

MINED-OUT AREAS OF THE PITTSBURGH COAL

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The Pittsburgh Coal Seam

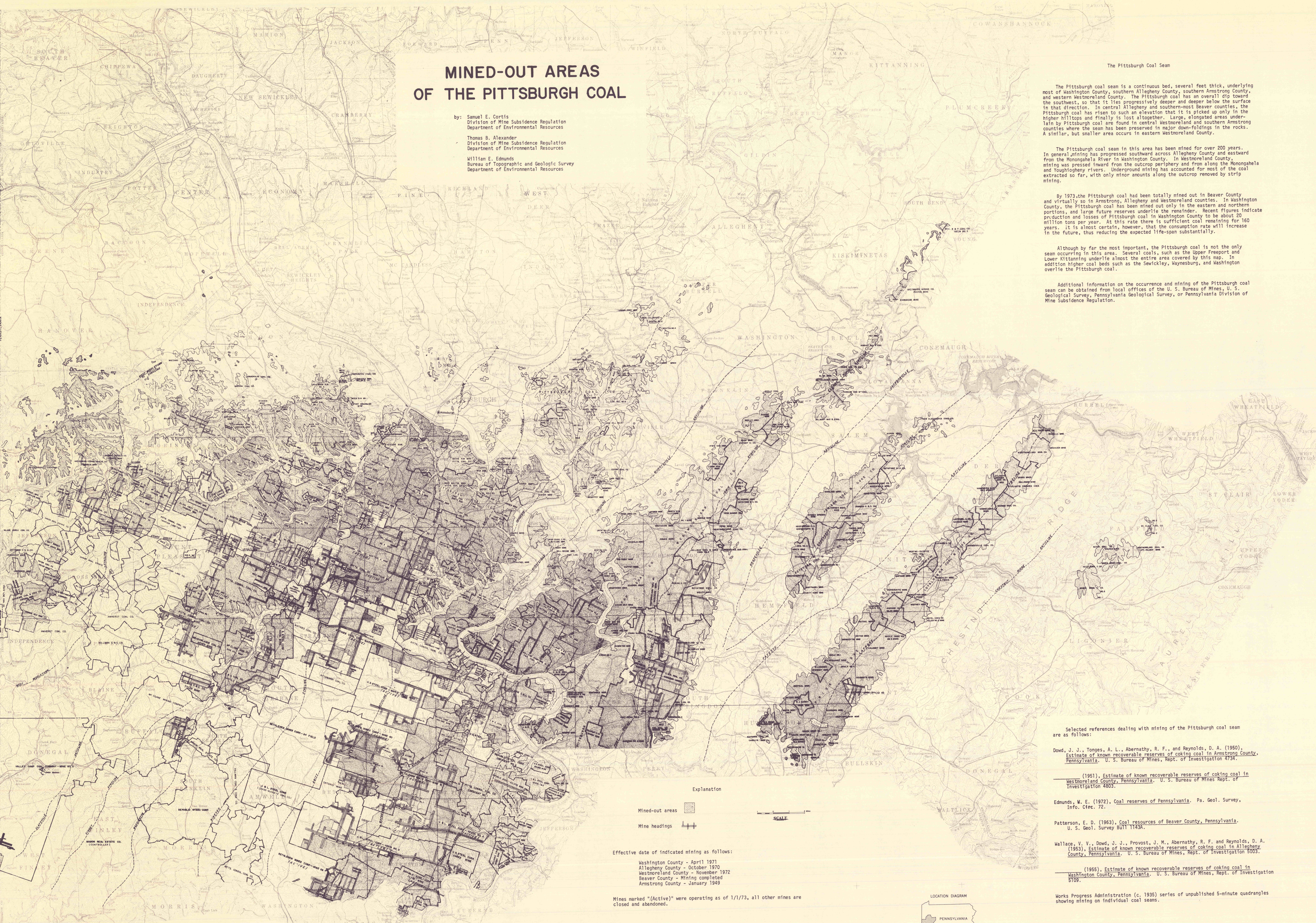
The Pittsburgh coal seam is a continuous bed, several feet thick, underlying most of Washington County, southern Allegheny County, southern Armstrong County, and western Westmoreland County. The Pittsburgh coal has an overall dip toward the southwest, so that it lies progressively deeper and deeper below the surface in that direction. In central Allegheny and southern-most Beaver counties, the Pittsburgh coal has risen to such an elevation that it is picked up only in the higher hilltops and finally is lost altogether. Large, elongated areas underlain by Pittsburgh coal are found in central Westmoreland and southern Armstrong counties where the seam has been preserved in major down-foldings in the rocks. A similar, but smaller area occurs in eastern Westmoreland County.

