

Problems in Coal Nomenclature Used by the CBM Industry in the Northeast Oklahoma Shelf: Part 1 – the Lower Part of the Krebs Group.

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Does it really matter what we call a particular rock-stratigraphic unit, for example a specific coal? It may not if we restrict our interest to a small area. However, we sometimes need regional maps or production statistics and we assume that the coals and other units are named consistently. Regulatory agencies and others rely on some naming consistency in order to compile statistics about exploration activity and production. In general, the naming of coal- and shale-gas reservoirs in northeast Oklahoma has been inconsistent with the established stratigraphic nomenclature, and it is inconsistent with the names used in adjoining areas in Kansas and Oklahoma.

The coal- and shale-gas industry began in southeast Kansas in the 1920's with the local demand for shale gas. Development was reinitiated in Kansas and Oklahoma during the 1980's with the advent of a tax credit for certain unconventional gas resources. Some of the naming problems apparently originated from the attempt to carry Kansas terminology into Oklahoma where the stratigraphic section is not identical.