NETL Life Cycle Inventory Data
Process Documentation File

Process Name: Surface Mine, Western Montana Subbituminous Coal, Operations

Reference Flow: 1 kg of Western Montana Subbituminous Coal

Brief Description: Based on a compilation of mines, a surface mine for Western Montana subbituminous coal, producing ~6 billion kg of coal per year. Assumes 20.0 scf/short ton coal mine CH4 (CMM) emissions, adjustable CMM capture rates; LHV=10650 Btu/lb.

Section I: Meta Data

Geographical Coverage: US **Region:** Montana

Year Data Best Represents: 2008

Process Type: Extraction Process (EP)

Process Scope: Cradle-to-Gate Process (CG)

Allocation Applied: No

Completeness: All Relevant Flows Recorded

Flows Aggregated in Data Set:

☒ Process ☒ Energy Use ☒ Energy P&D ☐ Material P&D

Relevant Output Flows Included in Data Set:

Releases to Air:	☒ Greenhouse Gases	☒ Criteria Air Pollutants	☒ Other
Releases to Water:	☒ Inorganic Emissions	☒ Organic Emissions	☐ Other
Water Usage:	☒ Water Consumption	☒ Water Demand (throughput)	
Releases to Soil:	☐ Inorganic Releases	☐ Organic Releases	☐ Other

Adjustable Process Parameters:

Coal mine methane emissions (CMM)	*Emissions of coal mine methane (CMM) from the coal mine and from mined coal*

Tracked Input Flows:

Diesel [Crude Oil Products]	*Diesel (from crude oil) usage for mine operations*
Power [Electric Power]	*Electricity usage for mine operations*
Ammonium Nitrate [Inorganic	*The amount of ammonium nitrate needed for*

Intermediate Products]	*ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) explosives*
Light Fuel Oil [Crude Oil Products]	*Light fuel oil (from crude oil) needed for ANFO explosives*

Tracked Output Flows:

Western Montana Subbituminous Coal	*Coal mine production flow for Western Montana subbituminous coal*

Section II: Process Description

Associated Documentation

This unit process is composed of this document and the data sheet (DS) *DS_Stage1_O_Surface_Coal_Mine_WestMTSubbit_2011.01.xls*, which provides additional details regarding calculations, data quality, and references as relevant.

Goal and Scope

The scope of this process covers the production of coal during operation of a surface mine for Western Montana subbituminous coal, from resource extraction to the boundary for Life Cycle (LC) Stage #2 (e.g., transport of coal). The process is based on the reference flow of 1 kg of cleaned, crushed (to approximately 3 inches) Western Montana coal, as described below, and in **Figure 1.** Considered are the consumption of electricity, consumption of diesel, emissions of methane associated with off-gassing from the coal/coal mine, particulate matter emissions associated with fugitive coal dust, water input flows required for mining and cleaning operations, wastewater flows including stormwater, emissions of criteria air pollutants, and air emissions of mercury and ammonia.

