

Office of the Inspector,
Cumberland, B.C.

016957

September 2nd, 1952:

H.C. Hughes, Esq.,
Chief Inspector of Mines,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B.C.

94G 21

Dear Sir,

Coal deposits on Pink Mountain (57° 3'. 122° 50'),

Peace River Mining Division

A certain amount of interest is at present being shown in the coal deposits on Pink Mountain, and, at the time of my visit to the Peace River Mining Division in August, two miners were at work in this area in the employment of Reschke Coal Ltd. (Company office, Fort St. John, B.C.). They were working under the general supervision of P.F. Tomkins, Chairman and Managing Director of Reschke Coal Ltd., and their instructions were to endeavour to trace and uncover any outcrops of workable seams and to carry out a general reconnaissance of the area with a view to the opening up of a small mining operation if conditions should prove suitable. The writer accompanied Mr. Tomkins into this area on August 23rd. and stayed in the district for several days.

Mr. Tomkins explained that if a seam could be mined at Pink Mountain at a fairly low cost, it would offer a number of advantages over his present Hudson Hope operation, especially from the transportation angle. The mountain lies no more than 10 miles from the Alaska Highway, and a road could be built in there at a quite reasonable cost. Most of the hauling would thus be over the Alaska Highway, an excellent all-weather road both to Fort Nelson and to Fort St. John. In spite of the somewhat longer hauls to some points, Mr. Tomkins was of the opinion that the trucking costs for maintenance, wear and tear, and gasoline would be very much less than on the present haul from Hudson Hope. Furthermore, now that the large military camp at Fort Nelson is again asking for tenders on a contract for delivery of a large tonnage of coal, the Pink Mountain location, 200 miles nearer Fort Nelson than Hudson Hope, would have an additional advantage.

Location and Access.

Pink Mountain (57° 3'. 122° 50') is 70 miles north of the Peace River and 10 miles west of Mile 147 on the Alaska Highway.

The most convenient route to the mountain is by a pack trail which joins the Alaska Highway near the Beaton River bridge. This trail, after following the Beaton River valley for a few miles, crosses the headwaters of the Cameron River and then descends into the valley of the Halfway River not far from the point known as "The Elbow". From here the trail follows the Halfway River and the mountain lies immediately to the north.

General Description

Pink Mountain is a prominent topographical feature and lies immediately to the east of the front range of the Rocky Mountains. It is approximately 6 miles long from north to south and 4 miles wide from east to west. The summit is 5,900 feet above sea-level or 2,700 feet above the Halfway River. Immediately to the south of the mountain is the wide flat valley of the Halfway River, while the western side is drained by Quarter Creek (Known locally as Two Bit Creek), a tributary of the Halfway.

The top of Pink Mountain, like that of other hills in this district, is flat and bare. The southern and western slopes are steep (up to 50 degrees) while the eastern slope is gentle. Extensive weathering and erosion has taken place on the upper slopes of the south face which consists largely of crumbling sandstone bluffs.

The river and creek bottom lands at the foot of the mountain contain good grassland, together with extensive woodlands of white poplar and some spruce. The poplar and spruce extend up the lower slopes of the mountain, especially in the draws. On the upper slopes, however, there are very few trees at all and the vegetation consists mainly of Arctic Willow and other shrubs up to 3 feet high, together with grass. There are many signs of old forest fires on the lower slopes of the mountain. One of these has resulted in a very extensive coal fire at the outcrop of a seam on the south face. The pink-coloured burnt shales which surround the site of this fire have given the mountain its name.

Previous Work.

No mining and very little prospecting for coal has been done in this area. The presence of coal on Pink Mountain has been known, however, for a good many years.

No detailed geological survey was carried out until the building of the Alaska Highway during the last decade. In 1943 C.O. Hage surveyed the country adjacent to the Highway between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, and this included Pink Mountain. The results of this survey have been published in G.S.C. Paper 44-30, entitled "Geology adjacent to the Alaska Highway between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, B.C. (1944)". Most of this information is also contained in G.S.C. Memoir 259 "Geology of North-eastern British Columbia" (1950).

