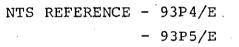
PR-SUKUNKA RIVER 78(1)B.

MANALTA COAL LTD.

SUKUNKA RIVER AREA, 1978 EXPLORATION

REPORT



OPERATOR - MANALTA COAL LTD.

COAL LICENCE NO.'S 3530-3533, 3535-3540, 3541-3545 3547-3549, 3551, 3552 & 3608-3617

all held by Master Explorations Ltd.

GEOLOGICAL BRANCH ASSESSMENT REPORT

67

By: G. W. Jackson P. Geol. March, 1979

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REFER TO: CONFIDENTIAL FILES PR- SUKUNKA RIVER 78(1)B CROSS - SECTION A - A'

FOR

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SUKUNKA EXPLORATION, 1978

INTRODUCTION

During the period August 14 through September 29, 1978, eight holes totalling 560.08M (1837.6ft.) of drilling were completed on the Sukunka River Coal Licences of Master Explorations Ltd. All holes were drilled by Manalta Coal Ltd.'s track mounted Mayhew 1000 rotary drill, employing water and mud as the circulating medium. Drill cuttings were continuously logged visually, and chip samples from the coal seams encountered were retrieved for possible later analysis (see Appendix I). Six of the eight holes were petrophysically logged by BPB Instruments Ltd. at both a general scale (1:200) for the entire hole depth and a detail scale (1:20) for the coaly sections over one metre in thickness. The general scale logs included natural gamma, long spacing gamma density and caliper, while the detail scale logs included only natural gamma and bed resolution gamma density. Additionally, one of the remaining two holes was petrophysically logged for resistivity by Manalta Coal Ltd., at scale of 1:120. (See Appendix II).

Geological mapping of the Master Explorations' licences was carried out intermittently during the same time period.

No new trails were constructed during the course of the 1978 program, but approximately five miles of existing road were re-opened for access to the drill sites. Additionally, four drillsites were cleared and levelled. Reclamation of the five road miles and four drill sites was completed by September 29, 1978, and a letter from BCMMPR, Mineral Resources Branch, indicating the current status of the reclamation is included as Appendix III. Accommodation for Manalta's four man field crew was obtained at BP's Sukunka camp for the period August 14 through 31, and a small trailer camp, operated by Manalta was rented for the remainder of the exploration period.

OBJECTIVES

Previous exploration by Manalta in 1971, 1975 and 1976 had outlined a surface coal reserve estimated to be seven million short tons recoverable at a ratio of seven cu. yds. of overburden per ton of coal. An independent consultant's report * commissioned during 1978, estimated the surface recoverable reserve over the same area to be fourteen million short tons at a ratio of ten to one, and showed the indicated and inferred underground reserves to be in excess of fourteen million tons with a further potential underground reserve in the order of three hundred million tons.

The stratigraphic nomenclature employed in the Manalta 1975 report and the consultant's 1978 report showed discrepancies concerning the age relationship of the surface mineable coals identified, but both agreed that some potential coals existed within the largely unexplored Gates member of the Commotion Formation.

Early in 1978, the B. C. Government lifted its moratorium on coal licencing, and Manalta was granted additional licences adjoining the Sukunka block.

The objectives of the 1978 program, then, were fourfold:

- To explore those areas of coal seam subcrop potential noted on the 1975 and 1978 cross sections;
- 2. To examine the unworked portion of the licences;

^{*} Manalta Coal Ltd., Sukunka River Area by Techman Ltd., January, 1978.

- To clarify the stratigraphic terminology where possible;
- To relate the geology of the newly acquired, adjacent licences to that of the original block of licences.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

The Grizzly Valley pipeline, for collection and distribution of natural gas from N.E. British Columbia, was under construction towards the northeastern edge of the Master Licences. A lateral to this pipeline from gas well b-65B-93P5 was also under construction along the seismic line used to demark cross-section B-B in the 1975 exploration report. As such, the seismic line was trenched to a depth of nearly four feet and extended from the gas well to near the edge of Master's licences in block 73B-93P5. This afforded a unique opportunity to examine and record the subsurface geology across a two mile breadth of the Master licences. The details of this traverse are recorded on revised crosssection B-B, appended to this report, and a generalized summary is here presented.

