

Coalbed methane potential, Gulf of St. Lawrence region, eastern Canada

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A seismic facies related to Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures has been mapped over an area of more than 60,000 km² in the Gulf of St. Lawrence Region of Atlantic Canada, including central and eastern Prince Edward Island. The Coal Measures generally are too deep to mine, but the volume of coal indicated by the extent of this facies could contain several hundred trillion ft³ (TCF) of coalbed methane. The Coal Measures

also may have charged deeper and shallower reservoirs with this natural gas. Beneath central Prince Edward Island, the Coal Measures are in the depth range from which coalbed methane is being exploited in the United States. With the present forecast that gas will be a principal fuel of the 21st Century, this indicated resource presents a potentially rewarding challenge to determine how it can be recovered and used.