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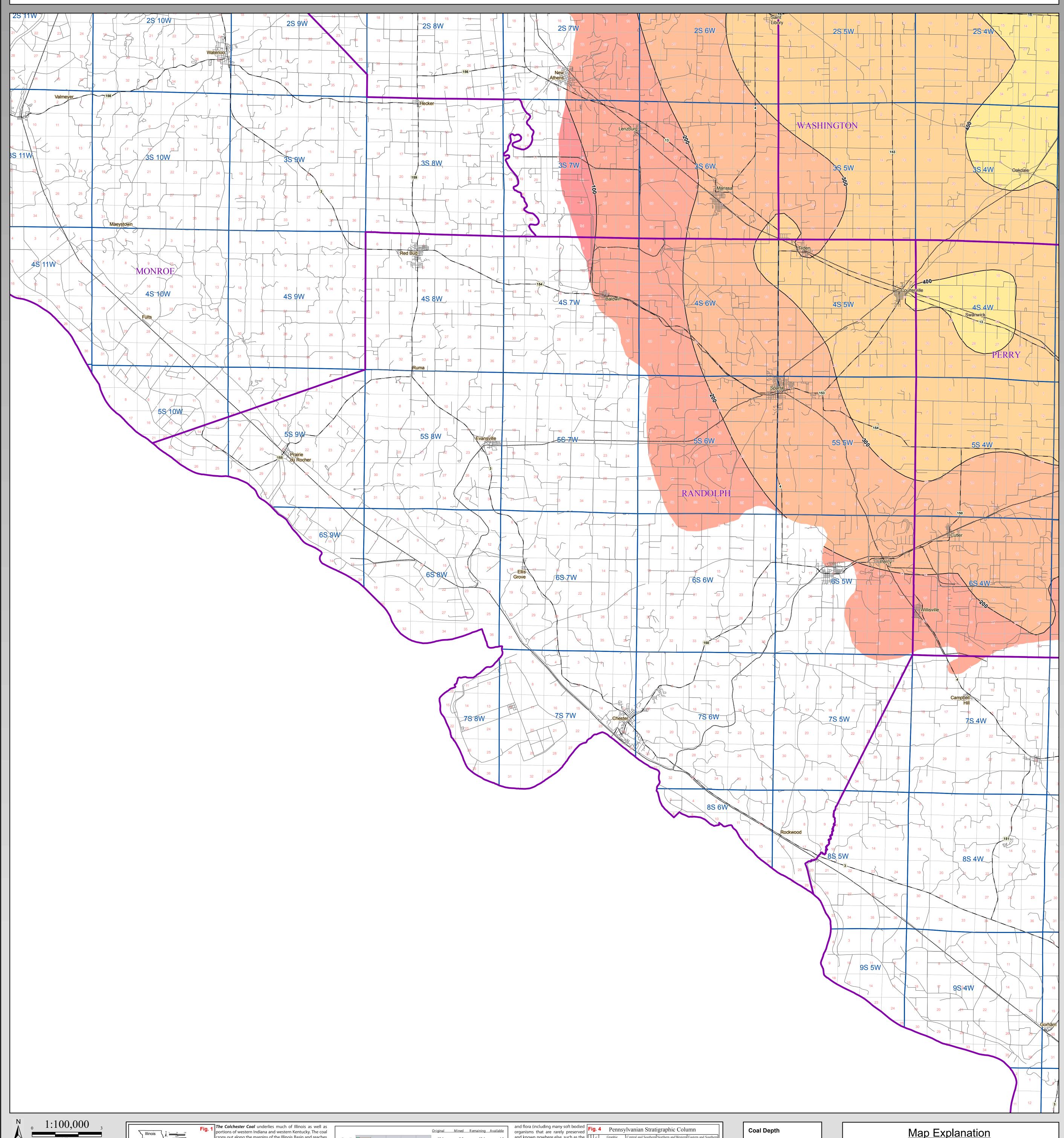
Colchester Coal Depth RANDOLPH County

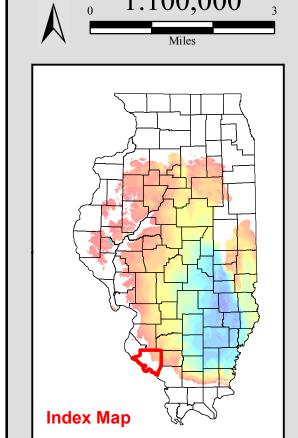
County Coal Map Series Andrew Louchios, Scott Elrick, Chris Korose, David Morse

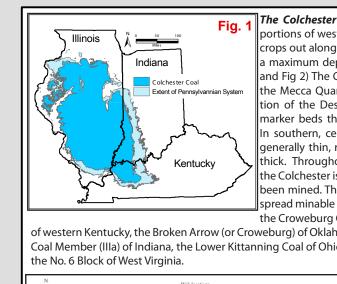
Map construction: October 26, 2009

This product is under review and may not meet the standards of the Illinois State Geological Survey.

