## **Appendix E: Preliminary Geotechnical Assessment**

P-011-2013

## MEMORANDUM

cc: S. Ross M. Pelfry S. Gutti

**TO:** Keith Dotson

Division of Planning

**BY:** Bart Asher, P.E., P.L.S.

Geotechnical Branch Manager

**DATE:** December 17, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Breathitt/Owsley County

**KY 30 Planning Study** 

From KY 15 in Jackson to KY 11 in Bonneville

MARS # 8807407P

**Preliminary Geotechnical Assessment** 

The Division of Planning is conducting a study for options for KY 30 between KY 15 in Jackson to KY 11 in Booneville which is in Breathitt and Owsley Counties. The study investigates a number of spot improvements on the existing route as well as a few areas where the route could be realigned. This abbreviated review will discuss some general geotechnical concerns with the area.

The study area is located in the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field Physiographic Region. The Kentucky Geological Survey web site states that:

The Eastern Kentucky Coal Field is part of a larger physiographic region called the Cumberland Plateau (which extends from Pennsylvania to Alabama). The interior of the Eastern Kentucky Coal Field is dominated by forested hills and highly dissected by V-shaped valleys. In general, the elevations of the hills are highest in southeastern Kentucky.

The approximate coordinates for the center of this site are: 37.469713 degrees North and -83.522833 degrees West. The site is located in the Booneville, Cowcreek, Canoe and Jackson Geologic Quadrangles.

Available geologic mapping indicates that the project is underlain by bedrock of the Breathitt and Lee Formations and alluvium deposits. The regional dip of the bedrock is in an easterly direction, although bedrock contours indicate that the bedrock strata is relatively flat. The Breathitt and Lee formations consists of shale, limestone, siltstone, sandstone, coal and clay. The sandstones can be friable and the shales can be highly weatherable. For estimation of right of way for rock cuts in this area it is typical to assume from a 1V:1H to 1.5V:1H for cut slopes. Some mapped faults are indicated a few miles from the project; however these faults are not likely to be a concern.

Numerous mines appear to be located throughout the study area. It appears that strip mining, auger mining and deep mining have taken place in the area. It is also likely that there are numerous locations where small scale "house coal" mining operations have taken place. There are numerous adits shown on the mapping for which no known mine maps exist. The extent of these mines is not known. In some areas mine maps are available for in-depth study of future alignments. We have included numerous mine maps for this vicinity in the appendix.

P-011-2013 Breathitt/Owsley County KY 30 Planning Study

Additional mines not noted on the attached map will likely be encountered during design and construction. Deep mines encountered during construction likely will contain water. Mitigation of the mining areas may be required. It is likely that areas of uncompacted or loosely compacted mine spoil exist in the area. These areas can be problematic for road construction.

Mapping indicates that the primary seams mined in each quadrangle are:

#### **Boonville Quadrangle**

Mined seams – Copland coal bed, Amburgy coal zone, Upper Elkhorn No. 3 coal zone & Jellico coal zone.

Shown on the study map are adits and strip mining in the Jellico coal zone. The identified deep mines in purple are in the Jellico also.

### **Cowcreek Quadrangle**

Mined Seams – Hazard coal zone, Haddix coal zone, Copland coal bed, Fire Clay rider coal bed, Amburgy coal zone, Upper Elkhorn No. 3 coal bed, Jellico coal zone & unnamed coal bed.

Shown on the study map are adits in the Upper Elkhorn No. 3 coal bed and strip mining in the Jellico and Copland.

#### **Jackson Quadrangle**

Mined seams – Whitesburg coal bed, Grassy coal bed, Vires coal bed & Vancleve coal bed.

Shown on the study map are adits in the Whitesburg, Grassy and Vires. The identified deep mines are in the Vires (shown in blue) and Grassy (shown in tan).

#### **Canoe Quadrangle**

Mined seams – Haddix coal zone, Fire Clay coal bed

There is nothing to identify on the map.

Foundations for bridges in this area would typically be founded on shallow foundations (spread footings on bedrock) or deep foundations (steel H-piles driven to bedrock or drilled shafts socketed into bedrock). Culverts and walls are typically supported on shallow (either yielding or non-yielding) foundations on soil or bedrock. Mined areas can be problematic for structure foundations.

Soil strata in this area tend to be relatively thin. The soils encountered in the area are generally suitable for embankment construction. Generally, embankments built from the native soils and durable bedrock can be constructed to a height of 60 feet with 2H:1V side slopes if the foundation is suitable and proper compaction methods are used. Building embankments with non-durable shales may require special methods to obtain acceptable long term results. Soil cuts over approximately 10 feet often require analyses to design proper side slopes. In no case should

soil cuts be steeper than 2H:1V. Suitable rock for embankment construction and rock roadbed is often readily available in this area of the state. Soils in the area are considered erodible.

There are likely numerous potentially unstable Talus areas in the study area. Existing KY 30 has numerous places where railroad rails are in use as a landslide abatement measure (holding up the downhill side of the road). Some of the existing slopes have shown movement in the past and it is likely that many of the existing soil slopes range from marginally stable to unstable.

