

2.5 Coal Resources and Reserves

Estimation of coal resources depends on a category of the resources. Table 2-3 shows a classification system made by United Nation, “United Nation International Framework Classification for Reserves / Resources - Solid Fuels and Mineral commodities”. DMR follows basically the classification.

Table 2-3 UN International Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities

UN International Framework	Detailed Exploration	General Exploration	Prospecting	Reconnaissance
Feasibility Study and/or Mining Report	Proved Mineral Reserve(111)	Usually	Not	Relevant
	Feasibility Mineral Reserve(211)			
Pre-feasibility Study	Probable Mineral Reserve (121)	(122)	Not	Relevant
	Pre-feasibility Mineral Resource (221)	(222)		
Geological Study	Measured Mineral Resource (331)	Indicated Mineral Resource (332)	Inferred Mineral Resource (333)	Reconnaissance Resource (334)

“Coal Resources”, estimated at the present exploration, is classified as “Measured Mineral Resources (331)” and “Indicated Mineral Resources (332)”. “Coal Reserves for Mining” comes under “Pre-feasibility Mineral Resources (221) (222)”.

2.5.1 Coal Resources

This quantity shows the magnitude of coal potential in the exploration area. The estimation was made basically in accordance with the DMR’s standard. The following are the criteria adopted for coal resources estimation in the present study.

- Mining coal thickness: $\geq 20\text{cm}$
- Specific gravity: 1.50 (estimated from results of Float – Sink Test)
- Area: divided by Polygon method
- Area by geologic assurance

Measured area: Radius $\leq 200\text{m}$ from observation point

Indicated area: Between the radius of 200m and 400m

Demonstrated area = Measured area + Indicated area

$\text{Coal Resources} = \text{Area} \times \text{accumulated coal thickness of each borehole}$ $\times \text{Specific gravity (1.50)}$

The calculation result is summarized in Table 2-4. Figure 2-10 shows the influence area of individual boreholes. The quantity by elevations is considered in the coal reserves for mining.

2.5.2 Coal Reserves for Mining

Coal Reserves for Mining were estimated with a geologic structure contour map of the bottom of mining sections and an isopach map of accumulated coal thickness of the individual coal sections. Figure 2-8 shows a structure contour map of the bottom of mining sections (Zone I). Figure 2-11 shows isothickness map of mining section and Figure 2-12 shows isothickness map of accumulated coal thickness in the mining section.

The following are the criteria adopted for coal reserves estimation.

Table 2-4 Coal Resources

S.G.= 1.50

	Total coal thickness	Measured		Indicated		Demonstrated (1,000t)
		Area(1,000m2)	(1,000t)	Total (1,000m2)	(1,000t)	
NG11/40	11.46	125.6	2,159.1	315.4	5,421.7	7,580.8
NG10/31	10.85	125.6	2,044.1	315.4	5,133.1	7,177.2
NGJ1/43	2.69	125.6	506.8	303.9	1,226.2	1,733.0
NG1/31	7.60	90.8	1,035.1	156.9	1,788.7	2,823.8
NG5/40G	13.24	83.0	1,648.4	31.4	623.6	2,272.0
LN28/21	6.68	71.7	718.4	56.7	568.2	1,286.6
NG13/31	41.17	124.5	7,688.5	213.0	13,153.8	20,842.3
NG6/40G	3.05	86.6	396.2	29.2	133.6	529.8
NG7/40G	13.99	98.5	2,067.0	102.6	2,153.1	4,220.1
LN26/21	11.11	64.8	1,079.9	25.7	428.3	1,508.2
NG7/31	12.31	75.4	1,392.3	90.4	1,669.2	3,061.5
LN11/21	0.93	99.3	138.5	46.4	64.7	203.2
LN2/21	0.30	90.3	40.6	81.6	36.7	77.3
NGJ3/43	18.07	125.6	3,404.4	200.2	5,426.4	8,830.8
NG2/31	14.31	98.3	2,110.0	70.4	1,511.1	3,621.1
NG8/40C	4.58	64.4	442.4	2.6	17.9	460.3
LN1/21	6.00	114.9	1,034.1	194.7	1,752.3	2,786.4
LN3/21	15.09	81.0	1,833.4	38.6	873.7	2,707.1
LN27/21	2.11	125.6	397.5	241.6	764.7	1,162.2
NG16/40	12.97	125.7	2,445.5	216.7	4,215.9	6,661.4
NG10/40	9.95	125.5	1,873.1	219.6	3,277.5	5,150.6
NG8/31	5.20	125.5	978.9	267.2	2,084.2	3,063.1
NG8/40	0.24	125.6	45.2	376.8	135.6	180.8
NG9/40	0.80	125.6	150.7	371.5	445.8	596.5
NGG4/40	8.55	112.4	1,441.5	235.8	3,024.1	4,465.6
NG5/31	4.05	122.7	745.4	239.9	1,457.4	2,202.8
NG4/40C	8.35	109.7	1,374.0	52.6	658.8	2,032.8
NG3/40C	3.48	93.4	487.5	21.0	109.6	597.1
NGG1/40	8.45	92.1	1,167.4	58.0	735.2	1,902.6
NG3/31	9.12	122.9	1,681.3	140.4	1,920.7	3,602.0
NGJ5/43	7.46	93.0	1,040.7	40.4	452.1	1,492.8
NG13/40	1.72	107.9	278.4	172.6	445.3	723.7
NG1/40G	3.72	69.0	385.0	0.9	5.0	390.0
NGG2/40	2.05	88.6	272.4	57.4	176.5	448.9
NG9/31	39.37	56.9	3,360.2	42.6	2,515.7	5,875.9
NG11/40C	25.67	64.6	2,487.4	87.2	3,357.6	5,845.0
NGG3/40	19.68	120.5	3,557.2	195.6	5,774.1	9,331.3
NG5/40	19.92	125.6	3,752.9	307.4	9,185.1	12,938.0
NG3/40	3.23	125.6	608.5	337.7	1,636.2	2,244.7
NG11/31	12.31	106.2	1,961.0	232.2	4,287.6	6,248.6
NG12/40	6.17	106.2	982.9	232.2	2,149.0	3,131.9
Total		4,216.7	61,213.8	6,422.4	90,796.0	152,009.8

