

# DIRECTORY OF COAL MINES IN ILLINOIS

## Clay County

This directory accompanies the Illinois Coal  
Mines map or maps for this County.

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**I ILLINOIS**

Illinois State Geological Survey

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## INTRODUCTION

Coal has been mined in 77 counties. More than 7,400 coal mines have operated since commercial mining began in Illinois circa 1810. Our maps of known mines for each county may help the public to identify mined areas. This accompanying coal mine directory provides basic information about the coal mines. Please note, however, that the accuracy and completeness of the maps and directories vary depending on the availability and quality of source material. Little or no information is available for many mines, especially the older ones, because mining activity was not regulated or documented until the late 1800's. Even then, reporting requirements were minimal.

The coal mine maps are maps compiled by the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) of known mines: underground and surface coal mines as well as underground industrial mineral mines. Buffer regions for industrial mineral underground mines were incorporated into the maps due to limited information regarding these mines. The size of the buffer region is dependent on the uncertainty or inaccuracy of the mine location based on the quality of the source material. For more information regarding industrial mineral mines please contact the ISGS Industrial Minerals Section.

In cooperation with the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Office of Mines and Minerals (a division of the Department of Natural Resources) is in search of old underground mine maps of Illinois. Many of the undocumented maps are believed to be in libraries, historical societies and personal files of old mine employees. The Department asks that anyone who knows of one of these maps, please contact the Department at (618) 650-3197 or by emailing [rjibson@siue.edu](mailto:rjibson@siue.edu). A map specialist will come to your location, if you wish. Otherwise maps can be mailed, or you may stop by one of our offices in Edwardsville, Springfield, Ottawa, or Benton. These maps will be checked against existing inventory. If they are found to be a new discovery, they will be electronically imaged and returned to the owner (if requested).

## MINE MAPS

The mined areas are shown on county base maps at a scale of 1:100,000.

Three types of mine information are shown on the maps: an index number that identifies the mine in the directory, a symbol that marks the 'location' of the mine, and an outline of the mined area if that is known. The location is almost always the site of the main mine opening or, in the case of surface mines, the location of the tippie (coal washing and storage facility). The type of symbol indicates whether the opening is a shaft, drift, or slope and whether the mine is active or abandoned. Another symbol represents a mine with an uncertain type of portal and/or uncertain location. When the exact location is unknown, the symbol is placed in the center of the section or quarter section in which the mine was reported to exist. If a mine cannot be located within a section, it is not shown on the map, but is listed in the directory.

The boundaries of the mined areas are also shown for most of the mines; however, for some mines the only information available is the location of the main opening. There are three types of coal-mined areas: underground, surface, and indefinite--which are shaded with different patterns. The underground mines also show large blocks of unmined coal within the mine, when that information is available. The indefinite areas, which have been plotted from sketchy or incomplete information, usually are underground workings, although the directory should be consulted to determine the specific mine type.

For most counties, one map shows all known mines. However, in Gallatin, Saline, Vermilion, and Williamson Counties, several seams have been extensively mined. For the sake of readability, separate maps have been produced for the mines in each seam. Mines in the Herrin Coal are shown on one map, those in the Springfield Coal are shown on another, and the mines in all other coals are shown on a third map. In Vermilion County, the mines that operated in the Herrin and the Danville Coals are presented on separate maps.

Quadrangle maps at 1:24,000 scale have been completed for select areas and contain more detailed outlines with directories that contain more detailed coal mine information. The maps and directories are available as downloadable PDF files or can be purchased. Please visit the ISGS web site for more information.

## **MINE DIRECTORIES**

Each county directory is keyed to the mine map by the mine index number; the directory provides basic information about the coal mines shown on the map. The data have been compiled from a variety of sources such as the annual Coal Report of the Illinois Office of Mines and Minerals and field notes taken by ISGS geologists. The information presented in the table is described below. A blank in any column indicates that information is not available for that item. Again, we welcome any additional information that you may have.

ISGS Index Each mine in the state is identified with a unique number; this number is shown on the map and is the link between the map and the directory. The number is permanently assigned to a mine regardless of changes in the mine name, ownership, or operator.

Company Name A mine may have been operated by more than one company or the operating company may have changed its name. Separate entries in the directory show each name and the years of operation under the name. In many instances, names have been abbreviated to fit within the space available.

Mine Name and Mine Number An entry is included for each name and/or number the mine operated under, even if the company name remained the same. Many companies use the same name for all their mines, but differentiate them by number. Again, abbreviations have been used where necessary.