California Bearing Ratio (CBR) values used in pavement design generally range from 2-4 for soils subgrades in the area and 9-11 for a 2 foot durable rock road bed. Chemical modification of soil subgrades are sometimes used in this area. Wet areas could require undercutting and replacement of soils.

Previously completed Geotechnical Investigations within the vicinity of the study area are:

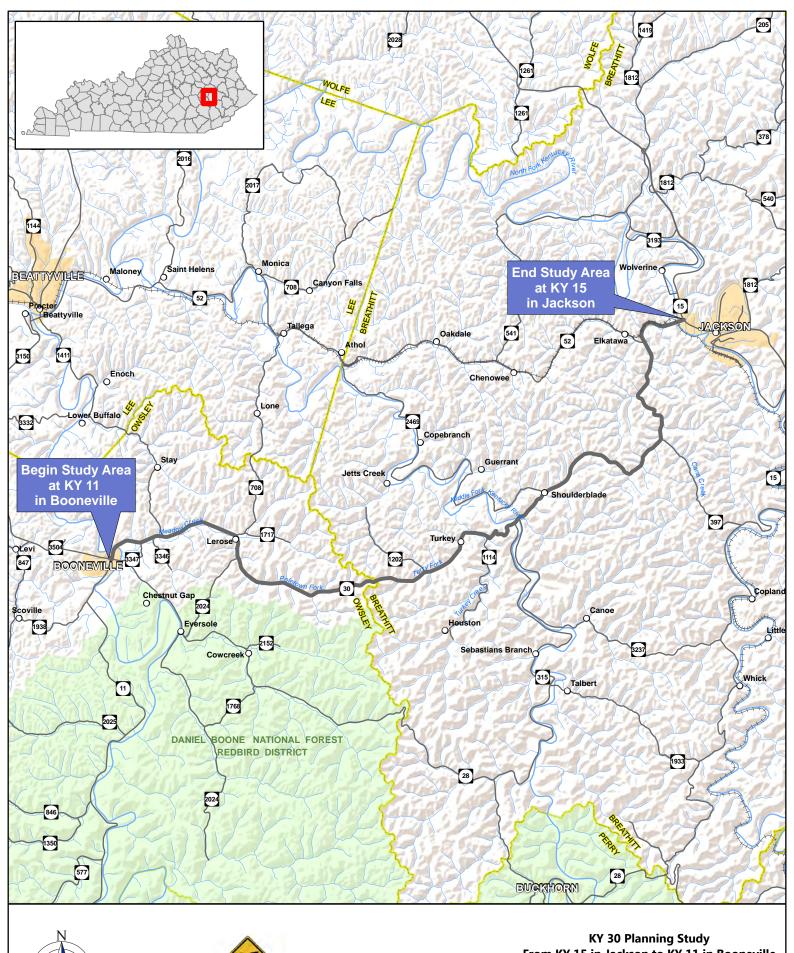
|            |       | Structure     | Report      | <u>Description</u>                            |
|------------|-------|---------------|-------------|---|
| Report No. | Route | <u>Over</u>   | <u>Type</u> |   |
|            |       |               |             | KY 30, BRIDGE OVER S. FORK KY RIVER AT        |
| L-023-1990 | KY-30 |               | Landslide   | BOONESVILE @ MP 11.0-12.0                     |
| S-136-2002 | KY-28 |               | Roadway     | KY 11 & KY 30: From Sta 3+50 to Sta 155+00    |
| S-024-2000 | KY-30 | Buck Creek    | Structure   | 3 Span @ Station 150+97.5                     |
| L-045-1990 | KY-30 |               | Structure   | RCBC @ Sta. 29+23.68                          |
|            |       | Shoulderblade |             |   |
| S-034-2001 | KY-30 | Creek         | Structure   | Double 12' x 6' RCBC over Shoulderblade Creek |
| S-034-1973 | KY-30 |               | Structure   | 4-span Double Bridge @ Station 1139+82.93     |
|            |       | North Fork of |             |   |
|            |       | Kentucky      |             | 4-span Bridge on Ramp D @ Station 138+58.37   |
| S-011-1979 | KY-30 | River         | Structure   | near ML Station 1150+00.00                    |
| R-022-1972 | KY-30 | Old Route 15  | Structure   | 3-span Bridge @ Station 1153+96.98            |

The reports are located on the KYTC Geotechnical Branch Database which can be accessed through the KYTC Division of Structural Designs home page (Click on Geotech and Search KYTC Completed Projects).

Site specific Geotechnical investigations are critical in this region for design, particularly in areas where mining is suspected.

Please feel free to contact this office for additional information.