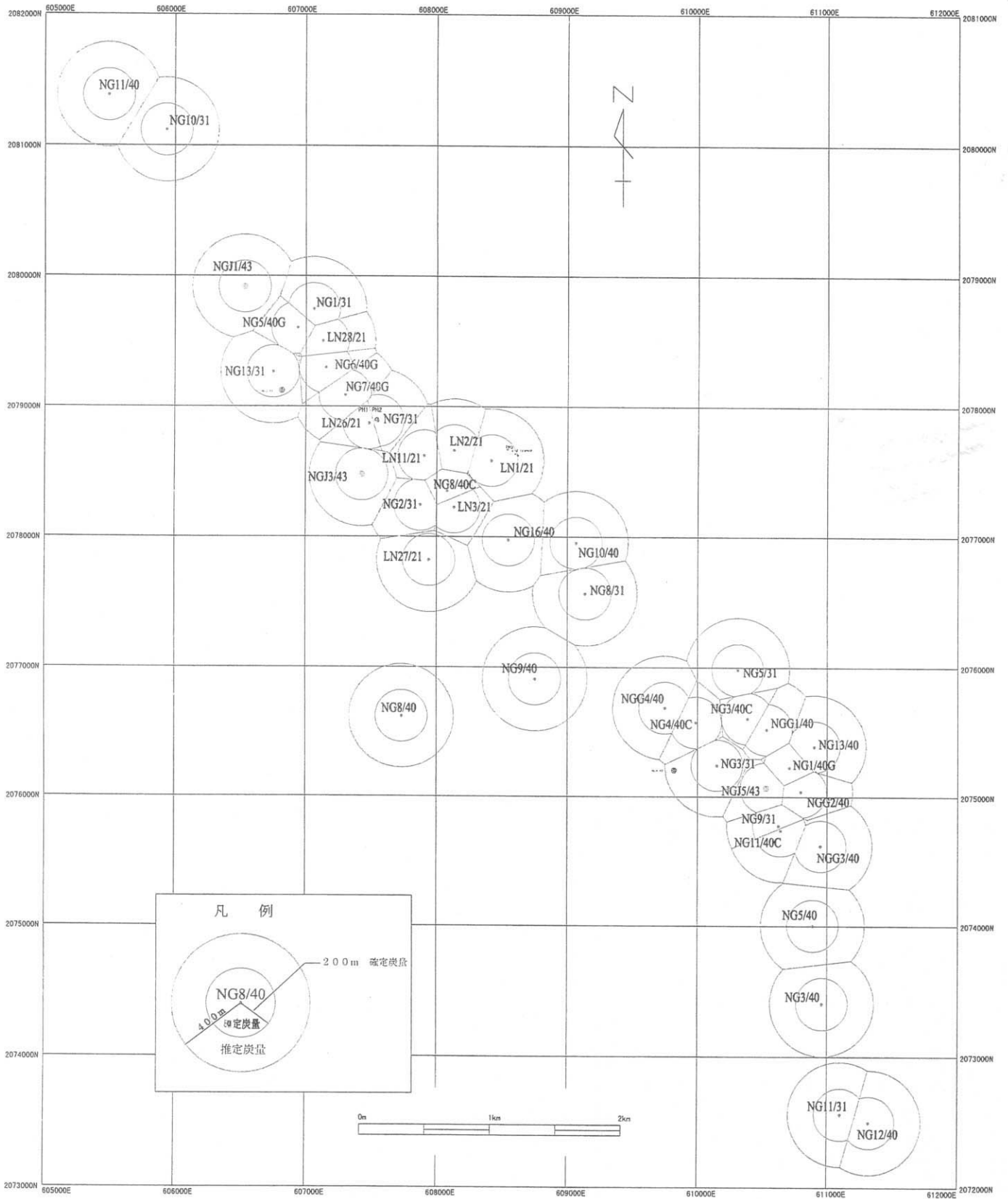


Figure 2-10 Calculation Map of Coal Resources

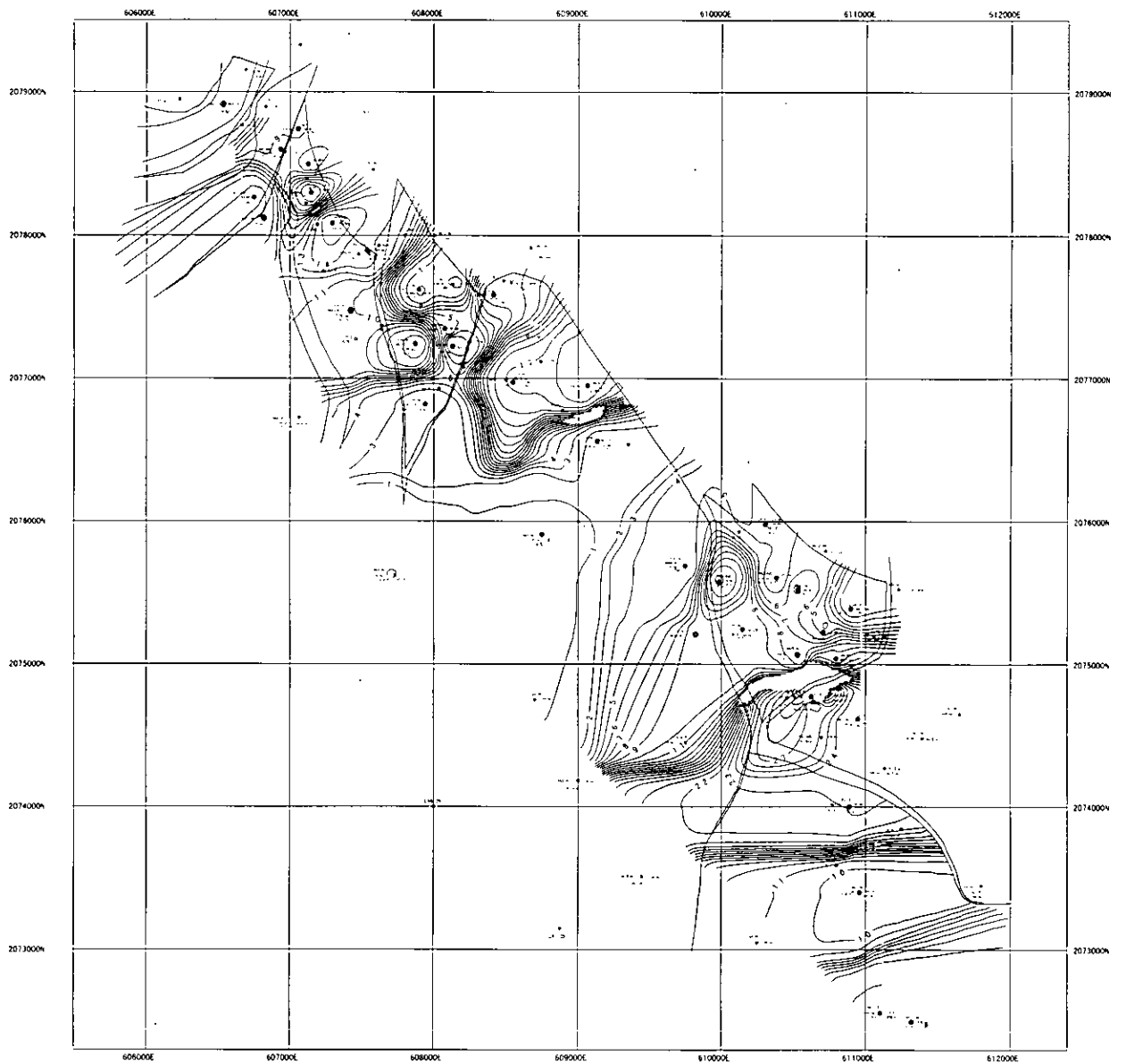


Figure2-11 Iso-thickness Contour Map in Mining Section

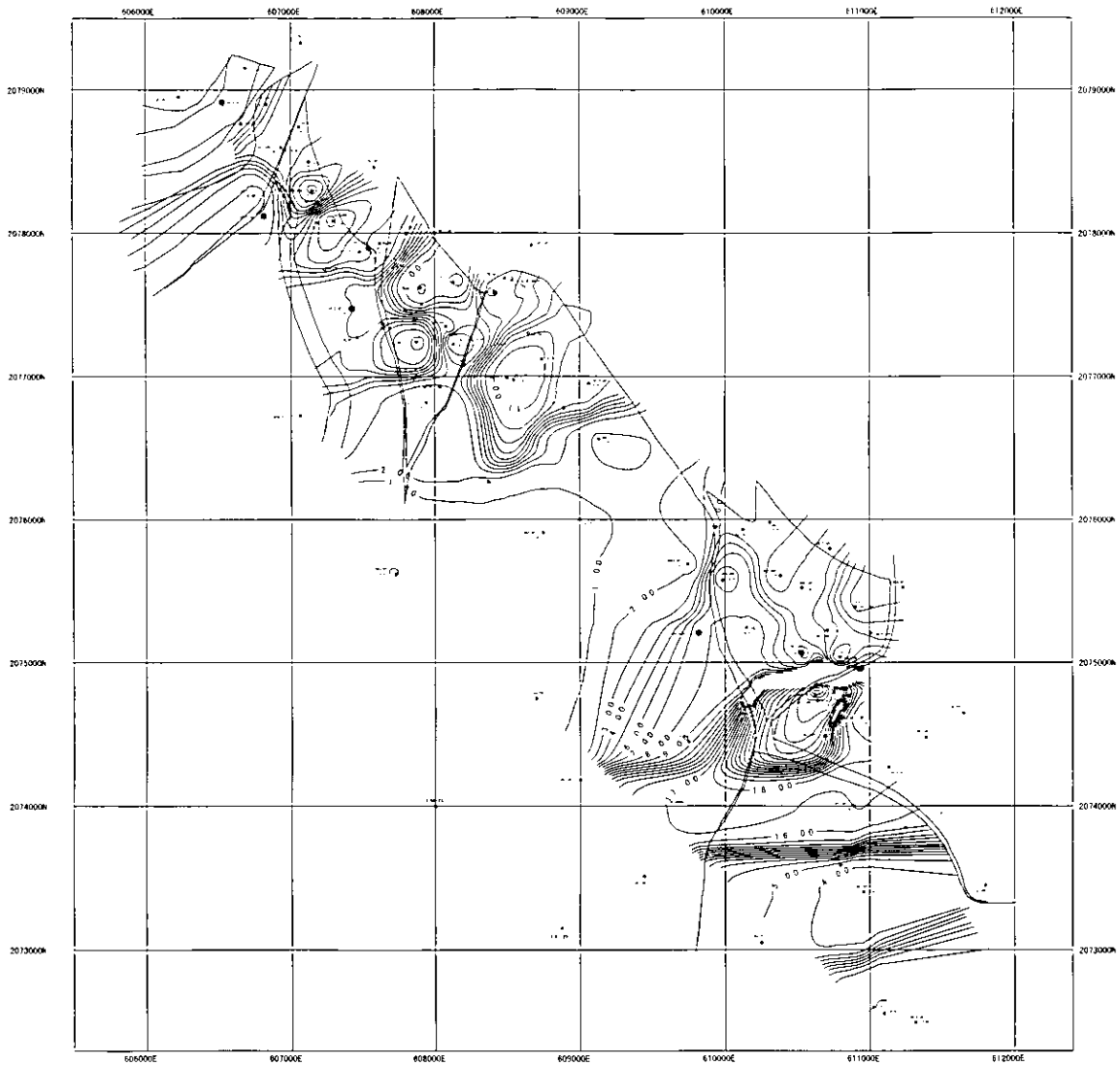


Figure2-12 Iso-thickness Contour Map on Accumulated Coal Thickness in Mining Section

- Reserves for open pit mining are calculated down to the depth of 250m from the surface. The surface elevation in the potential area is 300m above sea level, so that the depth 250m means 50m above sea level
- Coal seam in Zone I, having 30cm or more in thickness, are the target part for mining.
- Specific gravity: 1.50 (estimated from results of Float – Sink Test)
- Coal thickness: the average thickness between the two neighboring isopach lines.(for example: average coal thickness is 3m in a area between 2m and 4m lines)
- Area: each area was divided with the line of 50m-vertical-interval and isopach lines at 2m-interval of accumulated coal thickness in the mining section.

$$\text{Coal Reserves} = \text{Area} \times \text{Coal thickness} \times \text{Specific gravity (1.50)}$$

Reserves calculation map is shown in Figure 2-13. Summary of the reserves is shown in Table 2-5.

Table 2-5 **Coal Reserves for Mining**

(MSL)	Area (1000m ²)	Average coal thickness(m)	S.G	Tonnage (1,000t)
~ +250m	1,499. 3	6. 2	1.50	13,992
+250m~ +200m	1,326. 2	6. 8	1.50	13,400
+200m~ +150m	1,910. 7	7. 2	1.50	23,156
+150m~ +100m	1,554. 7	7. 1	1.50	13,904
+100m~ +50m	2,627. 9	3. 3	1.50	13,013
Total	8,918. 8	5. 8	1.50	77,465