Recently a good deal of geological work in connection with oil prospecting has been done in the area, but most of this information is not available to the public.

General Geology.

On Pink Mountain, according to Hage, the Triassic Pardonnet beds, the Jurassic Fernie group, and the Lower Cretaceous Bullhead beds are folded into a long narrow anticline, the axis of which runs roughly north-south and approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the summit ridge. The eastern limb of this anticline is bounded by a south-west dipping thrust fault. Both limbs have dips averaging 30-60 degrees. This structure has a total length of 30 miles,

—extending from the Sikanni Chief River to Cypress Creek.

The surface rocks of the mountain are largely the hard quartzitic sandstones of the lower Bullhead group. Triassic beds of the Schooler Creek formation are exposed where creek and river channels have cut into and across the structure.

Hage reported finding "a seam of good grade coal more than 5 feet thick at the base of the Bullhead group on Pink Mountain immediately north of the Halfway River". He noted that on the east side of the mountain the coal had been burnt out, but on the west side he observed float coal for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Halfway River. He recommended that any future prospecting for this seam should be done on the mountain adjacent to Halfway River.

Present Work

When I visited this area, the two miners had already found the outcrop of a thick seam on the south side of the mountain, which is evidently the same one as that reported by Hage. I examined the outcrop on August 26th., and took a sample of the coal which has been forwarded to the Department at Victoria.

The out crop occurs on the western edge of a narrow draw at about 4,500 feet elevation and 1800 feet above the Halfway River. The miners had uncovered it at two points 100 feet apart. The seam dips in a south-south-easterly direction across the draw and away from the outcrop at about 30 degrees. The outcrop is on the edge of a flat bench which forms a short spur from the mountain proper. From the dip of the seam it does not seem likely that there is any large quantity of coal under this bench.

It was not possible to trace the outcrop of the seam on the opposite side of the draw. However, there is one point on the east side of the draw where there are huge clinkers indicating that a very large mass of coal has been burnt. The position of these clinkers corresponds with the general dip of the seam.

For a distance of half a mile eastward from the above-mentioned outcrop there are signs of a very extensive fire, mainly in the form of burnt shales. Much of this burnt material has been carried down the steep slopes of the mountain by the Spring run-off, and the pink colouring is visible for many miles. These abundant signs of fire suggest that a large seam of coal has been burnt. The fire has evidently assisted in the erosion of the sandstones and thin shales above. The ground above the level of the seam right up to the summit plateau consists of broken and weathered sandstone bluffs with extensive rock slides. The presence of these rockslides makes it very difficult to trace the outcrop of the seam in any direction.

At the points where the outcrop had been uncovered an attempt was made to measure the thickness of the seam. At the southerly of the two exposures the seam thickness is 5 feet 6 inches, but it is probable that some of the upper portion of the seam has been eroded at this point. At the northerly exposure the miners dug down 9 feet into the seam without finding any footwall. Time did not allow any further excavation here. At both exposures the seam consists entirely of good bituminous coal, with no bands of rock, bone or inferior coal. In appearance the coal closely resembled the Peace River seams of the Gething formation.

An attempt was made to locate the outcrop further along the mountain face to the east, but without success. About a quarter of a mile to the east the strata are irregular and this may be the region of the thrust fault described by Hage. We found two patches of coal in this area. One is 4 feet wide and 10 feet long, steeply dipping and appears to be against a fault. Another patch 70 feet further east is 20 feet thick and 30 feet long. Neither of these patches is continuous.

The two miners (Reschke and Smith) told me that they had made a reconnaissance of the western side of the mountain previous to my arrival. They had followed a small creek (a tributary of Quarter Creek) which flows down a large draw about 3 miles from the southern end of the mountain. Float coal was found in this creek and this was followed to an elevation of about 3,800 feet where three small seams were found - all within 100 feet vertically of each other. These were 2 feet, 1 foot 6 inches, and 10 inches thick respectively. The seams dipped westward at 30 degrees. The coal appear to be good quality bituminous. The surrounding strata consist of grey sandstones. No other signs of coal seams were found on the west side of the mountain.

