

Types and Division on Coal Bed Methane-Accumulating Districts and Zone in China

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The coal bed methane resources assessment over China has been carried out by China National Administration of Coal Geology during 1995 to 1998. Based upon the assessment, three grades of the coal bed methane-accumulating area, zone and district were comprehensively distinguished in the light of four factors such as tectonic, coal-forming period, coal bed methane-bearing characteristics and regional distribution, including 5 areas, 30 zones and 115 districts. Simultaneously, the types of the coal bed methane-accumulating zones and districts were classified using two indexes, i.e., the area and coal bed methane abundance of the assessed units, the 30 zones were divided into three categories including eight types and 115 districts into three categories including nine types. The results showed that the potential zones and districts occur mainly in the coal bed methane-accumulating North China and South China areas. The North China area consists mainly of the large- and medium-scale coal bed methane-bearing districts with more coal bed methane-rich ones. The Northeast China area includes mainly medium- and small-scale coal bed methane-bearing and coal bed methane-rich districts with some large-scale ones. The Northwest China area is composed of small-scale districts with more coal bed methane-rich districts. In the South China area, the medium- and small-scale districts are dominant with much more coal bed methane-poor ones. The large-scale districts occur all in the southern Sichuan to northern Guizhou and the eastern Yunnan to western Guizhou zones, with large-scale coal bed methane-rich districts exist only in the eastern Yunnan to western Guizhou zone.