Mine Type Underground mines are either "shaft," "slope," or "drift" which refers to the type of opening used to remove the coal from the mine. In shaft mines the coal is removed through a vertical shaft. Slope designates mines in which the coal is removed via a sloping incline from the ground surface to the mining level. In slope mines, miners and equipment may use either the slope or a vertical shaft to get into the mine. A drift mine is an underground mine that is excavated where the coal outcrops in the side of a bluff or the highwall of a surface mine. The mine type for surface mines is "strip" because these mines are more commonly called "strip mines."

Method This refers to the pattern by which the coal was removed. Most underground mines in Illinois have used a type of room and pillar pattern, the areas where the coal is removed are the 'rooms' with 'pillars' of coal left in place to support the roof. In some mines, the pillars were later pulled to extract additional coal. The abbreviations are listed below and most are illustrated in Figure 1.

RP	Room & Pillar; specific type unknown
RPB	Room & Pillar Basic; irregular panels, typical of old mines
MRP	Modified Room & Pillar; a somewhat more regular pattern than Room & Pillar Basic
RPP	Room and Pillar Panel; similar to Modified Room & Pillar
BRP	Blind Room and Pillar; every 6th or 7th room is left unmined to provide additional support
CRP	Checkerboard Room and Pillar; evenly spaced large pillars
LW	Longwall; all coal is removed Old longwall mines were backfilled with rock to provide support Modern longwall mines allow roof to collapse behind as mining progresses
HER	High Extraction Retreat; a form of Room & Pillar mining that extracts most of the coal

Years Operated Years that the mine operated; these dates may include periods when the mine was idle or not in full operation. Dates of mining from different sources are sometimes contradictory. The conventions that we have used to indicate where we were uncertain of dates are as follows. If we know the full range of dates that a mine operated under a specific name, those are given (1928-1934). If we know when a mine last operated, but not when it began, we use a dash and end date (-1934). If we know that a mine operated in a particular year, but not when it opened or closed, we just give the year we know (1920). To avoid confusion with the previous case, if a mine opened and closed in the same year, the year is repeated (1926-1926). In cases where a mine operated under different names, but we don't know when the name change occurred, the full range of dates is given for all names (John Smith Sr. Mine 1913-1944, Bill Smith Mine 1913-1944). A blank indicates that we have no information on the dates that the mine operated.

Coal Seam Mined The seam name is that used by the Illinois State Geological Survey. Figure 2 shows these coal seams in a stratigraphic column and provides a cross-reference to other names commonly used for these coals. If a mine has operated in more than one seam, there are separate entries in the table for each seam mined.

Location The location given is the site of the main portal or, for surface mines, the tipple. For small surface mines, the pit and the tipple are assumed to be the same. The location is based on the Public Land Survey System of townships and sections. Townships are identified by a township (north-south) and range (east-west) designation such as T14N-R6E. Townships are subdivided into approximately 36 one-square-mile sections, which are numbered from 1 to 36.

## **ORDERING INFORMATION**

A 1:100,000 scale color plot with the directory is available at a cost of \$12.50. This can be ordered by contacting the Information Office at (217) 244-2414 or [sales@prairie.illinois.edu](mailto:sales@prairie.illinois.edu).

## **ACCURACY OF MAP**

The maps and digital files used for this study were compiled from data obtained from a variety of sources and have varying degrees of completeness and accuracy. They present reasonable interpretations of the geology of the area and are based on available data. These data were compiled and digitized at a scale of 1:62,500, except for areas where quadrangle studies have been completed and the data was compiled at 1:24,000 or better. Locations of some features may be offset by 500 feet or more due to errors in the original source maps, the compilation process, digitizing, or a combination of these factors. 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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**DIRECTORY OF COAL MINES FOR CLAY COUNTY, ILLINOIS (February 2023)**

ISGS INDEX	COMPANY NAME	MINE NAME	MINE NO.	MINE TYPE	METHOD	YEARS OPERATED	SEAM MINED	COUNTY	LOCATION		
									TWP	RGE	SEC
733	IOLA STONE QUARRY,OPR ABT 54	IOLA		STRIP		1954-1954		CLAY	4N	5E	11
733	IOLA STONE QUARRY	IOLA		STRIP		1963-1963		CLAY	4N	5E	11
3116				STRIP			UNKNOWN	CLAY	4N	5E	11
3117	LAMKINS (JOHN)	LAMKINS		STRIP			UNKNOWN	CLAY	4N	6E	20
3119							UNKNOWN	CLAY	4N	6E	20
3122							UNKNOWN	CLAY	5N	5E	25