The bottom lands along the valley of Quarter Creek were examined, but these were found to be covered with gravel drift. The only exposures seen were grey sandstones, and no float coal was seen in the creek.

Comments.

It will be obvious from the above report that no economically workable coal deposits have been found during the present examination of Pink Mountain. The outcrop on the south face of the mountain above the Halfway River is too high up in any case to justify the small-scale mining which is usual in this district. However, if this seam could be found near the base of the mountain on the eastern limb of the anticline (and if it continued to be of workable thickness), then it would be worth considering as a mining proposition.

However the seam, even if it is present, might be difficult to find on the eastern side of the south end of the mountain. The lower slopes appear to be well covered with vegetation. Again, according to Hage, the thrust fault on the eastern side of the anticline throws the coal-bearing Bullhead group below the marine shales of the Buckinghorse formation. It would appear to the writer that some drilling would probably be necessary to find the seam.

As some slight evidence for the continuity of a workable coal seam beneath the newer rocks to the east, the writer was informed unofficially that a seam of workable thickness was drilled through in the Bullhead beds by an oil company near the Alaska Highway some 20 miles to the south-east of Pink Mountain.

Yours very truly,

"Anthony James"
Inspector of Mines.

Sept. 13, 1952.

Wilrich Petroleum Limited,
108 Thomson Building,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Attention: Mr. H. E. MacAdams.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of September 9th, we advise that the fee and rental due on September 27th for Permit No. 140 are \$250.00 and \$1,984.00 respectively.

Concerning your third paragraph, we refer you to Sections 10, 12 and 13 of the "Petroleum and Natural Gas Act" and to Regulations 4 (1) (a) and (b). These provide that a Permittee may apply for a refund of the first year rent if he has done work to the value of same during that period. An affidavit of expenditures must be submitted with a geological report by a geological engineer registered in British Columbia.

The refund of all or part of the first year rent, depending on the quality of the report, is made in cash. No credit is established as a result of first year work.

We enclose one copy each of the "Petroleum and Natural Gas Act" and of the "Drilling and Production Regulations".

Yours very truly,

J. D. Lineham,
Assistant Petroleum Controller.

fdl/ved
Encl.

0173295
Haney, B. C.
Feb. 7, 1952.

Mr. C. Gilbert,
Chief Chemist,
Dept. of Lands and Forests
Victoria, B. C.

2496756



Dear Mr. Gilbert;

In regard to your letter of Feb. 6, I wish to thank you.

I have written to G. S. Eldridge in Vancouver, as I feel he will be able to supply the required information.

Again I wish to thank you for your kindness and please feel free to destroy the sample of coal.

Yours truly,

Seigo has some secret about Mr. L. P. Seigo the coal.

H. Box 394,
Haney, B. C.

KCM

0173293

February 6th, 1952.

Mr. Leonard P. Seigo,
Box 394,
Haney, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Your sample of coal together with your letter of Jan. 11th, addressed to the University of British Columbia has been referred to this laboratory for attention.

We cannot proceed with the analysis until we know more about the sample and the purpose for which the analysis will be used. This Branch deals only with prospecting and development coal samples. If your sample falls in this category please advise us accordingly sending complete information. If your sample is part of a retail consignment of coal I would suggest that you have it analysed by a laboratory doing custom assaying such as:

G.S. Eldridge & Co. Ltd.,
635 Hornby Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

I would venture the opinion that no chemist would be able to tell you from which mine or even area from which your sample came as identical coals may be found in widely separated areas over the entire continent. The analysis would however give you the scientific classification and the grade of the coal which could be used for comparison with other coals with which you are familiar. We will hold your sample here until we hear from you.

Yours truly,

K.C.G.

K.C. Gilbert,
Chief Chemist.

Hi
kcg/ln

Feb. 6, 1952.

Mr. Leonard P. Seigo,
Box 394,
Haney, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I have your letters of the 11th ultimo and the 4th instant. The former reached us on February the 5th. A reply from Mr. K. C. Gilbert, our Chief Chemist, has already gone out to you.

Your questions as to where the coal was mined and its approximate price per ton in Vancouver are not such as may be answered in a Chemical Laboratory.

