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S Coal Company
Cambria No. 1 Mine
Williamson County

Scoal - Cambria #1

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Notes by John Nelson on visit with Tom Moore and Russ Jacobson, February 18, 2004.

We met Van Villenes, owner and general manager of S Coal. The Cambria No. 1 Mine is on its final cut. The Herrin Coal is being mined. The coal is crushed and then trucked directly to the customer. The Springfield Coal had been uncovered, but was found to be too high in sulfur for the customer's specifications, so the lower seam was not mined. The pit is located immediately northwest of Cambria in the **south half of Sec. 29, T8S, R1E, on the De Soto and Herrin 7.5-minute quadrangles**. The mined area covers approximately 70 acres, shaped like a square with the southwest corner cut off. S Coal began at the subcrop of the coal and worked northward. They are limited on the east by abandoned underground mines, and on the north by a landowner who would not sell the rights to mine.

At the northeast corner of the pit, **approximately 2300' SL, 1800' EL, Sec. 29**, the following strata are exposed (all thicknesses estimated):

- TOP
- 7-8' Loess, light brown, massive.
 - 8-15' Till (Glasford Formation); light brown, appears to be largely massive silt, competent, top layer is bright orange with large gray vertical structures that may be roots or burrows (Sangamon soil). Varies in thickness.
 - 0-6' Sandstone, orange, crossbedded. S Coal is stockpiling some of this rock for use as fill at a local landfill.
 - 10' Shale, dark gray, silty, siderite bands numerous.
 - 2-4' Brereton Limestone, gray, nearly massive to large-scale nodular or "bouldery" structure.
 - 4' Anna Shale, black, hard, thinly fissile.
 - 0-5' Energy Shale, dark gray, indistinctly bedded, slip-fractures common. Occurs as lenses.
 - 8' Herrin Coal, bright banded, little pyrite, base concealed. Six feet visible, mine owner reports 8 feet.

Northwest corner of the pit is on its final cut and here the overburden is thickest. Location of northwest corner is about **2550' SL, 1450' WL, Sec. 29**. Strata estimated as follows:

- TOP
- 3-6' Loess, light brown, massive.
- 0-15' Till (Glasford Formation), with Sangamon soil at top, as before. Till is thickest along the east-facing segment of the highwall and pinches out eastward along the south-facing wall, where bedrock comes within 3 feet of the surface.
- 15' Sandstone, gray when fresh, weathers orange; appears to have an erosional lower contact, with coal stringers at the base.
- 17' Shale, medium-dark gray, with regularly spaced bands of siderite. Both contacts sharp.
- 3' Shale, dark gray to black, no siderite. Sharp lower contact
- 2-7' Brereton Limestone, gray, thickly bedded; individual layers thicken as the unit thickens.
- 3' Anna Shale, black, hard, thinly fissile. Small lenses of Energy Shale may be present. The coal is partially exposed.

Like most current surface mines, this is a truck-and-shovel operation. Equipment includes several Caterpillar D-11 bulldozers, scrapers for removing surficial materials, an Ingersoll-Rand shot-hole drill for blasting bedrock overburden, a large front-end loader for removing rock and a smaller backhoe for loading coal, and a fleet of haul trucks the largest of which carries 85 tons.