Jurassic coals in the newly independent Kyrgyz Republic
— Geology, character, distribution, and importance to the nation
by
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Early Jurassic peats deposited near the northern margins of the Tethys sea are now preserved as coal in many Central Asian republics formerly in the Soviet Union. In the Kyrgyz Republic, annual coal production was about one tonne per person (4 million tonnes) prior to independence but since has fallen to one-fourth of that amount (Fig. 1). This abrupt decline of an important energy source contributes to a difficult economic situation and has potentially severe social consequences. The U.S. Geological Survey evaluated the Kyrgyz coal resources and related industries to provide information to Kyrgyz, and especially non-Kyrgyz, agencies and companies so that they might aid the Republic in bringing the coal industry through this difficult transition.

Fig. 1. Thirty-five year production history of coal in Kyrgyzstan based on Kyrgyzkomur records; 1994 production is estimated in October 1994 from various sources in the production branch of the coal industry of the country.

Coal is present at about 64 named locations, which we grouped into 8 regions. We inspected mines and prospects, and sampled and analyzed coals from 13 mines in 6 of these regions (Fig. 2). In addition, we obtained information from mine personnel and from the operating national coal company, the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Geology.

Fig. 2. The coal regions of Kyrgyzstan. Samples identified by number in this report are from the following sites: (1) Abshir, (2) Ag-Ulak, (3) Almalyk, (4-5) Dzhergalan, (6) Kara-Tyube, (7) Kara-Keche, (8-9) Kara-Tut, (10) Kok-Yangak, (11) Kum-Bel, (12) Kyzyl-Bulak, (14-15) Tash-Kumyr [Severnaya], (16) Valakish.