Attachments: Site Map GQ Site Map Mine Maps



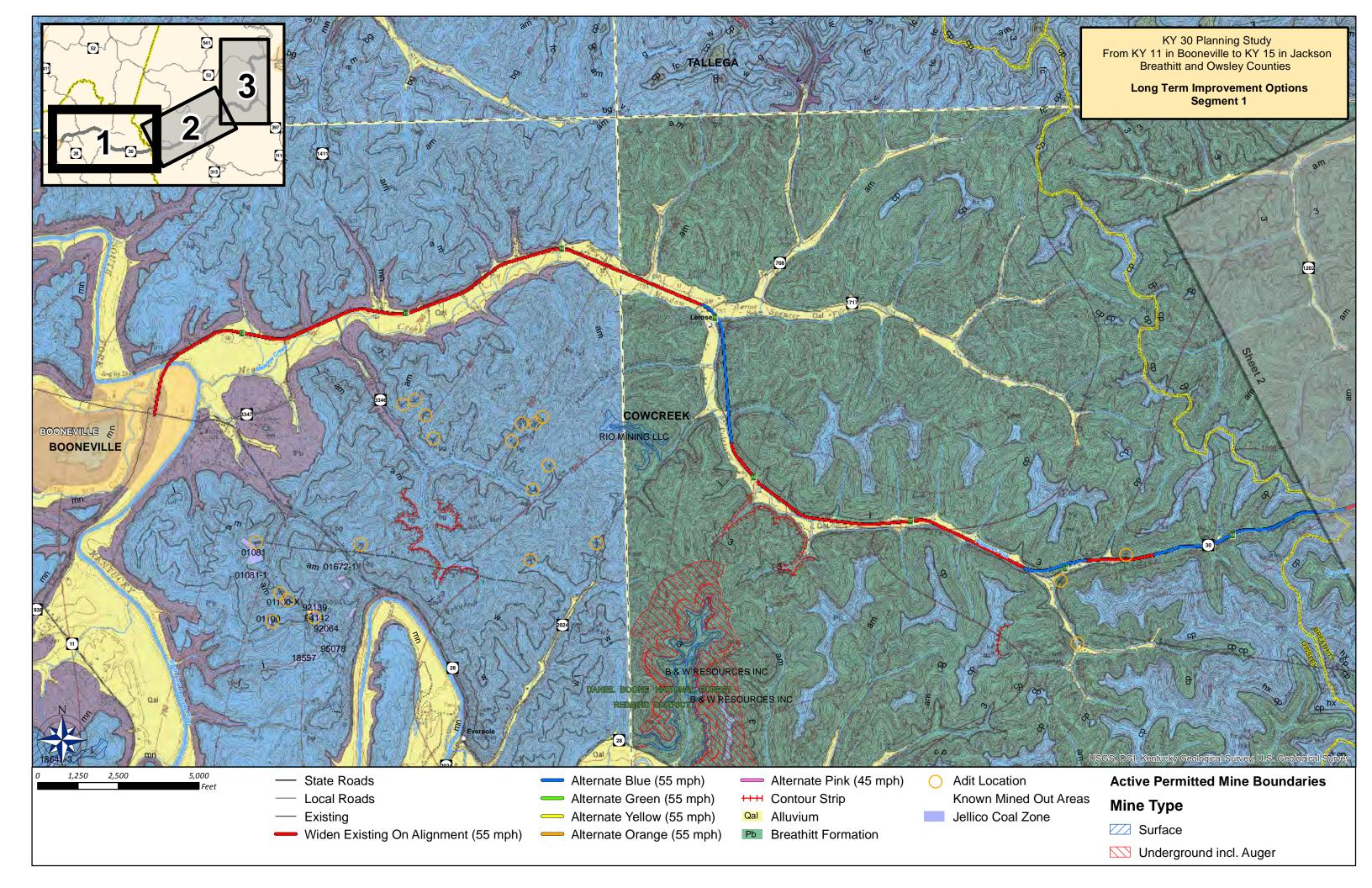


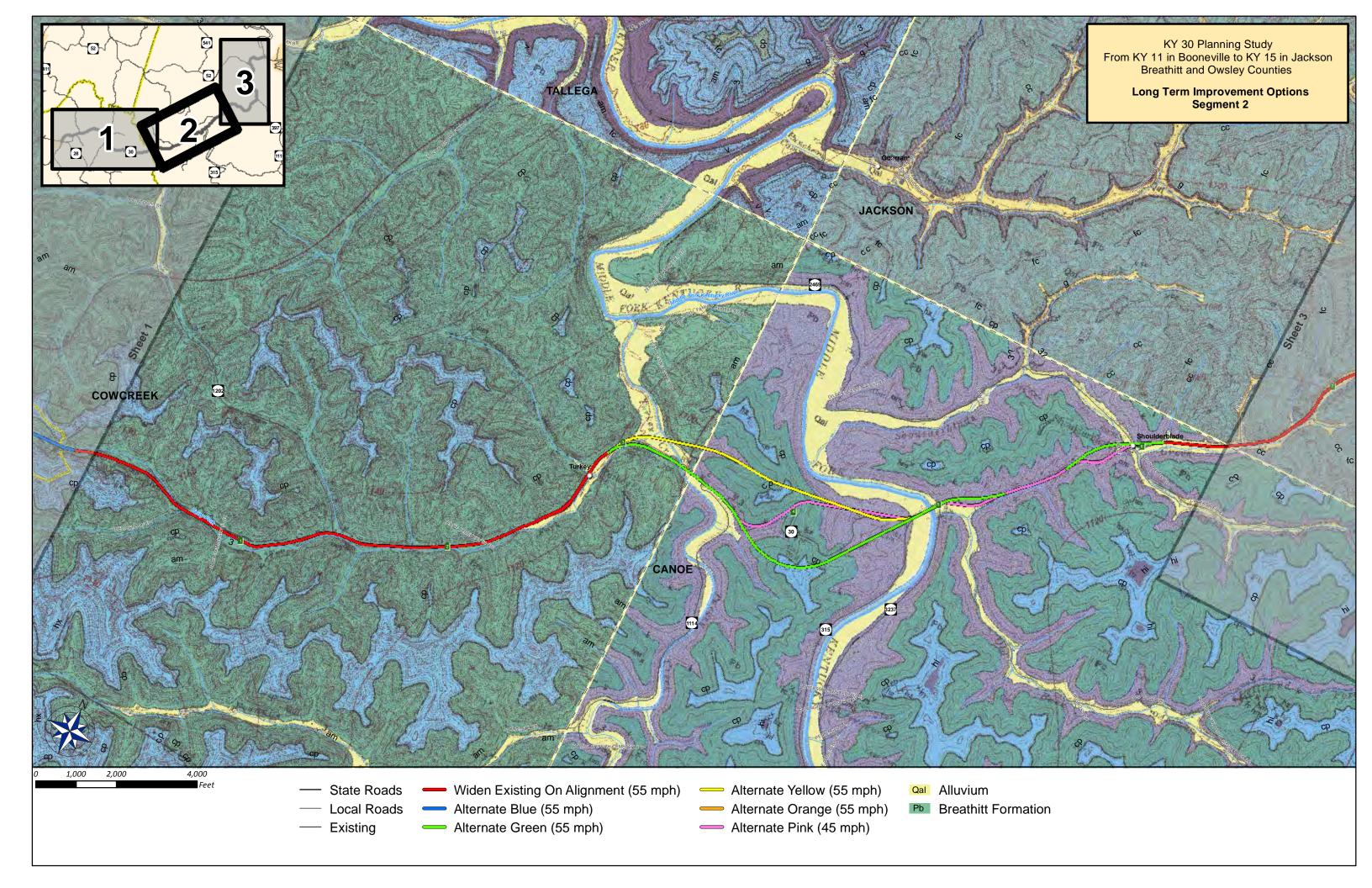


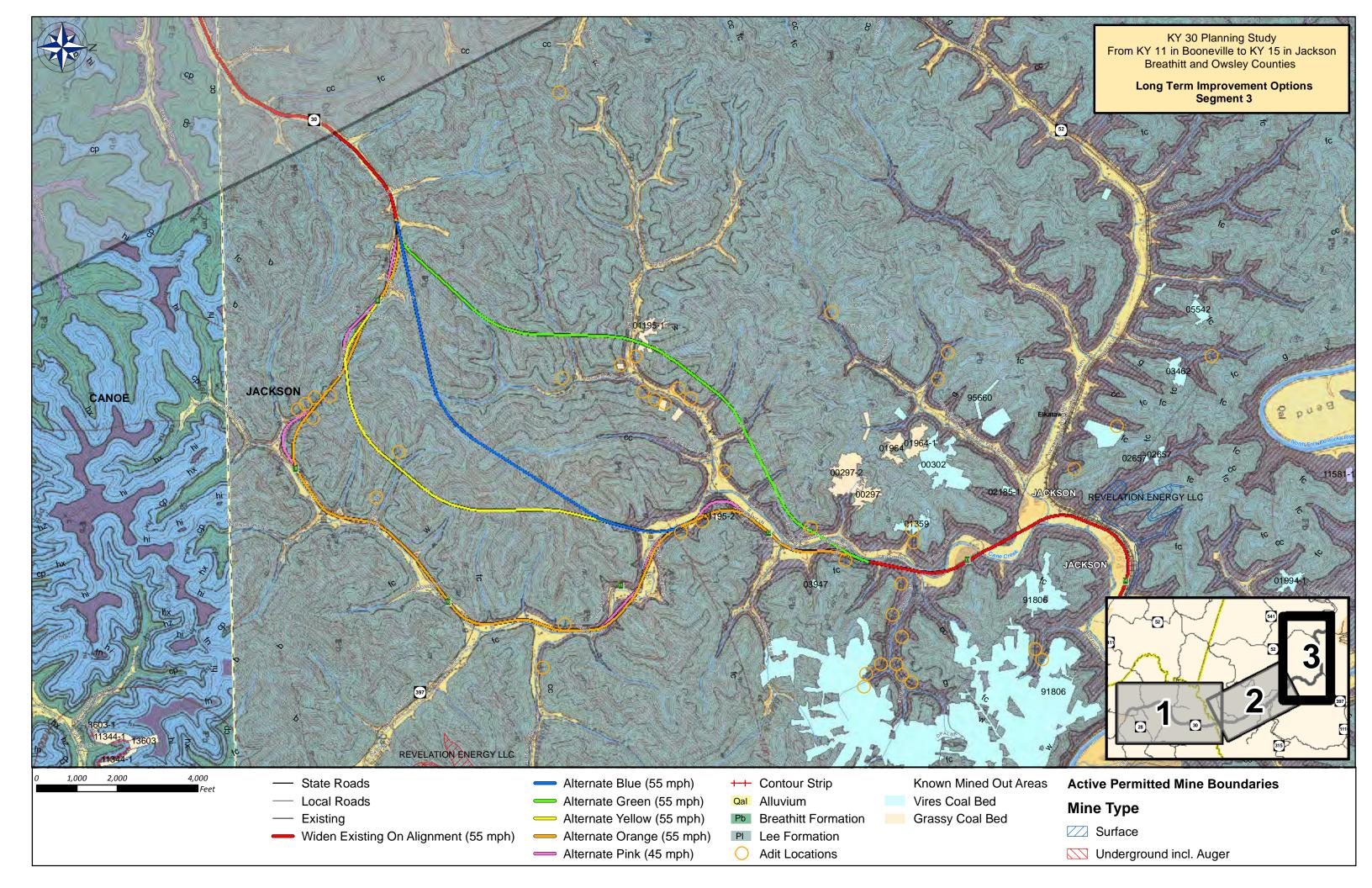




From KY 15 in Jackson to KY 11 in Booneville
Breathitt and Owsley Counties
Study Area







00297\_1952L\_19520515 NOTE: Seam = Grassy (Eq. to Upper Elkhorn 2/3)
Breathitt County - Jackson GQ 9-KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 32' 42.7" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 