We shall await a reply to Mr. Gilbert's letter.

Yours very truly,



T. B. Williams,
Controller.

tbw/ved

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0173295
Haney, B. C.
Feb. 4, 1952.

2495943

Mr. J. D. Lineham,
Coal and Petroleum and
Natural Resources Commission,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.



Dear Mr. Lineham;

In regard to a sample of coal, which was forwarded to you to be tested.

We need to know the results of your test immediately for court action. Please send duplicate copies.

If there are any charges please state.

Your promptness will be appreciated.

H.

Yours truly,

Mr. Leonard P. Seigo
Box 394,
Haney, B. C.

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Haney, B. C.

Jan. 11, 1952.

2495921

Referred to
Mr. Lineham,
Petroleum, Gas & Natural Resources Com.
Victoria, B.C.

~~U. B. C.~~
~~Vancouver, B. C.~~



Dear Sirs;

Will you please analyze
this piece of coal.

I would like to know where
it is mined, name of coal
and the approximate price per
ton for lump in Vancouver.

Please forward me duplicate
copies of report.

If there is any charge please
state.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Leonard P. Seigo
Box 394,
Haney, B. C.

Dr. T. B. Williams,

Sept. 6th

49.

INTERVIEW

Mr. N.A. Newman, Chief, Research and Motor Power Department, Canadian Pacific Railway, 10th Floor Windsor Station, Montreal. Had been newly promoted to the position. (Nephew of Mrs. Fleming? Calgary). Referred to Mr. J.E. Yellott (developing coal burning turbines) Director of Research, Locomotive Development Company, Bituminous Coal Research, Room 1254, 10 Light St., Baltimore, Maryland.

C.P.R. now buying 2,000,000 tons western Canadian coals per annum.

The best western coals are Canmore and Michel. The companies are not shipping their best coal to the Railways.

The locomotive develops its maximum power 30% of the time.

2.6 pounds of oil equal one ton of Crow's Nest Pass coal.

The West Canadian Collieries and Coleman furnish the bulk of coal at present to the C.P.R. The present cost of oil is from \$1.50 to \$1.40 per barrel, the equivalent of \$3.90 coal at the mine.

The diesel locomotive will heat its train by an extra boiler which will be useful as ballast on the locomotive. The C.P.R. hopes to use western coal east of Fort William.

The Railway has notified the Western Coal Companies that coals must be under 13% ash and dry.

Re fire turbines lignite is the great hope owing to their low cost. The pulverizing is to be done in the locomotives (length 155 ft.).

Another hope is the "Pancake Combustor". These use coal of the size of a grain of wheat and rotate. The diameter of the rotator is 36".

T. B. Williams

T. B. Williams,
Controller.

tbw/ved

October 30, 1948.

Mr. L. R. Bradley,
Princeton, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th instant awaited my return. I note with interest your remarks concerning the testing of coal prospects.

If you will dig well into the exposure, in order to get away so far as possible from the effects of weathering, and then smoothe off a face from the roof to the floor of the seam and then with a sharp pick, holding, preferably a square nosed shovel beneath, dig a channel (uniformly wide and uniformly deep) sample from the roof to the floor, we are prepared to analyse this for you here, providing, of course, we have not already had samples from the same place. You should use care to get an equal amount from each section of the face when you are digging the sample. It is generally better to take a large piece of canvas or a clean floor and crush the larger pieces. Afterward, build your coal into a conical heap and, with your shovel, half or quarter it so that the amount which you send to us can go into say, two quart sealers. Place the rubber rings on top of these and label them, stating the location at which they were taken, the thickness, and inclination of the seam, the character of the roof and floor and your name and address. In case there is not room for this on the label, number your sample and place your name upon it and write the necessary information in your letter.

With reference to your comment that your coal is of the same age as that of the Crow's Nest Pass, our

Mr. L.R. Bradley.

Oct. 30, 1948.

work in your area does not bear this out.

Concerning a three foot seam of coal, should this lie near the surface, it might be mined economically by stripping methods; otherwise, such a seam is not thick enough to be commercial, except for a very small local market. In the Coal Control's investigation, we have placed four foot as a minimum thickness of coal which we are prepared to consider as commercial thickness.

