

Coal Deposits in Southeast May Be Activated

Commissioner Frank H. Murkowski of the Department of Economic Development today called attention to a recent announcement that the Cortella Coal Corporation of Cordova has shipped 7,778 pounds of coal samples to five of the leading coal importers in Japan.

"We look upon this move as the beginning of a great industry in the Prince William Sound

area," Murkowski said.

Exploration conducted this summer disclosed an excess of eight million tons of recoverable coal reserves in a 16 acre tract. Murkowski noted that present plans indicate an initial production of up to 500 thousand tons of coal annually.

Continued exploration is planned to obtain geological infor-

mation on additional coal deposits which will, hopefully, increase the production output.

"The Cortella Coal Corporation has expressed an interest in educating Alaskans to fill most

of its employee requirements. Preliminary estimates place employment at 150 to 220 Alaskans when production reaches one million tons per year," Murkowski stated.



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