



# NETL Life Cycle Inventory Data

## Process Documentation File

**Process Name:** Surface Mine, Gulf Lignite Coal, Operations  
**Reference Flow:** 1 kg of Gulf Lignite Coal  
**Brief Description:** Based on a compilation of mines, a surface mine for Gulf lignite coal, producing ~6 billion kg of coal per year. Assumes 39.9 scf/short ton coal mine CH4 (CMM) emissions, adjustable CMM capture rates; LHV=6440 Btu/lb.

### Section I: Meta Data

<b>Geographical Coverage:</b>	US	<b>Region:</b>	Gulf Coast
<b>Year Data Best Represents:</b>	2008		
<b>Process Type:</b>	Extraction Process (EP)		
<b>Process Scope:</b>	Cradle-to-Gate Process (CG)		
<b>Allocation Applied:</b>	No		
<b>Completeness:</b>	All Relevant Flows Recorded		
<b>Flows Aggregated in Data Set:</b>			
<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Process	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Energy Use	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Energy P&D	<input type="checkbox"/> Material P&D

**Relevant Output Flows Included in Data Set:**

Releases to Air:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gases	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Criteria Air Pollutants	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Other
Releases to Water:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Inorganic Emissions	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Organic Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Water Usage:	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Water Consumption <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Water Demand (throughput)		
Releases to Soil:	<input type="checkbox"/> Inorganic Releases	<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Releases	<input type="checkbox"/> 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]	<i>Diesel (from crude oil) usage for mine operations</i>
Power [Electric Power]	<i>Electricity usage for mine operations</i>
Ammonium Nitrate [Inorganic Intermediate Products]	<i>The amount of ammonium nitrate needed for ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) explosives</i>



---

# NETL Life Cycle Inventory Data

## Process Documentation File

---

Light Fuel Oil [Crude Oil Products]

*Light fuel oil (from crude oil) needed for ANFO explosives*

### Tracked Output Flows:

Gulf Lignite Coal

*Coal mine production flow for Gulf lignite 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\_GulfLignite\_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 Gulf lignite 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) Gulf lignite 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

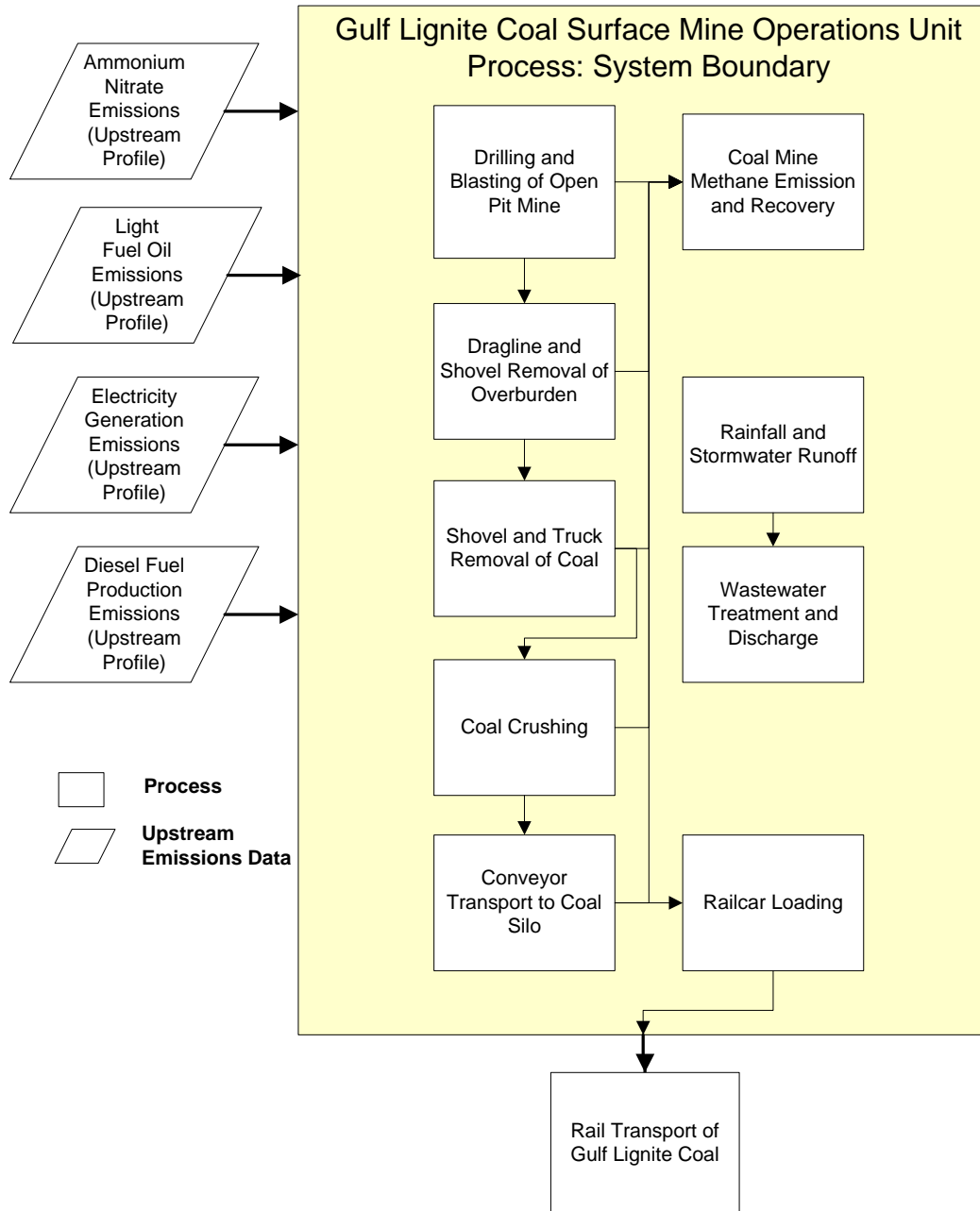
This unit process is a screening level data set. It was created using a previously created unit process with specific adjustments for the coal properties. The adjustments include the specific region and coal type's CMM and energy content values. This unit process is based on the Powder River Basin surface 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 rates, 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 Gulf lignite 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 Gulf 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 7.99 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 Gulf coal deposit has 39.9 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. Gulf lignite coal has a lower heating value of 6,440 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 Gulf lignite 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 Gulf Lignite and Powder River Basin Subbituminous Surface Mined Coal (NETL in press; EPA 2011; EPA 2008)**