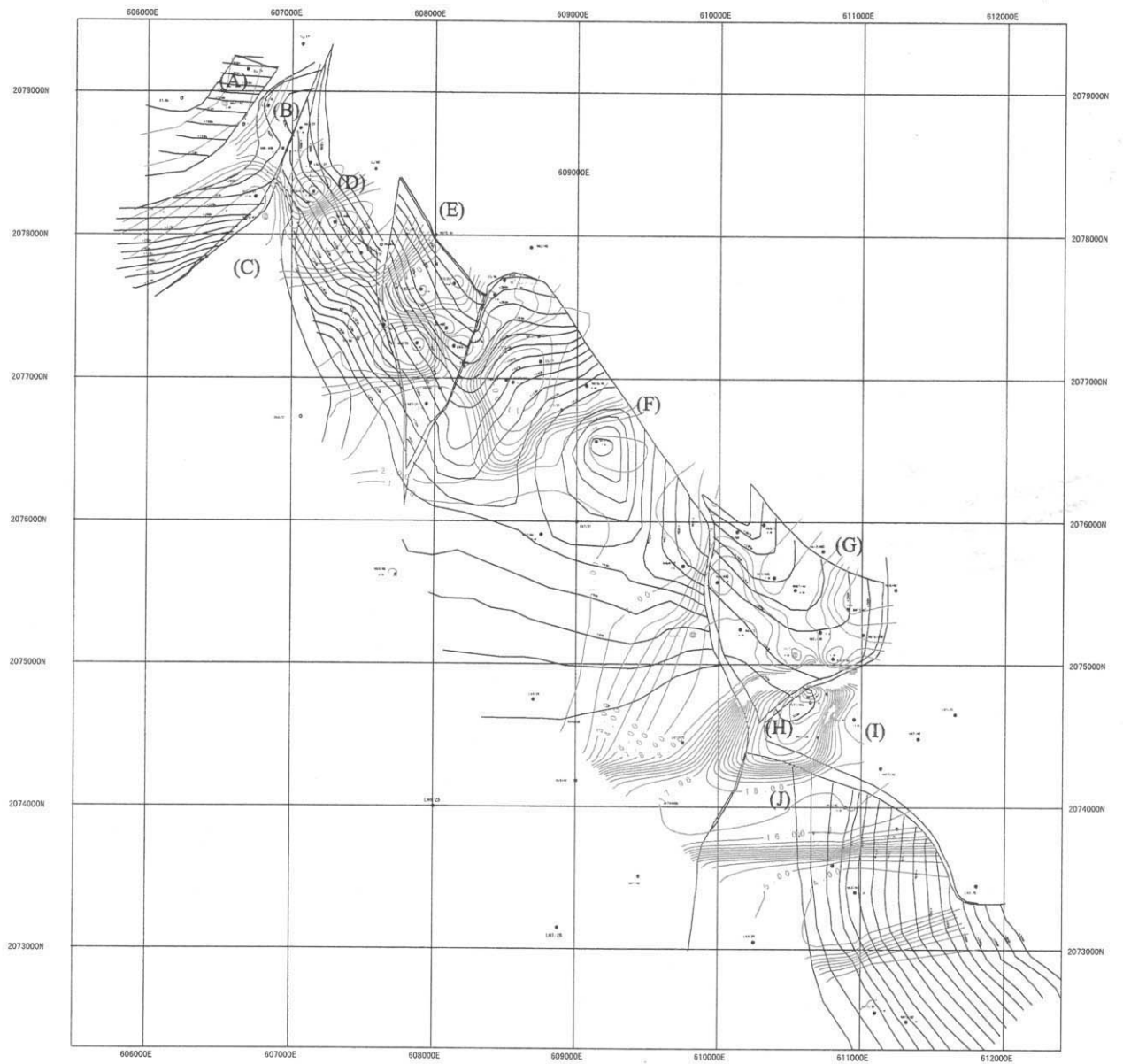


Figure2-13 Calculation Map on Coal Reserves for Mining

3. Coal Quality

3.1 Tests on Bulk Sample

3.1.1 Crushing and Screening

Coal in the bulk sample was crushed to smaller pieces than 100 mm by the use of a Jaw Crusher. After weighing the whole sample, it was screened with the size of 50 mm, 25 mm, 10 mm, 3 mm and 0.5 mm.

The channel sample taken from the face of the trench was crushed to less than 25 mm.

The procedure of crushing, screening and float-sink test on the bulk sample and the laboratories are seen in Ph-7, 8.

3.1.2 Float-Sink Test

Float-sink test was conducted on the channel sample at the specific gravity of 1.3, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 1.60, 1.70 and 1.80.

Regarding the bulk sample, about 20 kg of samples were taken from each screened product of +50 mm, 25-50 mm, 10-25 mm, 3-10 mm and 5 kg from 0.5-3 mm after reduction with dividing apparatus. Those samples are provided for float-sink test in Thailand. The screened sample smaller than 0.5 mm was brought to Japan because there is no equipment of float-sink test on such fine coal in Thailand.

The following specific gravity was used for separation in float-sink test based on the result of the preparatory test; 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.70 and 1.80. The results of float-sink test of each screened sizes are seen in Ph-9.

3.1.3 Analysis of Coal Quality

Ash and total sulfur was analyzed on each product of float and sink test.

Twenty-nine (29) samples from the product of 25-50mm in size and under 1.3 in specific gravity were sent to the laboratory at EGAT's Mae Moh mine. They were analyzed on forms of sulfur.

3.2 Coal Analysis and Tests on Drill Core Samples

Analysis and tests of coal sample from boreholes were conducted at the laboratories of Lanna Lignite Public Company and EGAT depending on the analytical items.