The Pittsburgh coal seam in this area has been mined for over 200 years. In general mining has progressed southward across Allegheny County and eastward from the Monongahela River in Washington County. In Westmoreland County, mining was pressed inward from the outcrop periphery and from along the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers. Underground mining has accounted for most of the coal extracted so far, with only minor amounts along the outcrop removed by strip mining.

By 1973, the Pittsburgh coal had been totally mined out in Beaver County and virtually so in Armstrong, Allegheny and Westmoreland counties. In Washington County, the Pittsburgh coal has been mined out only in the eastern and northern portions, and large future reserves underlie the remainder. Recent figures indicate production and losses of Pittsburgh coal in Washington County to be about 20 million tons per year. At this rate there is sufficient coal remaining for 160 years; it is almost certain, however, that the consumption rate will increase in the future, thus reducing the expected life-span substantially.

Although by far the most important, the Pittsburgh coal is not the only seam occurring in this area. Several coals, such as the Upper Freeport and Lower Kittanning underlie almost the entire area covered by this map. In addition higher coal beds such as the Sewickley, Waynesburg, and Washington overlie the Pittsburgh coal.

Additional information on the occurrence and mining of the Pittsburgh coal seam can be obtained from local offices of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, U. S. Geological Survey, Pennsylvania Geological Survey, or Pennsylvania Division of Mine Subsidence Regulation.



Explanation

Mined-out areas

Mine headings

Effective date of indicated mining as follows:

- Washington County - April 1971
- Allegheny County - October 1970
- Westmoreland County - November 1972
- Beaver County - Mining completed
- Armstrong County - January 1949

Mines marked "(Active)" were operating as of 1/1/73, all other mines are closed and abandoned.

SCALE

LOCATION DIAGRAM

Selected references dealing with mining of the Pittsburgh coal seam are as follows:

Dowd, J. J., Tonges, A. L., Abernathy, R. F., and Reynolds, D. A. (1950). Estimate of known recoverable reserves of coking coal in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. U. S. Bureau of Mines, Rept. of Investigation 4734.

(1951). Estimate of known recoverable reserves of coking coal in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. U. S. Bureau of Mines Rept. of Investigation 4803.

Edmunds, W. E. (1972). Coal reserves of Pennsylvania. Pa. Geol. Survey, Info. Circ. 72.

Patterson, E. D. (1963). Coal resources of Beaver County, Pennsylvania. U. S. Geol. Survey Bull. 1143A.

Wallace, V., Dowd, J. J., Provost, J. M., Abernathy, R. F., and Reynolds, D. A. (1953). Estimate of known recoverable reserves of coking coal in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. U. S. Bureau of Mines, Rept. of Investigation 5003.

(1955). Estimate of known recoverable reserves of coking coal in Washington County, Pennsylvania. U. S. Bureau of Mines, Rept. of Investigation 5109.

Works Progress Administration (c. 1935) series of unpublished 5-minute quadrangles showing mining on individual coal seams.

Mapped, edited, and published by the U. S. Geological Survey Control by USGS, USCGS, USCE, the city of Pittsburgh, and Pennsylvania Geologic Survey. Compiled in 1971 from USGS quadrangles dated 1953-1969 Lambert Conformal Conic projection. 1927 North American datum. 50,000-foot grids based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south and north zones. 10,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17.

Research sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, under U.S.G.S. Grant No. 14-08-0001-G-70.