Data for Selected Coal Assessment Units in the Colorado Plateau Region

One of the objectives of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Coal Resource Assessment was to compile stratigraphic databases for selected and potentially minable coal zones in the conterminous United States. This repository thus contains stratigraphic-database folders for seven coal assessment units in the Colorado Plateau region. Each folder is an appendix to a technical report for the assessed unit, and the report is included on disc 1 of this two-CD-ROM set. This ReadMe file provides information about each folder. Additional information is provided in the accompanying technical report and metadata file for point themes in the ArcView project in this CD-ROM publication. The folder names, coal assessment units, technical reports, and appendix numbers are cited below.

Folder name	Coal assessment unit	Appendix number, author, and chapter in CD-ROM of technical report
dan	Danforth Hills	Brownfield and others (Appendix 1, chap. M).
lwr	Lower White River (Deserado coal area)	Brownfield and others (Appendix 1, chap. N)
pics	S. Piceance Basin	Hettinger and others (Appendix 5, chap. O)
yam	Yampa	Johnson and others (Appendix 8, chap. P)
sjb	San Juan Basin	Fassett (Appendix 2, chap. Q)
wass	S. Wasatch Plateau	Dubiel and others (Appendix 1, chap. S)
kai	Kaiparowits Plateau	Hettinger and others (Appendix 5, chap. T)

Each folder contains publicly available data that were entered into the StratiFact (Gallegos Research Group, Inc., 1998) database manager.* Queries made in StratiFact resulted in two output files for each database; these include (1) location information, and (2) stratigraphic data. The location and stratigraphic files were merged into a single file using Microsoft Access (Microsoft Corporation, 1997a) and imported into, and saved, as an Excel (Microsoft Corporation, 1997b) spreadsheet (files with .xls suffix in each folder).* These data were then saved as a tab-delimited ASCII-formatted file (.txt suffix), and a dBASE file (.dbf suffix) that are included in each folder. The table below lists the file names in each folder, the file size, and the number of rows.

Folder name	Coal assessment unit	Chapter	File name	File size	Rows in file
dan	Danforth Hills	M	danloc_str.xls danloc_str.txt danloc_str.dbf	768 KB 433 KB 757 KB	3,381
lwr	Lower White River (Deserado coal area)	N	lwrloc_str.xls lwrloc_str.txt lwrloc_str.dbf	57 KB 24 KB 41 KB	192

pics	S. Piceance Basin	O	picsloc_str.xls picsloc_str.txt picsloc_str.dbf	4,824 KB 2,759 KB 5,166 KB	21,765
yam	Yampa coal field	P	yamloc_str.xls yamloc_str.txt yamloc_str.dbf	1,495 KB 647 KB 1,266 KB	6,714
sjb	San Juan Basin	Q	sjbloc_str.xls sjbloc_str.txt sjbloc_str.dbf	2,717 KB 1,376 KB 3,017 KB	13,668
wass	S. Wasatch Plateau	S	wassloc_str.xls wassloc_str.txt wassloc_str.dbf	1,632 KB 802 KB 1,439 KB	7,290
kai	Kaiparowits Plateau	T	kailoc_str.xls kailoc_str.txt kailoc_str.dbf	1,428 KB 539 KB 1,510 KB	7,392

Listed below are the column headings in the data files and a brief description of the data in each column. Empty cells in field indicate no data were entered.

Point ID identifies the data point. It can include the original drill hole or measured section number, American Petroleum Information (API) number, or a unique number assigned by the author of the technical report.

Data Source refers to the original source of information, such as the lease operator, well name, data collector, or a published report.

Elevation is measured in feet above sea level to the Earth's surface (or to kelly bushing of the drill rig) at the data point.

Depth is measured in feet and either refers to the total depth of the drill hole, depth to which the interval was described, or thickness of a measured section.

Latitude of data point, units are in decimal degrees.

Longitude of data point, units are in decimal degrees.

Township is numbered north or south of a regional baseline. The Principal Meridians are described below:

(1) The Danforth Hills, Lower White River (Deserado), and Yampa assessment units are in the 6th Principal Meridian.

(2) The Southern Piceance Basin assessment unit is in the 6th and Ute Principal Meridians; only data in T. 1 N. and R. 1 E. are in the Ute Principal Meridian.

(3) The Kaiparowits Plateau and Southern Wasatch Plateau assessment units are in the Salt Lake Principal Meridian.

(4) The San Juan Basin assessment unit is in the New Mexico Principal Meridian.

Range is numbered east or west of a regional meridian. The Principal Meridians are described in the Township field (above).

Section usually a 1-square-mile area, numbered 1 through 36, within a Township.

State Colorado (CO), New Mexico (NM), or Utah (UT)

Lithology Top is the depth in feet from the Earth's surface (or kelly bushing) to the top of the lithologic unit.

Lithology Bottom is the depth in feet from the Earth's surface (or kelly bushing) to the bottom of the lithologic unit.

Lithology is the term used to describe the rock type in the interval. Undifferentiated lithologies other than coal are simply referred to as rock.

Lithology Modifier is a term used to describe the lithology in greater detail.

Zone provides the stratigraphic name of a specified interval; it can include the formation, member, coal zone, or informal names that reflect local and mining terminology. Terms used in this field do not necessarily conform with USGS editorial standards regarding stratigraphic nomenclature.

* Any use of trade, product, or firm names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

References

ESRI [Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.], 1998, ArcView, v. 3.1.

Gallegos Research Group, Inc., 1998, StratiFact, v. 4.5.

Microsoft Corporation, 1997a, Microsoft Access [part of Microsoft Office 97], v. SR-1

Microsoft Corporation, 1997b, Microsoft Excel [part of Microsoft Office 97], v. SR-1

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