

The application of precise coal rank determination to structural geology interpretations

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Precise coalification determinations by means of vitrinite reflectance can provide data on the timing of structural events, as well as the approximate displacement and dislocation of the strata. The basis of this application is that coalification, which is the change from vegetable matter to coal, is controlled by

geothermal heat related to the original depth of overburden, and the time during which the maximum heat was present. Examples of structural applications from Alberta and Nova Scotia are presented.