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1986/12. The Woodbury coalfield

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Abstract

The Woodbury coalfield, in the Midlands area of Tasmania, is located 12 km north of York Plains, where a small coal mine successfully operated for some years. The Woodbury deposit was evaluated by company exploration in the 1980-1984 period, and is currently held under mining leases and exploration licence. The coal is of Triassic age. Mining of this deposit would be by open cut methods.

GEOLOGY

The area covering the Woodbury coalfield has been examined by Nye (1921) and more recently mapped in detail by Forsyth (in press).

From recent exploration, the licence holder has found four individual coal seams in the coalfield areas, which have been gently folded to produce a west-trending anticlinal structure.

The host rock in which the coal seams occur is lithic sandstone belonging to the Upper Parmeener Super-Group. The coal is of Triassic age.

PREVIOUS MINING HISTORY

No mining activity has yet taken place in the Woodbury coalfield, although coal was mined on a small scale from about 1883-1947 at York Plains, 12 km south of Woodbury.

COAL QUALITY

Beneficiation by washing, with yields in excess of 40%, will produce a washed product with the following characteristics:

Moisture	12%
Volatile matter	18%
Ash	24%
Fixed carbon	46%
Specific energy	21.5 MJ/kg
Sulphur	<0.5%

(Register of Australian Mining, 1985/86)

RECENT EXPLORATION

A scout drilling programme was begun by Victor Petroleum and Resources Ltd in 1980 in an exploration licence area held by the North West Bay Company Pty Ltd, covering a large part of central Tasmania. At this time, initial mapping for the Interlaken Quadrangle was being done by S.M. Forsyth of the Tasmania Department of Mines.

From the preliminary mapping and examination of water bore records, Mr Forsyth had delineated potential target areas near Woodbury in which coal seams may occur. These areas were subsequently drilled by Victor Petroleum, with encouraging results. Mining leases and an

exploration licence for coal are currently held over the Woodbury Coalfield by a Victor Petroleum and Resources Pty Ltd/Costain Australia Ltd/North West Bay Pty Ltd joint venture partnership.

FUTURE POTENTIAL

The Woodbury coalfield is currently held under a series of mining leases and an exploration licence, and has potential for further development.

REFERENCES

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