25' 21.6" I, the undersigned, hereby certify that this map is correct, shows to the best of my knowledge and belief all the information required by the mining laws of this state, and covers the period ending SFN 00297 Acknowledged before me, a Notary Public, this the My commission expires 12/14/53.

Notary Public, Perry County,

Kentucky. Jackson Breathitt Co. Kentucky
Scale 1: 100 Dated 5-15-52 Property lines outcrop and part of Mine workings made by others

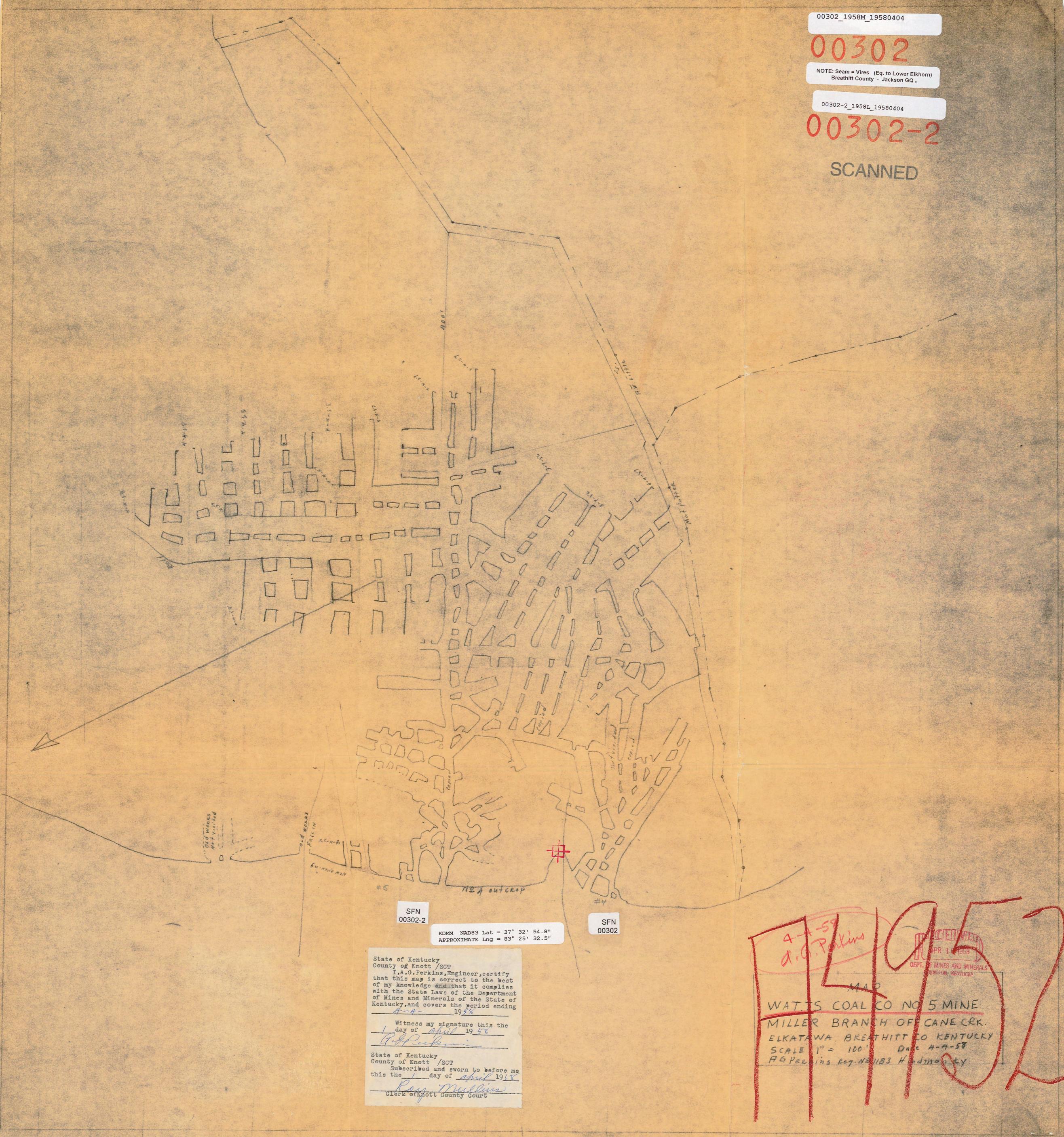
00297-2\_1959L\_19581210 1-20-58 NOTE: Seam = Grassy (Eq. to Upper Elkhorn 2/3)
Breathitt County - Jackson GQ vc KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 32' 42.7" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 25' 21.6" H.C. Vires 00297-2 SFN 00297 MAR OF STA H.C VIRES COAL CO Property Lines + outcrep and MINE NO 3 NO 4 SEAM Part of mine workings made by others JACKSON BREATHITT COKY DATE 12-10-58 SCALE 1"=100" State of Kentucky
County of Knott /SCT