Rank	Subbituminous	Lignite
Seam	Powder River Basin	Gulf
LHV, Btu/lb	11,096	6,440
CMM, scf/ton	30-40	39.9

**Table 2: Unit Process Input and Output Flows**

Flow Name*	Value	Units (Per Reference Flow)
<b>Inputs</b>		
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
<b>Outputs</b>		
Gulf Lignite 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)]	1.6956E-04	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/NEP\\_A/cfdocs/westantelope.Par.18077.File.dat/008ch4.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wy/information/NEP_A/cfdocs/westantelope.Par.18077.File.dat/008ch4.pdf) (Accessed December 21, 2009).
- Burley 2008                    Burley, J.B. 2008. *Reclamation and Restoration Newsletter, Winter 2008*. ASLA. <http://www.asla.org/ppn/article.aspx?id=21152> (Accessed February 9, 2010)
- NETL In press                NETL. In press. *Cost and Performance Baseline for Fossil Energy Systems, Volume 3*. NETL, U.S. Department of Energy. In press.
- NMA 2009                      National Mining Association. 2009. *2008 Coal Producer Survey*. National Mining Association. Washington, D.C. May, 2009. [http://www.nma.org/pdf/members/coal\\_producer\\_survey2008.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/members/coal_producer_survey2008.pdf) (Accessed December 18, 2009).
- Peabody 2005                Peabody Energy Company. 2005. *Mine Energy Assessment, Supplemental Report, Peabody Energy Company, Gillette, Wyoming*. Peabody Energy Company.
- U.S. EPA 2011                U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2011. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2009. Annex 3*. US EPA, Washington, DC. April 15, 2011. EPA 430-R-11-005. [http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads11/US-GHG-Inventory-2011-Annex\\_Complete\\_Report.pdf](http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads11/US-GHG-Inventory-2011-Annex_Complete_Report.pdf) (accessed July 25, 2011).
- U.S. EPA 2008                U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2008. *Identifying Opportunities for Methane Recovery at U.S. Coal Mines: Profiles of Selected Gassy Underground Coal Mines 2002-2006*. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Coalbed Methane Outreach Program. Report Number: EPA 430-K-04-003.

U.S. EPA 2004	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2004. <i>Regulatory Announcement: Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule</i> . EPA 420-F-04-032. May 2004.
U.S. EPA 2009	EPA. 2009. <i>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, Water Quality Reporting Documentation</i> . U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <a href="http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/compliance_report_water.html">http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/compliance_report_water.html</a> (Accessed December 21, 2009).

---

**Section III: Document Control Information**

---

**Date Created:** July 23, 2011  
**Point of Contact:** Timothy Skone (NETL), [Timothy.Skone@NETL.DOE.GOV](mailto:Timothy.Skone@NETL.DOE.GOV)

**Revision History:**

Original/no revisions

**How to Cite This Document:** This document should be cited as:

NETL (2011). *NETL Life Cycle Inventory Data – Unit Process: Surface Mine, Gulf Lignite Coal, Operation*. U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory. Last Updated: July 2011 (version 01). [www.netl.doe.gov/energy-analyses](http://www.netl.doe.gov/energy-analyses) (<http://www.netl.doe.gov/energy-analyses>)

---

**Section IV: Disclaimer**

---

Neither the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) nor any person acting on behalf of these organizations:

- A. Makes any warranty or representation, express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained in this document, or that the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this document may not infringe on privately owned rights; or
- B. Assumes any liability with this report as to its use, or damages resulting from the use of any information, apparatus, method, or process disclosed in this document.

Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by NETL. The views and opinions of the authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of NETL.