

Clinker Distribution and Age in the Powder River Basin

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Clinker is rock that is altered by natural burning of coal beds. It covers over 3700 square kilometers of the Powder River Basin (PRB) in northeast Wyoming and southeast Montana and is evidence of a vast amount of coal that has gone up in smoke in prehistoric times. We present a map showing the extent and distribution of clinker outcrops in the PRB. The map also shows locations of: clinker-bearing late Tertiary /early Quaternary gravel terraces; ZHe dates that we have obtained, showing when the coal burned to form clinker at that spot, as well as ZFT dates and paleomagnetic data by earlier researchers; active coal mines; and known current and historic coal fires.