

Darker colors represent areas known to contain coal beds that are of commercial value at the present time or that may be of value to the future. In general the minimum thicknesses included are 14 inches for anthracite and bituminous coal, and 30 inches for subbituminous coal and lignite.

Lighter colors represent areas of doubtful value for coal. These may be divided into three classes- (1) areas containing thin or irregular beds, which generally have little or no value, but which locally may be thick enough to mine; (2) areas in which the coal is poor in quality; and (3) areas where information on the thickness and quality of coal beds is meager or lacking.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration.