3.2.1 Preparation of Sample

(1) Main Coal Beds

Six samples (PH3, N1-3, N3-4, N3-6, N5-1, N5-13) were sent to the laboratory of Lanna Lignite Company at Li and crushed to smaller than one inches. The three quarters of each sample were used for float-sink test at Lanna's laboratory and the remains were sent to Mae Moh's laboratory of EGAT for various quality analyses.

(2) Other Coal Beds

Other coal samples from the boreholes were sent EGAT for various quality analyses except float-sink test.

3.2.2 Analysis and Tests

(1) Main Coal Beds

After screening with the mesh of 10 mm and 0.5 mm, products of 0.5-10 mm and +10 mm were used for float-sink test. Separation density used in the test was 1.35, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60 and 1.80, taking account of the test result of bulk sample.

Each portion separated by density and products of under 0.5 mm were analyzed on total sulfur content at Lanna's laboratory and then, 25g each of them were sent to EGAT's laboratory for coal quality analyses. Analytical items were proximate analysis, calorific value, ultimate analysis, ash analysis, hardgrove grindability index (HGI) and forms of sulfur.

A part of the results of coal analysis and tests conducted in EGAT's laboratory were shown on Table 3-2.

(2) Other Coal Beds

The following analyses were conducted by EGAT; proximate analysis, calorific value, ultimate analysis, ash analysis, forms of sulfur and specific gravity.

The result is shown also on table 3-2.

3.3 Coal Quality

The quality of Ngao coal is variable place by place. There are two main causes; (1) Peat deposition might be occurred in each sub-basin separately. (2) Those peat swamps were presumed as "planar peat" (Cecil, et al, 1985).

Coal analytical data from twenty-one (21) boreholes are available for this study, although 113 boreholes including five holes done during this exploration period have been conducted in Ngao Coal basin. The numbers of data (21 holes) is sparse

for this large area. A preconception about Ngao coal as very high sulfur contents was so intense. There was no chemical analysis data on the form of sulfur in Ngao basin.

The previous coal analysis data and the analysis result this time are shown in Table 3-1 and Table 3-2 respectively. Iso-value map on ash content, calorific value and total sulfur content on dry basis are illustrated in Figure 3-1 to Figure 3-3. Coal quality in Ngao area is outlined based on the coal analysis data taken from 21 boreholes in this chapter.

As mentioned before, two coal zones (Zone I and Zone II) are recognized in Ngao area. There is not much difference in the proximate analysis between Zone I and Zone II as shown in Table 3-3. The following descriptions are about Zone I, because the mining plan was carried out on Zone I.

3.3.1 Moisture

The moisture content on as received basis (total moisture) is 20% to 34% and its average is 30%. The moisture content on air-dried basis (inherent moisture) is reported about 20%, two thirds of the total moisture. This means that one thirds of the total moisture of Ngao coal is surface moisture. Removing surface moisture is one of the effective quality upgrade technologies.

3.3.2 Ash

According to the iso-value contour map of ash on dry basis (Figure 3-1), the weighed average of ash content in the whole Ngao area is calculated as 44.8%. This is converted into 31.4% on as received basis and 35.4% on air-dried basis.

