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MAP OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS SHOWING  
AREAL TYPE CLASSIFICATION FOR WELLS  
IN THE ILLINOIS COAL BASIN

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This circular presents briefly the nature and purpose of this map with a general discussion of areal type classification of wells in the Illinois basin as provided for in the "Rules and Regulations of the Oil, Gas and Coal Conservation Act" of the Department of Mines and Minerals. The original map, dated May 1, 1942, is here revised as of December 1, 1942.

The map shows the entire State of Illinois on a scale of approximately 1:1,000,000. In addition to the well type areas, which are shown by patterns, the boundary of the Pennsylvanian formations is also indicated. The map will serve as a guide to the location of workable coal seams for operators drilling all kinds of wells, since it indicates the status of coal beds over the entire state and not merely in oil-producing areas.

The "Rules and Regulations," cited above, provide regulations for the protection of coal seams when wells are drilled for oil or gas. Under Rule C-2 of these regulations, wells are classified as follows:

Type A. - Wells in regions definitely known to be barren of workable coal beds.

Type B. - Wells in regions probably barren; where there is no definite evidence of the presence of workable coal beds, but where there is some chance that further drilling may encounter evidence of the presence of such coal beds.

Type C. - Wells located in regions where workable coal is probably present but depth and thickness are not certain.

Type D. - Wells located in mining districts or in well prospected areas where minable coal is known to be present at a depth or depths that can be closely approximated if the surface altitude of a well is known, but where there is no definite prospect of immediate exploitation, as determined by inquiry.

Type E. - Wells located on active mine property but not above mined-out area, and situated more than 100 feet from the nearest underground mine room or entry.

Type F. - Wells located above mined-out area of an active mine, or less than 100 feet from an underground mine room or entry.

Type G. - Wells located above abandoned mines.

Type H. - Wells located within developed limits of active or abandoned oil or gas pools, where in the opinion of the Department prior drilling has not protected the workable coal beds to an extent sufficient to permit safe mining operations.

Several things should be noted concerning the classification in regard to the map. First, the descriptions of type classifications have been condensed to as few words as possible. Second, Types D, E, F, and G are shown as one group. This is necessary inasmuch as the scale of the map does not permit showing active or abandoned mines or mined-out areas. Third, Types C and D, E, F, and G have been described on the map in such a way as to give some conception of the amount of geologic information available at the State Geological Survey in these areas.

The revision of this map, dated December 1, 1942, shows a new classification for parts of the Illinois basin including White, Edwards, Wabash, Richland, Wayne, and Clay counties, excepting Township 4 North, Range 5 East, and parts of Jefferson, Hamilton, Gallatin, and Jasper counties. This area was formerly included as a Type B area, but on the revised map it is classified as Type C. Structure contour lines on the top of No. 6 coal bed are shown at fifty-foot intervals.

The contour lines and re-classification of this area are based on more than 100 drilling-time and sample-study records made in the field by geologists of the Coal Division of the State Geological Survey since March 1, 1942. These records were made at intervals not exceeding two feet. Because nearly all of these records show workable coal beds, the classification of counties and parts of counties listed above was transferred from a Type B area (probably no workable coal beds present) to a Type C area (probably workable coal beds present).

Structure contour blue-line print maps on Herrin (No. 6) coal have been prepared for most of the Type D area to the west and south of the area contoured on this map.