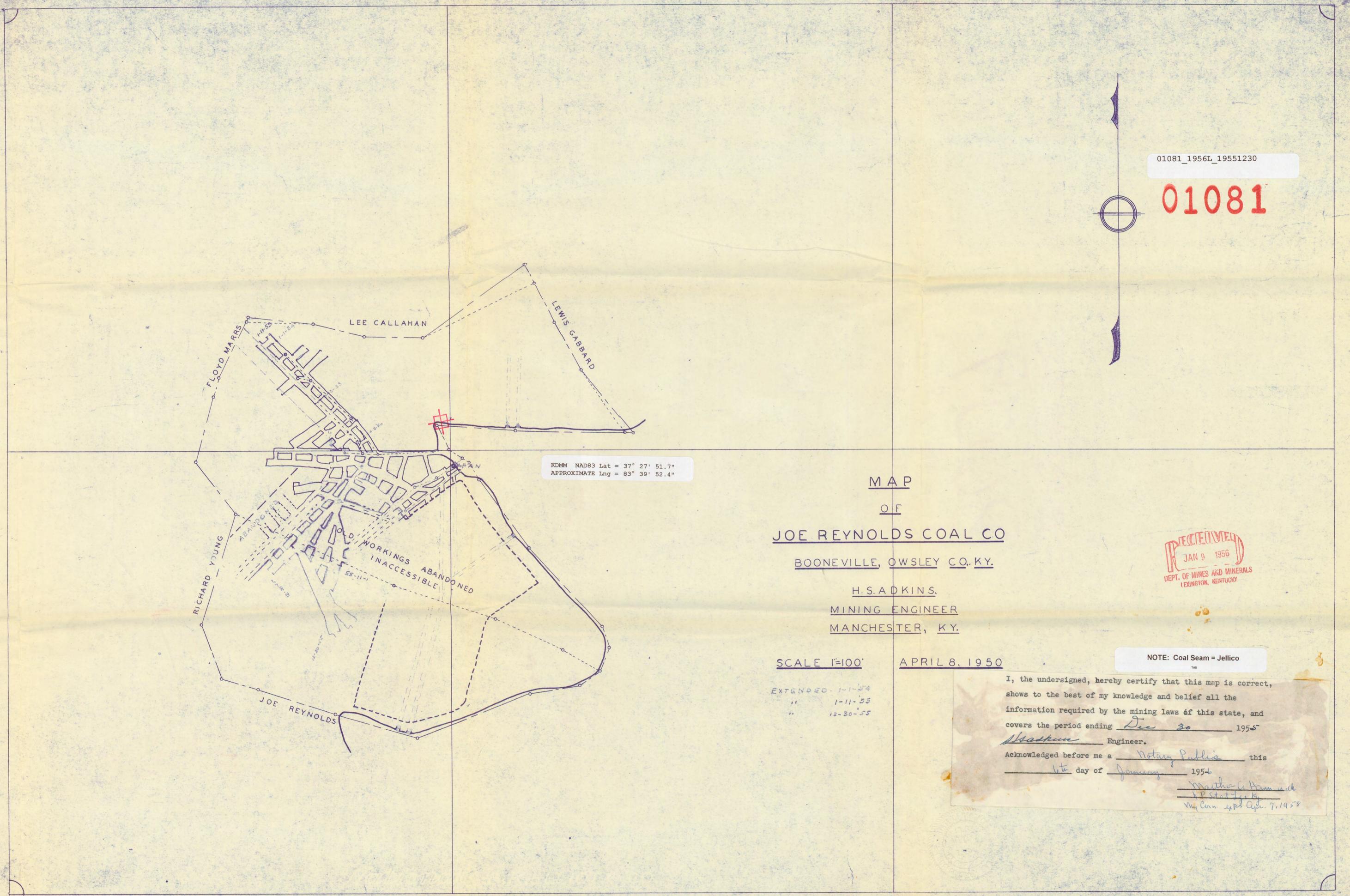
I,A.G.Perkins, Engineer, certify that
this map is correctto the best of my
knowledge and that it complies with the
the Stae Laws of the Department of Mines
and Minerals of the State of Kentucky
and covers the period ending /2