Boundary and Description

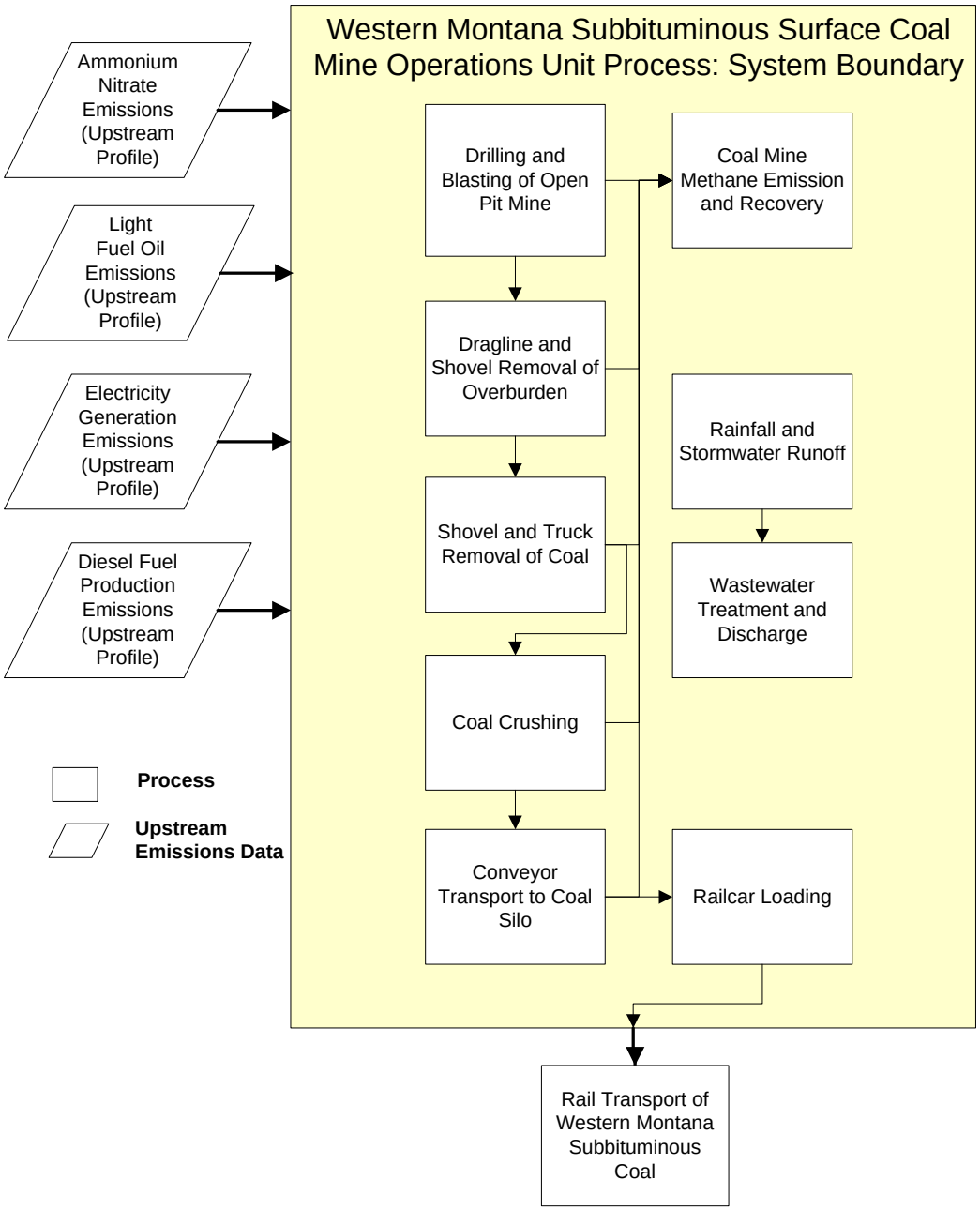
This unit process is a screening level data set. It was created using a previously created unit process with specific adjustments for the coal properties. The adjustments include the specific region and coal type's CMM and energy content values. This unit process is based on the Powder River Basin surface mining of subbituminous coal. It is assumed that all surface mines have similar operation profiles.

Operations of the coal mine are based on operations from a compilation of the three largest producers of Powder River Basin coal (Peabody Energy's North Antelope-Rochelle mine, Arch Coal, Inc.'s Black Thunder Mine, and Kennecott Energy's Cordero Rojo Operation) to produce an average annual rate of 60.8 billion kilograms (NMA 2009). The Powder River Basin is located in the southeast portion of Montana and the northeast portion of Wyoming. Sources reviewed in assessing coal mine operations include facility and equipment needs, production raters, electricity usage, particulate air emissions, methane emissions, explosives usage, and additional governmental publications on coal and mines. It is assumed that the surface mine operations of a

Western Montana subbituminous coal mine are similar to those in the Powder River Basin.

Figure 1 provides an overview of the boundary of this unit process. As shown, upstream emissions associated with the production and delivery of electricity and diesel fuel, ammonium nitrate, and light fuel oil are accounted for outside of the boundary of this unit process.

Figure 1: Unit Process Scope and Boundary



Coal is extracted from a surface PRB coal seam through an open pit mining process. It is assumed that the Western Montana surface mines operate similarly. Blasting with ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) explosives occurs in drilled holes to remove the overburden and expose the coal seam for extraction. The removal of the overburden occurs with the use of draglines, powered by electricity, which pile the overburden in a different location to enable extraction of the coal. After the dragline has removed as much as possible, large electric shovels are used for the removal of the remaining overburden. The coal is removed using a truck and shovel approach. The trucks move the coal 3.2 km (2 miles) to the preparation facility for grinding and crushing to the proper size for transport. No cleaning of the coal occurs based on the coal properties. A conveyor belt carries the crushed coal from the preparation facility to the loading silo. The coal is then loaded into rail cars for transport (LC Stage #2) to the plant (LC Stage #3).

Coal mine methane emissions from the coal mine, and from the extracted coal during processing and storage, were estimated based on U.S. EPA estimates of methane release for coal mines (U.S. EPA 2011). An 80 percent methane capture rate was used based on data for existing and potential recovery rates (U.S. EPA 2008), which resulted in a coal mine methane emission factor of 4.0 standard cubic feet per short ton of coal. For a sensitivity analysis, one may assume that no coal mine methane capture method was employed, by updating the appropriate adjustable parameter. It was assumed that all emitted methane was released to the atmosphere. The average Western Montana coal deposit has 20.0 standard cubic feet of methane per short ton of coal. Other types of coal may have up to 360 standard cubic feet per short ton of emissions. Western Montana subbituminous coal has a lower heating value of 10,650 Btu/lb (U.S. EPA 2008).

