beds on the Coal Creek end, both of which are lower, stratigraphically, than the exposure at the southwest end. The lower of the two beds at Coal Creek yielded lignitic coal in 1920, for power equipment used in building the railroad. Mr. Henry Stevens operated the mine. He was also identified with the Costello Creek property before Mr. Dunkle took it over. Stevens ran a 500' entry southward in the Coal Creek Mine, and started two rooms on the east side of the entry on 25' centers. He produced 2000 tons of coal from the operation. Contemporaneously, Stevens started a strip mine near the forks of Coal Creek, about 2000' from the Coal Creek Portal, intending to operate the mine during cold weather and strip coal during warm weather. He produced about 600 tons from the stripping work. His operations ceased for lack of market for lignite. Mr. Stevens was at Broad Pass while our work was in progress and gave Jimmy Hulbert the history of the area, and much information on the lignite deposits.

No coal has been marketed from the Broad Pass area since 1920, presumably because it is lignite, and better coal is available.

No further work is recommended for the Broad Pass area. Should future economic conditions warrant the mining of lignite in this area, exploration had best be made by drilling, preferably core drilling. Further work by bulldozing and surface trenching would be expensive, and yield little additional information. In the stripping area the removal of overburden would be most economically done by hydraulic methods. The lignite disintegrates rapidly on exposure to air.