ABSTRACT

The primary task of the 1990-91 contract year is to improve and continue the Coal Information System.

The work for this contract will provide access to the databases for just the cost of a telephone call to the DENR computer on the University of Illinois campus; computer time will be provided at no cost to all users.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Center for Research on Sulfur in Coal (CRSC) in cooperation with the ISGS has coordinated the establishment of three databases, under the general title of Coal Information Systems (CIS), that can now be searched from remote computer stations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Established</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry of Illinois Coals</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Basin Coal Sample Program</td>
<td>1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography of CRSC Projects and Publications</td>
<td>1987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All three databases were combined under CIS in 1988 and are now available on-line through one telephone number, and searchable under a single main menu. During the previous year, the availability, and usefulness of the information were advertised and promoted to the research and commercial sectors of the coal community.

During this contract year, all costs associated with access to the Coal Information System will be covered, including costs of storing the database on the ENR Prime 9955 computer and of computer time to access the databases by all users. In addition, the ICBIB database will be maintained by addition of new data, and the databases will be promoted among researchers in coal.

The work plan for contract year 1990-91 has two objectives:

• Objective I is to continue to provide free computer time to users of the CIS.

• Objective II is to maintain and update the Illinois Coal Bibliography.

Objective I. Provide free computer time to users of the CIS.

The computer account remains in place.

Objective II. Maintain and update the Illinois Coal Bibliography

The bibliography will be migrated to another platform, as the Prime minicomputer is to be discontinued in 1992.
OBJECTIVES

Objective I. Provide free computer time to users of the CIS.

   Task I-1. Maintain the CIS account on the Prime and provide free use to CRSC and other coal industry researchers.
   Task I-2. Make a telecommunications package available at no charge to users on request.

Objective II. Maintain and update the Illinois Coal Bibliography.

   Task II-1. Enter abstracts and citations from 1990.
   Task II-2. Improve operation and increase ease-of-use of CIS software.
   Task II-3. Archive old CRSC reports.
   Task II-4. Edit existing ICBIB directory and move to CIS directory.
   Task II-5. Revise CIS user's manual as needed.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This year's contract is a continuation of work to provide a computerized information system about Illinois Basin coal. The databases in this system can be searched interactively by anyone with a modem and personal computer or terminal. The purpose of this year's project is to maintain the bibliography (ICBIB) and make the system available to users without their having to pay computer charges.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Computer time will be provided free of charge on the Prime computer owned by the Department of Energy and Natural Resources and located at the Natural Resources Building on the University of Illinois campus. New data will continue to be added to the ICBIB database by scanning abstracts using a text scanner and formatting them for entry into the database.
WORK COMPLETED

Objective I. Provide free computer time to users of the CIS.

The computer account remains in place.

Objective II. Maintain and update the Illinois Coal Bibliography

New citations have been entered.