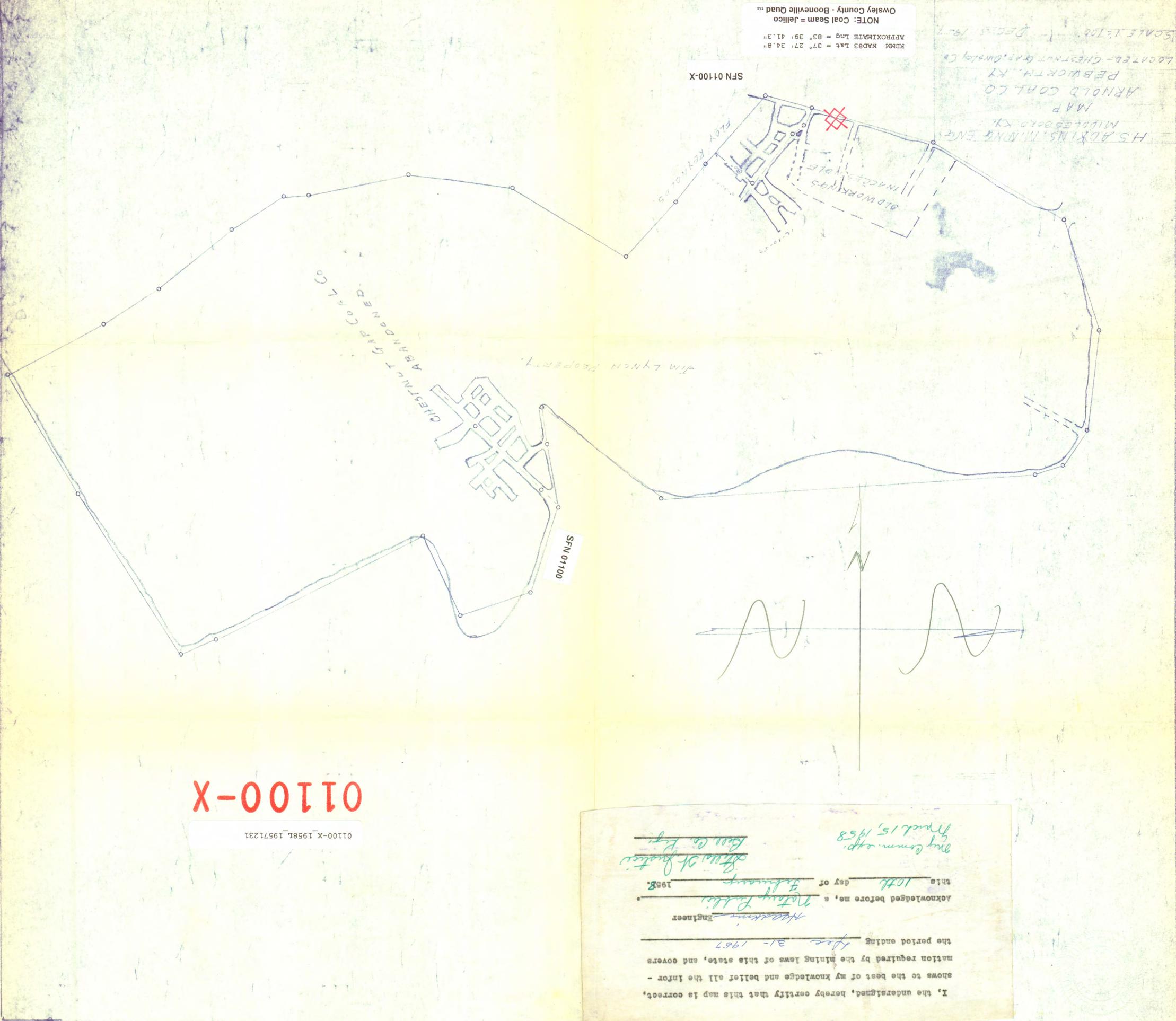
witness my signature this the
29 day of fee 19 26

Philipped 20

Respectively State of Kentucky
County of Knott /SCT
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this the 24 day of Dec 1958
Offerk of Knott County Court