East of the fault contact between Gething/Gates strata as shown on the Regional Geology Map, complex structure was noted with dips recorded between 45 degrees and vertical. Several thin and dirty coal seams were recorded, but none of the potential economic interest were noted. Lithologies noted were sandstone, mudstone and carbonaceous shale. The writer was unable to differentiate these from typical Gething sediments, except that the overall impression east of the mapped contact was of a darker color. West of the mapped fault contact, structure was generally more gentle, with recorded dips in the 30-60 degree range, except for one noted at 82 degrees. Again, several coals were noted, but only two had sufficient thickness to warrant drilling.

The conglomerate previously mapped as Cadomin was closely examined and the writer has retained the Cadomin terminology, primarily because of the clast sizes observed. One additional conglomerate outcrop was noted in grid block 55B-93P5 and this has helped to refine the geological map of the area.

Towards the southeastern limit of the Master licences, at gas well b-19A-93P5, a large clearing had been constructed to accommodate the "big rig".

Close examination of the exposed shales in this clearing lead the writer to conclude that they are Moosebar, although the basal pebble conglomerate was not found. Over seven hundred stratigraphic feet of nearly vertical shales were noted through the clearing and on either side of it. The basal contact is talus covered, while the upper contact is abrupt with massive, conglomeratic sandstones. This upper contact is contorted, with abundant evidence of slickensided and polished shales and the sandstones dip southwesterly at five to ten degrees, whereas the shales are near vertical. This evidence has led to the interpretation of still another fault within the Master licences and a redefinition of the geology as shown in plan and on cross-section E-E.

Lower down along the gas well access road in b-l2B-93P5, a thin pebble conglomerate basal to a dark shale sequence was noted. Again the shales are interpreted to be Moosebar, but the section is terminated after a few feet by a gently dipping fault. (See revised cross-section E-E).

Also noted along this access road was one coal seam in C-9A-93P5, with undetermined thickness in excess of five feet. Attempts to expose this coal through its full stratigraphic thickness were abandoned because of potential hazard

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to the access road and because the seam lies outside the Master licences. However, that portion of the seam that was uncovered appeared fairly clean, and the seam should be further explored.

A five foot plus coal seam on the west side of the Sukunka River at C-87B-93P5 was examined. Unfortunately, its stratigraphic position could not be determined from outcrop, but the thickness and "clean" nature of the seam suggests that it may be from the Upper Gething sequence, possibly the Skeeter seam. This seam cannot be considered for mining by surface methods, but its gentle dip may make it worthwile to investigate for possible underground exploitation.

In the central portion of the licences, no field evidence was found to repudiate previous interpretations.

DRILL SITES

<u>SR-1-78</u> Location 868.7MS, 365.8MW of NE 45B-93P5 Elevation 365.8M

This location was chosen to investigate the coal potential within the first fault block west of the "Nuisance" fault. No coal was encountered in this hole and a comparision of the petrophysical logs with some of BP's logs, leads to the conclusion that the hole was drilled within the Middle Gething sequence. It therefore seems probable that little coal potential exists for the fault block containing this hole, at least to the east of the Sukunka River, but variations in structural attitude and topography may increase the potential along strike.

<u>SR-2-27</u> Location 213.4MS, 457MW OF NE 87B-93P5 Elevation 725M

The potential "middle" Gething coals shown on cross-section A-A of the 1975 exploration report were the target. The very hard sandstone and minor conglomerate encountered at this location indicate that the hole was drilled too close to the Cadomin contact. Additionally, fairly thick quaternary deposits were encountered. There appears to be very little opportunity for intersecting the middle coals at a depth amenable to surface mining in this locale.

<u>SR-3-78</u> Location 579.2MS, 167.7MW of the NE 74B-93P5 Elevation 945.0M

The trench along B-B indicated a zone of carbonaceous shale and coal float with dips of $35-45^{\circ}$ northeast, to the northeast of the conglomeratic ridge capping. The trench depth did not allow accurate seam description, so a drill hole was proposed to check the coal quality. As evidenced from the petrophysical logs and drillers log from this hole, there are two coal zones, each comprised largely of carbonaceous shale with several thin coal stringers, the thickest of which is only 1.2 metres vertical (about 0.9M true thickness at 40⁰dip) and includes a thin parting near the base of the The coal quality, based on bulk density approximations seam. from the petrophysical log, is not encouraging. Seams of this thickness cannot be considered for surface mining in mountainous areas, and the quality estimations preclude considering them for underground mining. Proximity of these zones to the Cadomin Conglomerate, as shown on revised crosssection B-B, indicates that they are from the lower Gething The possibility exists that they may thicken and coals. become cleaner, but there is no information available to indicate that lower Gething coals are being considered for exploitation on other properties.