Electricity and diesel use were based on data points published by Peabody Energy in reference to their North Antelope Rochelle Mine in Wyoming (Burley 2008 and Peabody 2005). The data were scaled such that they were applicable to the size of the mine being modeled.

Emissions of criteria pollutants were based on emissions associated with the use of diesel. U.S. EPA Tier 4 diesel standards for non-road diesel engines were used, since these standards would go into effect within a few years of commissioning of the mine for this study (U.S. EPA 2004). Diesel is assumed to be ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD; 15 ppm sulfur). Emissions of particulate matter included those due to the combustion of diesel, as well as fugitive coal dust from the mining process. Total coal dust emissions were obtained from the EPA's AP 42's Mineral Products Industry section (EPA 2009).

Water use was estimated based on an environmental impact study completed on West Antelope II mine located in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming (BLM 2008). Water emissions, including flows and concentrations of relevant inorganic constituents and solids entering the waterstream, were taken from available National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit reporting documentation (NPDES 2009).

Properties of Western Montana and PRB subbituminous coal relevant to this screening level unit process are indicated in **Table 1**. **Table 2** provides a summary of modeled input and output flows. Additional details regarding input and output flows, including calculation methods, are contained in the associated DS sheet.

Table 1: Properties of Western Montana and Powder River Basin Subbituminous Surface Mined Coal (NETL in press; EPA 2011; EPA 2008)

Rank	Subbituminous	Subbituminous
Seam	Powder River Basin	Western Montana
LHV, Btu/lb	11,096	10,650
CMM, scf/ton	30-40	20.0

Table 2: Unit Process Input and Output Flows

Flow Name*	Value	Units (Per Reference Flow)
Inputs		
Ammonium nitrate [Inorganic intermediate products]	**1.4544E-03**	**kg**
Diesel [Crude oil products]	**8.9284E-04**	**kg**
Light fuel oil [Crude oil products]	**1.0111E-04**	**kg**
Power [Electric power]	**1.4028E-03**	**kWh**
Water (ground water) [Water]	3.0347E-02	L
Outputs		
Western Montana Subbituminous Coal	1	kg
Carbon dioxide [Inorganic emissions to air]	2.8092E-03	kg
Carbon monoxide [Inorganic emissions to air]	6.9709E-12	kg
Methane [Organic emissions to air (group VOC)]	8.4920E-05	kg
Nitrogen dioxide [Inorganic emissions to air]	2.4900E-05	kg
Sulphur dioxide [Inorganic emissions to air]	2.6757E-11	kg
Particulate Matter, unspecified [Other emissions to air]	9.4546E-05	kg
Volatile Organic Carbons [Organic emissions to air]	3.4765E-07	kg
Mercury - Heavy Metals to Air	1.3962E-13	kg
Ammonia - Emissions to Air	1.1560E-07	kg
Ammonium / ammonia [Inorganic emissions to fresh water]	3.0005E-05	kg
Nitrogen [Inorganic emissions to fresh water]	9.0388E-05	kg
Phosphorus [Inorganic emissions to fresh water]	8.9395E-07	kg
Aluminium [Heavy metals to fresh water]	2.4790E-06	kg
Selenium [inorganic emissions to fresh water]	1.1151E-07	kg
Sulfate [inorganic emissions to fresh water]	4.2008E-02	kg
Total Dissolved Solids [inorganic emissions to fresh water]	8.7516E-02	kg
Total Suspended Solids [inorganic emissions to fresh water]	2.5672E-03	kg
Arsenic [Heavy metals to fresh water]	1.3244E-07	kg
Copper [Heavy metals to fresh water]	1.3447E-07	kg
Iron [Heavy metals to fresh water]	4.3199E-05	kg
Lead [Heavy metals to fresh water]	5.3484E-08	kg
Manganese [Heavy metals to fresh water]	1.2115E-05	kg
Nickel [Heavy metals to fresh water]	4.8900E-07	kg
Water (wastewater) [Water]	4.8900E-02	L

* **Bold face** clarifies that the value shown *does not* include upstream environmental flows. Upstream environmental flows were added during the modeling process using GaBi modeling software, as shown in Figure 1.

Embedded Unit Processes

None.

References

BLM 2008	BLM. 2008. *Draft Environmental Impact Study, West Antelope II Coal Lease Application, Chapter 4: Cumulative Environmental Consequences*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. WYW163340. http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wy/information/NEPA/cfodocs/westantelope.Par.18077.File.dat/008ch4.pdf (Accessed December 21, 2009).
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Section III: Document Control Information

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