Yours very truly,



T. B. Williams,
Controller.

TBW/VD

0173295

Princeton B.C.
Oct 6 - 48.

Dept of Mines
& Resources
Victoria
B.C.

2132028



Dear Sirs.

In view of the need for coal, in this country & else where. Is there any government assistance provided for the testing, at least, of what appears to be an entirely new location of coal deposits; private engineers claim this to be of the same age & class as the Crowhurst pass deposits.

As yet this lead has not been mined or even surveyed, owing to location, though only a few miles of the Main highway; and coal entirely unthought of here.

Approx 3 feet of hard coal is exposed on the surface. & has been burned in the camp fire.

What would you suggest for one with limited Capital.

Yours truly
H. R. Bradley

April 21, 1948.

Mr. H. Blanchard,
Ruskin, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 6th instant,
addressed to the British Columbia Department
of Mines, Victoria, has been referred to me
for further attention.

I enclose herewith "An Act respecting
Coal" and an amendment thereto.

Yours very truly,

"T. B. Williams"
T. B. Williams, *per VED*
Controller.

TBW/vd
Encl.

May 19, 1948.

Mr. H. Blanchard,
Ruskin, B.C.

Dear Sir:

I have for attention copies of your letters of April 20th and April 23rd relative to "hard coal" about ninety miles from the City of Vancouver. I note with interest your statement that this seam has a thickness of 40 feet.

There is no known instrument, in spite of many claims to the contrary, which will be useful in assisting to find this coal seam. A much better method would be to look for a "float", small fragments of coal down stream from the place at which you imagine the old outcrop was. I note that you inquire as to whether you would have to stake this coal find should you again locate it. Naturally you would be under no obligation to stake this coal but should an important find be made in an easily available area, it is reasonable to suppose that other people would be interested in taking it.

As suggested by Dr. H. Sargent, Chief Mining Engineer, it might be possible to have an engineer inspect this area should you care to guide him to it.

Yours very truly,

T. B. Williams

T. B. Williams,
Controller.

TBE/VB

CC: Mr. H. Sargent,
Chief Mining Engineer,
Department of Mines,
Victoria, B.C.

Your file 547.

MEMORANDUM

2080579

TO Dr. T. B. Williams,
 Controller,
 Coal, Petroleum and Natural Gas,
 Buildings.

FROM THE

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

VICTORIA, B.C. April 14, 19 48

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER
 TO FILE NO. 27A

Attached is copy of letter dated April 6th from H. Blanchard of Ruskin, B. C. We have attended to his request for Acts and application forms for grubstakes and advised him that his enquiry regarding coal leases has been referred to you. Will you kindly reply to Mr. Blanchard direct.



Secretary.

DB
 Enc. 1



C
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2080579

RUSKIN, B. C.
April 6th, 1948.



British Columbia Department of Mines,
Victoria,
B. C.

Dear Sirs:

Would you please be kind enough to send me
the following:-

- (1) Coal Mine Regulations Act, price 70¢
- (2) Prospector Grub Stake, Free;
- (3) Coal Sales Act, price 15¢;

Will you kindly advise me if a coal mine can
be leased just a same as any other mineral claims.

Please send me full particulars regarding same.

Can a person file a claim for a mine on private
property.

Please send four applications for prospector
Grub Stake.

Thanking you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

"H. Blanchard"

Ruskin
B.C.

Mr. Blanchard,
Send copy of coal
act, etc.

MEMORANDUM0173 295
2086990

TO Dr. T.B. Williams,.....

Comptroller of Coal, Petroleum,
and Natural Gas,
Dept. of Lands, Bldgs.

FROM THE

DEPARTMENT OF MINES

VICTORIA, B.C. May 5, 19 48.

WHEN REPLYING PLEASE REFER

TO FILE NO. 547

I attach copies of correspondence with H. Blanchard, Ruskin, B.C., regarding a reported occurrence of coal on the mainland about 90 miles from Vancouver. You will note that in my letter of this date I have replied in part to Mr. Blanchard's letter of April 28th and stated that I was referring the letter to you.