SR-4-78 Location 76.2MS, 419.2MW of NE 64B-9P5 Elevation 934.4M

A ten foot zone of coal float and carbonaceous shale was noted in the trench along B-B on the west side of the

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congomerate ridge capping. The revised cross-section through B-B indicates that these coals are possibly of a lower stratigraphic position than those encountered in SR-3-78, and the drill hole was targeted towards determining whether or not these coals attained acceptable thickness and quality at depth. Only 0.8 vertical metres of coal were encountered in the drill hole, and it is assumed that the coal zone has thinned to this thickness, as it typical of lower Gething.

<u>SR-5-78</u> Location 274MS, 554.8MW of NE 61B-93P5 Elevation 1073.1M

Trench T-25 from the 1975 exploration program had indicated a few thin coal seams from within the same area as this drillhole but structure recorded was severe. Additionally, abundant coal float was seen on the road leading to this drill site. The lithologies were mapped as Gates, and the drill hole was intended to verify the Gates terminology and to deterime whether some thick seam not shown in the trench might occur. The thickest seam encountered was only two metres vertical thickness, and with the steep structure mapped in Trench T-25 this might be only a very thin coal stringer. Nothing diagnostic from the petrophysical log allows the Gates terminology to be positively assured.

<u>SR-6-78</u> Location 45.7MS, 91.5MW of NE 53-93P5 Elevation 1054.8M

Trench T-21 in the 1975 exploration report indicated 4 feet of coal at shallow dip and drill holes SR-11 and SR-12-75 both encountered coal. SR-12 was apparently drilled through a near vertical coal seam and showed 418^+ feet of coaly section. The true thickness of this section was not determined but could have been substantial. SR-6-78 was positioned stratigraphically lower than Trench T-21, and was targeted towards the correlation of the vertical coals shown in SR-12-75, to determine the true thickness. No coal was encountered, indicating that the hole was positioned too low stratigraphically. The abundance of extremely hard sandstone within the hole might indicate that the lower Gething sequence, rather than the Gates formation as mapped, is present. There is, however, nothing diagnostic about the petrophysical log, and Gates terminology is retained pending further investigation.

<u>SR-7-78</u> Location 314.0MS, 670.7MW of NE 22B-93P5 Elevation 1042.6M

Cross sections C-C' and D-D' from the 1975 exploration report show potential middle Gething coals in the vicinity of SR-7-78 location. Only one thin coal seam (1.58M) was encountered in this hole, and the extremely hard nature of the sandstone drilled, as well as the previously noted conglomerate outcrop in grid block 55B-93P5 have led to the conclusion that this hole was drilled in the lower Gething sequence and much closer to the Cadomin than previously mapped.

<u>SR-8-78</u> Location 823.1MS, 396.3MW of NE 12B-93P5 Elevation 923.7M

This hole was located topographically lower than the Moosebar shales noted on the access road to Gas Well b-19A-93P5 and was targeted into the Upper Gething sequence. The coal seams were encountered, and their stratigraphic separation suggests that they are the Skeeter (upper) and Chamberlain (lower) seams. The upper seam (Skeeter) has thinned to about 1.1M thickness and does not warrant further consideration in this locale. The lower seam (Chamberlain) is 3.55M thick and not suitable for surface mining, but should be further investigated for potential underground recovery.

APPENDIX

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FIELD LOGS OF DRILL HOLES

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						DEPTH OF HOLE		
		 .				Footage Drilled		
			· · ·				EMPTED	
				, 	_,	Samples REC	OVERED	
		<u></u>		,			TIME DISTRIBUTION	···· ··· ···
						DRILLING	MOVIN	G
·····	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				REPAIRING	STAND	