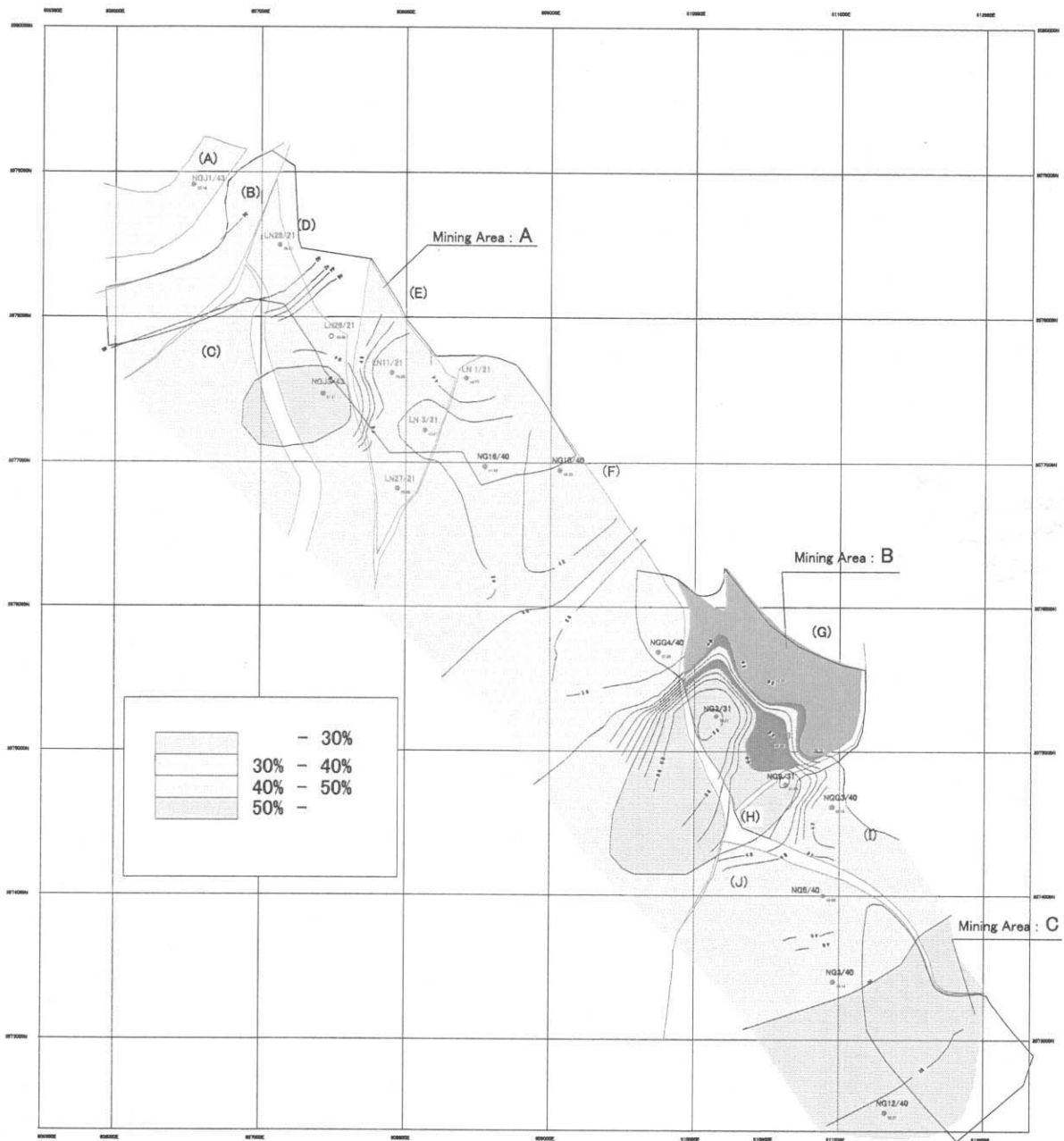


Figure3-1 Iso-value Contour Map on Ash Content(% dry)