County coal maps and select quadrangle maps available as downloadable PDF files at: http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/maps-data-pub/coal-maps/county-index.shtml



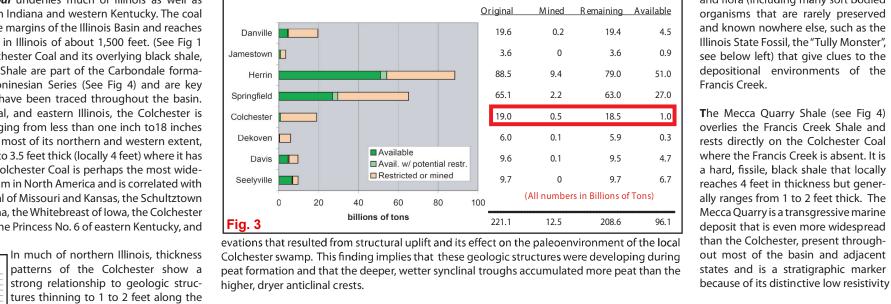




North-south cross section of the Pennsylvanian System in Illinois

crops out along the margins of the Illinois Basin and reaches maximum depth in Illinois of about 1,500 feet. (See Fig 1 and Fig 2) The Colchester Coal and its overlying black shale, the Mecca Quarry Shale are part of the Carbondale formation of the Desmoninesian Series (See Fig 4) and are key narker beds that have been traced throughout the basin. southern, central, and eastern Illinois, the Colchester is generally thin, ranging from less than one inch to 18 inches thick. Throughout most of its northern and western extent, the Colchester is 2 to 3.5 feet thick (locally 4 feet) where it has been mined. The Colchester Coal is perhaps the most widespread minable seam in North America and is correlated with

the Croweburg Coal of Missouri and Kansas, the Schultztown of western Kentucky, the Broken Arrow (or Croweburg) of Oklahoma, the Whitebreast of Iowa, the Colchester Coal Member (IIIa) of Indiana, the Lower Kittanning Coal of Ohio, the Princess No. 6 of eastern Kentucky, and strong relationship to geologic struc- higher, dryer anticlinal crests. tures thinning to 1 to 2 feet along the



ening to as much as 3 or 4 feet in basinal Francis Creek Shale, a medium gray, silty shale that locally exceeds 80 feet thick. The Francis troughs. There is significant variation Creek forms a large clastic wedge that extends across the northern part of the coalfield in the flora of the Colchester Coal on and thins out to the west and south in the western part of Illinois State Fossil - "Tully Monster" top of the anticlinal crests versus that the basin. It is best known for the famous Mazon Creek found in the troughs. The flora varia- sideritic concretions found in the northeastern part tion is interpreted as drier conditions of the basin and in Fulton County. These concretions stemming from higher topographic el- have yielded a remarkably well preserved fossil fauna

Central and Southern Members and Beds and known nowhere else, such as the Illinois State Fossil, the "Tully Monster", see below left) that give clues to the depositional environments of the Francis Creek. Lowell Coal The Mecca Quarry Shale (see Fig 4) overlies the Francis Creek Shale and rests directly on the Colchester Coal where the Francis Creek is absent. It is a hard, fissile, black shale that locally reaches 4 feet in thickness but gener-Greenbush Coal Wiley Coal ally ranges from 1 to 2 feet thick. The Mecca Quarry is a transgressive marine deposit that is even more widespread In much of northern Illinois, thickness Colchester swamp. This finding implies that these geologic structures were developing during out most of the basin and adjacent Colchester show a contraction of the colchester show a because of its distinctive low resistivity signature on electric logs and very high gamma-ray log readings.

LaSalle Anticlinorium crests and thick- Directly overlying the Colchester Coal in many parts of western and northern Illinois is the The original resource of the Colchester coal in the State of Illinois totals 19 billion tons, 0.5 billion of which has been mined. Approximately 5% of the original resources, 0.5 billion tons, were considered available for mining (All text modified from ISGS Pub. IM 127, Korose, et.al) References: - Christopher P. Korose, Scott D. Elrick, and Russell J. Jacobson, 2003, Availability of the Colchester Coal for mining in

Northern and Western Illinois: Illinois State Geological Survey Illinois Minerals 127, 21 p.

Detailed So. Illinois Faults < 100 ft 100 to 200 ft 200 to 300 ft 300 to 400 ft 400 to 500 ft 500 to 600 ft 600 to 700 ft 700 to 800 ft 800 to 900 ft

900 to 1000 ft

1000 to 1100 ft

1100 to 1200 ft

1200 to 1300 ft

1300 to 1400 ft

1400 to 1500 ft

1500 to 1600 ft

The maps and digital files of this study were compiled from data from a variety of public and private sources and have varying degrees of completeness and accuracy. They present interpretations of the geology of the area and are based on available data. However, these interpretations are based on data that may vary with respect to accuracy

of geographic location, type, quantity, and reliability, as they were supplied to the Illinois

State Geological Survey. Consequently, the accuracy of the interpreted features shown

in these files is subject to the limitations of the data and varies from place to place. Contoured features less than 7 million square feet (about 1/2 mile square) in area may not be accurately portrayed or resolved. This data set provides a large-scale conceptual model of the geology of the area on which to base further work. These data are not intended for use in site-specific screening or decision-making. Data included in this map are suitable for use at a scale of 1:100,000.

Disclaimer

The Illinois State Geological Survey and the University of Illinois make no guarantee, expressed or implied, regarding the correctness of the interpretations presented in this data set and accept no liability for the consequences of decisions made by others on the basis of the information presented here.

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