HOLE NO

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SHEET_

SHEETS

OF_

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	ER	Jackson			DF EXPLORAT	SR-5A	A-78		
DRILL C	ONTRACTOR	Manalta			LO	ATION 274.	. 4M . 9	5, 554.8M W	. NE61-B-
DRILLER	ι	Lonard			ELF	VATION]	1073.	1M	93P-5
TYPE DR	ULL Max	rhow	BIT SIZE A	7/8-1	1/2 INC	INATION	vert	DIRECTION	
SIZELT	YPE OF CAS	ing lo f	t 5	9/16	DAT	E Ser	pt.]	DIRECTION_	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
LOGGED	Yes	• <u>·-</u> •	TYPE G,	LSD, E	RD, C _{SHIE}	т		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
								River	-
		, ÷	• *		-				
Managara bi sana		SAMPLE EL	EVATION DAT	A				LD CLASSIFICATIO	
Sample	Type of	1	of Sample	Length	No		F 12.		IN
No	Sample		To	of Sample	Samples Saved				·,
				Sample,	Saved	-		, ., ., ., .,	······································
				<u> </u>					
	 			·					
								· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· <u>·····</u> ······························
								·	
	<u> </u>	.1	<u> </u>	L	L				
	DEPTH	FIELD	LOC OF HOLE	<u>.</u>		· · · ·		REMARKS	-
FROM									<u>.</u>
$\frac{0}{2.7}$	2.7	<u>Sandy cl</u> Gravel		ocks		Coal i	from	87.5 - 88.	0
					· ·	1		jamma count	
2.9	3.2	Carb sha						<u>pentonite w</u>	<u>vithin sea</u>
3.2	20.0				small coa	layers			
20.0	1 4	<u>Coal</u> n	-			-			
· · · ·	26.7	Shále, b							
26.7	37.2	Sandston						·	
37.2	40.3	Sandston				(\$		• • •	T
40.3	55.2	Sandston	e/shale	layers	5	PROGRESS		AT START OF SHIFT	AT END OF SHIFT
<u>55.2</u> 55.6	55.6	Coal Sandston	e/shale	laver		DEPTH TO			
57.8	64.8	Sandston		 		WATER LEVI	EL	, · · ·	
64.8	76.8	Sandston			-	DEPTH OF CASING			
<u></u>	+		e/ share	a bein		DEPTH OF			
<u>76.8</u> 77.3	77.3	Coal Shale, s	oft			HOLE	i		_l
79.2	79.9	Coal	<u> </u>	· · ·		Footage Drille			,,,
79.9	81.0	Shale, s	oft			Samples		4PTED	
81.0	81.0	Coal	<u> </u>		<u>. </u>	-	RECOV	'ERED	<u>.</u>
<u>81.0</u> 81.6	86.0	Shale an	d sandet		-1 -	Ĩ	IME DISTRIBUTION	<u>1</u>	
86.0	88.0	Coal, pa			. 5	DRILLING		MOVIN	۱G
88.0	92.8	Shale, s	oft, ber	ntonit:	Lc?	REPAIRING		STAND	ВҮ
	+					HOLE NO		SHEET	OFSHEE

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			DAILY	REPORT	OF EXPLORA	TION		
			son		H	DLE NO. <u>SR-6-7</u>	8	
		<u>Manalta</u>					<u>S, 91.5M W, M</u>	<u>VE 52B-93P</u>
1	~					EVATION 105		
							DIRECTION	
					DA	r <u>e</u> Sept.l	7, 1978	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
LOGGED	Ye	s.	TYPE G,	D, C	SH	IFT		
DRILLING	G MUD OR E	RAN			WE	ATHER		··
					101	S <u>Sukun</u> Manal	<u>ka</u> ta	
					co	MPANY		
	·····	SAMPLE ELI	EVATION DAT	A			FIELD CLASSIFICATION	۰. ۱
Sample No	Type of Sample		of Sample To	Length of Sample	No Samples Saved			
	ļ							
							·	
		···	 	 				
			· ·		<u> </u>			
r	DEPTH	FIELD	LOG OF HOLE	<u>.</u>			REMARKS	
FROM		Metres					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
0	5.4	Sandy cl	_	-				<u></u>
5.4	10.7	Sandston						
	16.8	Sandston						
	34.0			-		stringers	· · · ·	······································
- <u>1-4 - 17</u>		Sandstone	-					
35.6	48.2	Sandstone			& blac	«/		
		qtz	stringe	rs		· · ·		
						PROGRESS	AT START OF SHIFT	AT END OF SHIFT
<u></u>		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· · ·	·	DEPTH TO WATER LEVEL	·	
	•					DEPTH OF CASING		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
						DEPTH OF HOLE		48.2
	.	<u> </u>				Footage Drilled	48.2	2.
						Samples	TEMPTED	
			<u>`</u>				TIME DISTRIBUTION	
		1					MOVIN	
							STAND	
						HOLE NO	SHEET	OFSHEE