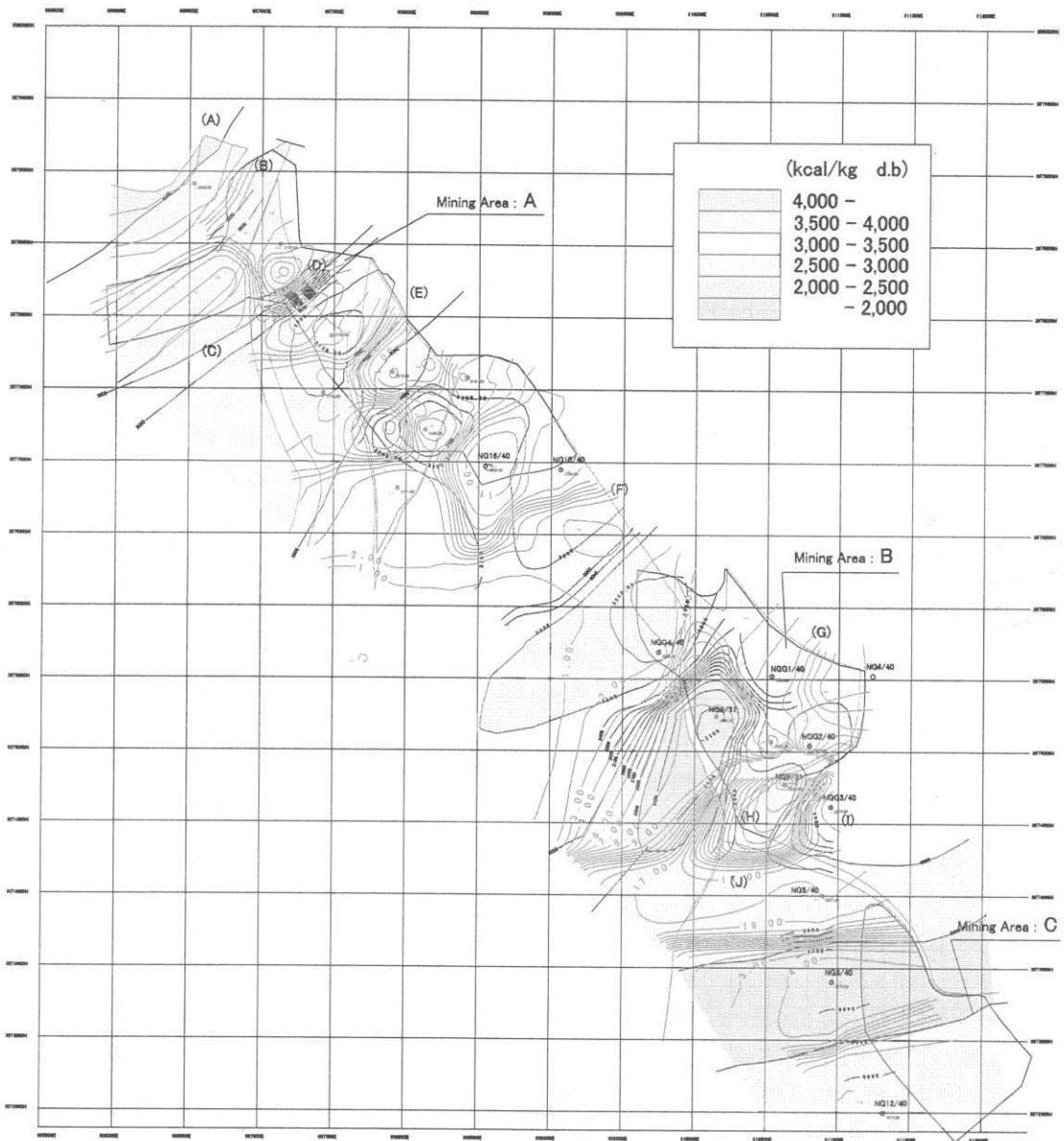


Figure3-2 Iso-value Contour Map on Heating Value (kcal/kg,dry)

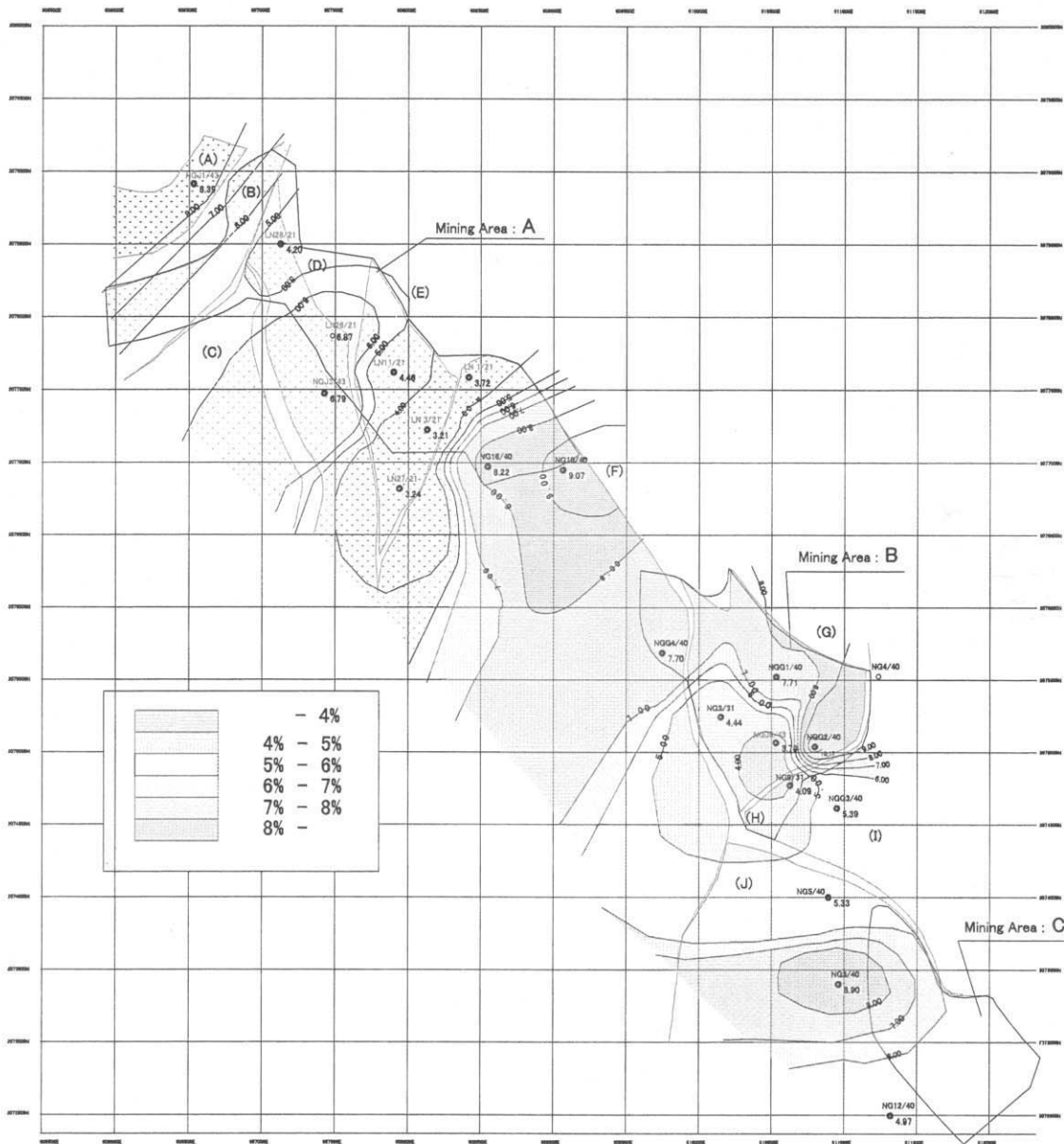


Figure3-3 Iso-value Contour Map on Total Sulphur Content(%dry)