HS/rp
Attach.

H. Sargent
Chief Mining Engineer.



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0173275

RUSKIN, B.C.
April 20, 1948.

Department of Mines,
Victoria, B.C.

Attention: Mr. D. Burton, Secretary.

Dear Sirs:



My wife and I have found an outcrop of hard coal on the side of a mountain on the main land about ninety miles from Vancouver, this about nine years ago. My wife hauled and burned the coal for two years. She found the coal after the side hill had been logged. She used to go through the skid road at that time when then it was cleared land. Last week we went up there to try to locate it, but she found out that after nine years, the trees had grown so much also the weeds that she could not locate the coal. But the place is well marked by a cliff and in a small area of about half a mile square.

I would like to know if there is such an instrument that could be had for locating this mine or could we get help from the Government to try to find this mine. It is right near good transportation and only one mile from sea port and the outcrop was about 40 feet in width.

Hoping to receive an early reply,
I remain.

Yours very truly,
H. Blanchard.

H.

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April 23, 1948.

H. Blanchard, Esq.,
Ruskin, B.C.



Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th re an outcrop of coal about 90 miles from Vancouver. Our information, in the main, indicates that coal is very unlikely to be found in place up the mainland coast from Vancouver. If you could be more specific as to the location we could investigate more effectively to see if there is any information on that locality. I appreciate the difficulty in trying to locate the exposure after a lapse of several years, in which time there has been a good deal of growth. However, if coal occurred in an exposure 40 feet wide, as you recollection now is, it should be possible to find out by a thorough search.

I do not think that any of the methods of geophysical prospecting would be useful in searching for coal under the circumstances you mention and I am of the opinion that a painstaking search is probably the only method which would yield results.

We would be very much interested to know of additional commercial deposits of coal and would make an effort to examine a new discovery of any promise with a minimum of delay. We might even be able to arrange to have an engineer assist in the effort to discover coal if we had good reason to believe that a deposit might be found. However, our present information suggests that there is very little possibility that coal occurs up the mainland coast from Vancouver and therefore I wonder if the coal found by your wife may have been dumped accidentally or intentionally close to the skid road which you mention. I should be glad to hear from you further in the matter.

Yours very truly,

Chief Mining Engineer.

SH

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Y

RUSKIN, B.C.
April 28, 1948.

Department of Mines,
Victoria, B.C.

Att: Mr. H. Sargent -
Chief Mining Engineer.



Dear Sirs:

Thank you for your letter of April 23rd. last,
re an outcrop of coal.

I would like to know before I give any more information regarding the location of the coal, what protection I would have should I disclose the place. Would I have to stake the property or what? As far as the coal is concerned, it is there and it is not coal that has been left there by accident, as it is a solid block, as my wife used to get it out with a pick. We have spent three days there already and intend to go back sometimes this Summer, but if any arrangements can be made with your department, I would be very glad to cooperate.

I would also like to know if a grubstake could be obtained for two persons to go up and try to locate the coal. The last time we were there we could not stay very long as we were not well prepared.

According to my wife the coal burned good in the stove and I am quite sure that it is hard coal.

Hoping to hear from you, I remain,

Yours very truly

H. Blanchard.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'H. Blanchard'.

c.c. Dr. T.B. Williams.

May 5, 1948.

H. Blanchard, Esq.,
Ruskin, B. C.



Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of April 28th with regard to the reported occurrence of coal. Coal lands are administered by the Department of Lands and information about acquiring them is properly obtained from that Department. I am referring your letter and the earlier correspondence to Dr. T.B. Williams, Comptroller of Coal, Petroleum, and Natural Gas.

In regard to your inquiry concerning grubstakes I would say that grubstakes have not been issued for search for coal and it is not proposed to issue grubstakes for this purpose.

Yours very truly,

HS/rp

Chief Mining Engineer.

H.

File No. **0173295**

SUBJECT *Coal Petroleum & Natural Gas Comm.*
Coal Reported Occurrences.



NAME

SUBJECT

CROSS REFERENCES

Department of Lands and Forests