		G. W. Jac		Y REPORT C				Q			
	R			<u> </u>			E NO. SR-7-78				
		<u>Manalta</u>					CATION314.0M S, 670.7M W, NE22B-93P-				
DRILLER		Lepard	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · ·		ELEVA	TION 1042.	ЬМ			
	-			•			DIRECTION				
SIZE L TY	PE OF CAS	ING 10 ft,	5 9/16	•		DATE	Sept.	21/78	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
TOCCED	No	ť	YPE	<u>-</u> .		SHIFT_					
	MUD OR B							·			
								ka			
					c	COMPAI	Manal	ta			
		SAMPLE EL	EVATION DAT	`A		. }		IELD CLASSIFICATION	v		
Sample	Type of	1	of Sample	Length	No			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	······································		
No	Sample		То	of Sample	Samples Saved	F	·····		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
 				Jampie	Javeu			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
								····			

				1				······································			
			1		<u> </u>	· ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
				<u></u>	<u> </u>			<u> </u>			
n	EPTH		LOG OF HOLI	<u> </u>				REMARKS			
FROM		Metres						·			
_0		Clay and				. 1	.		······		
0.3		Sandstone	· · ·								
3.25	5.80	Sandston	ne/trace	es of c	uartz				,		
		<u>& hard b</u>	<u>rown sa</u> ı	ndstone	2 (1)	··		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
5.80	8.40				<u>s & ha</u>	rd_	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
		black & d	grey bai	nds							
8.40	9.98	Coal	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			·					
9.98	31.20	Sandstone	e, hard	black,	, grey	&		1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		brown min	nor quai	rtz str	inger	<u>s</u>	PROGRESS	AT START OF SHIFT	AT END OF SHIFT		
<u>31.20</u>	45.70	Sandstone	<u>e/soft</u> a	<u>clay st</u>	<u>reaks</u>		ДЕРТН ТО				
45.70	47.05	Sandston	e/quart:	<u>z stri</u> r	ngers_		WATER LEVEL		1		
47.05	49.85	Sandstone	e/clay s	streaks	3		DEPTH OF CASING				
49.85	60.00	Sandstone	<u>e - gre</u> y	y. biac	<u>k & b</u>	rown	DEPTH OF		1		
		qua	artz_sti	ringers	s		HOLE		60м		
		······					Footage Drilled				
	 						ATT	EMPTED	······		
								OVERED			
		·			·.			TIME DISTRIBUTION			
							ORILLING	MOVIN	7.		
				•		ſ		STAND			
						Į		SHEET			
]				['					

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					DF EXPLORA			8		
							sR-8-7		•	
								<u>S, 396.6M V</u>		
DRILLERLepardELEV							TION 923.7M	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
							NATION Vert DIRECTION			
SIZE & TYPE OF CASING 12 ft 5 9/16 DATE							Sept.	25, 1978		
LOGGED	Yeş		Res Res	s. only	YSI				<u></u>	
DRILLING	G MUD OR B	RAN		· · ·	w	EATHE	ER			
JOB								a		
	Сомр						ANY Manalta			
			<u> </u>		·····	1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	SAMPLE ELEVATION DATA						FIELD CLASSIFICATION			
Sample No	Type of Sample		of Sample To	Length	No Samples	-	······································	······		
				Sample	Saved					
		\	·		· ·					
							<u> </u>			
	<u> </u>		· · · · ·							
			· ·							
		FIELD	LOG OF HOLE					REMARKS		
I FROM	DEPTH	Metres				ļ	· .			
0		Clay & Rocks						······		
1.3	1	Shale								
5.0	1	Shale, hard with stringers of						<u> </u>		
		soft shale							<u></u>	
8.75	10.25	Coal & carb. shale - dirty					· · ·			·
	-t	Shale/minor coal stringers @ 11.20								
	12.80			<u> </u>		<u> </u>			·	
		Carb. shale							<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	16.10						PROGRESS	AT START		T END
	1						PROGRESS	OF SHIFT	()	F SHIFT
		Dirty Coal Shale, soft					DEPTH TO WATER LEVEL			
		Coal, dirty					DEPTH OF		<u> </u>	
		Shale.sandstone stringers					CASING			
		Coal/several thin shale parting					DEPTH OF			·
	····-							ł		
		Shale thin sandstone stringers								
32.75	2.75 40.50 Sandstone/shale stringers &						ATTEMPTEDSamples			
40 50	AE 70	Minor soft shale					REC	OVERED		
		Shale/sandstone layers Sandstone/shale layers & clayey					TIME DISTRIBUTION			
45./0	13.10	streaks					DRILLINGMOVING			
73.70	79.80	Sandstone, hard/quartz viens					REPAIRINGSTAND BY			
								SHEET		
_	<u> </u>	<u>I</u>				L	·····			

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