01195-1\_1955L\_19550311 NOTE: Seam = Grassy (Eq. to Upper Elkhorn 2/3) Breathitt County - Jackson GQ , NOTE: Used Legend Date of 03-11-1955 -Also shows as most recent works date 190 old Mine Workings KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 31' 41.5" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 26' 06.7" "I, the undersigned, hereby certify that this map is correct, shows to the best of my knowledge and belief all the information required by the mining laws of this state, and covers the period ending December 31 1924 - Note-MINE MAP OF Property Lines out erop And Part of mine workings GRANVILLE LITTLE MINE JACKSON, BREATHITT, CO. KY. SCALE I"= 100 FT. DATE 3-11-55 "Acknowledged before me, a NOTARY PUBLIC made By others this 19th My bomm. Experies. DEPT. OF MINES AND MINERALS LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 119511

01195-2\_1960L\_19600317

# 01195-2

NOTE: Seam = Grassy (Eq. to Upper Elkhorn 2/3)
Breathitt County - Jackson GQ (6)

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that this map is correct and shows to the best of knowledge and belief all the information required by the Mining Laws of this State, and covers the period ending 3-/7-6

Engineer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the day of Trobe 7 1960

Granvill Little

Clerk of Knowt County Court

KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 31' 58.4" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 25' 10.5"

7:10 Nº 1195.2

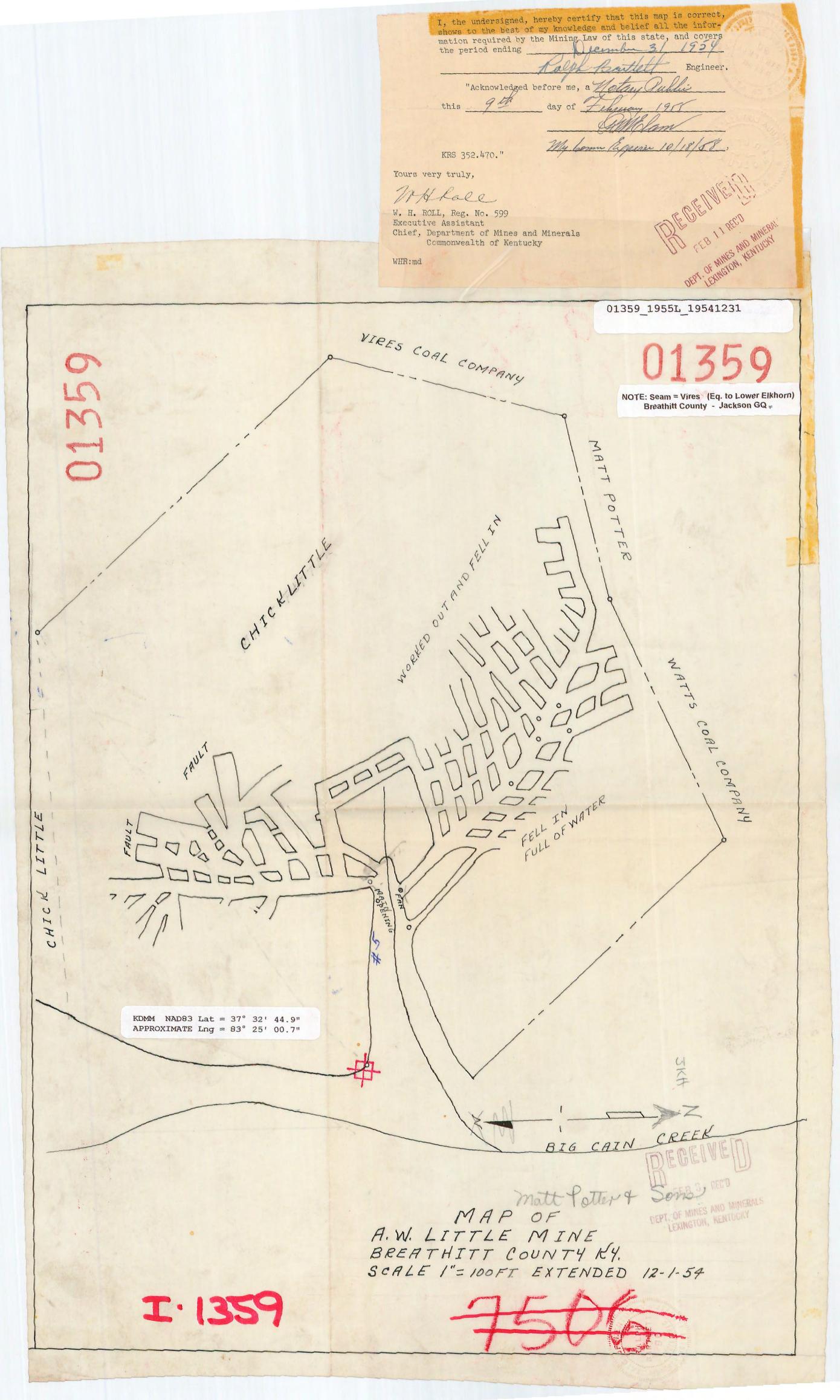
Rymond Spencer Coalita No 1

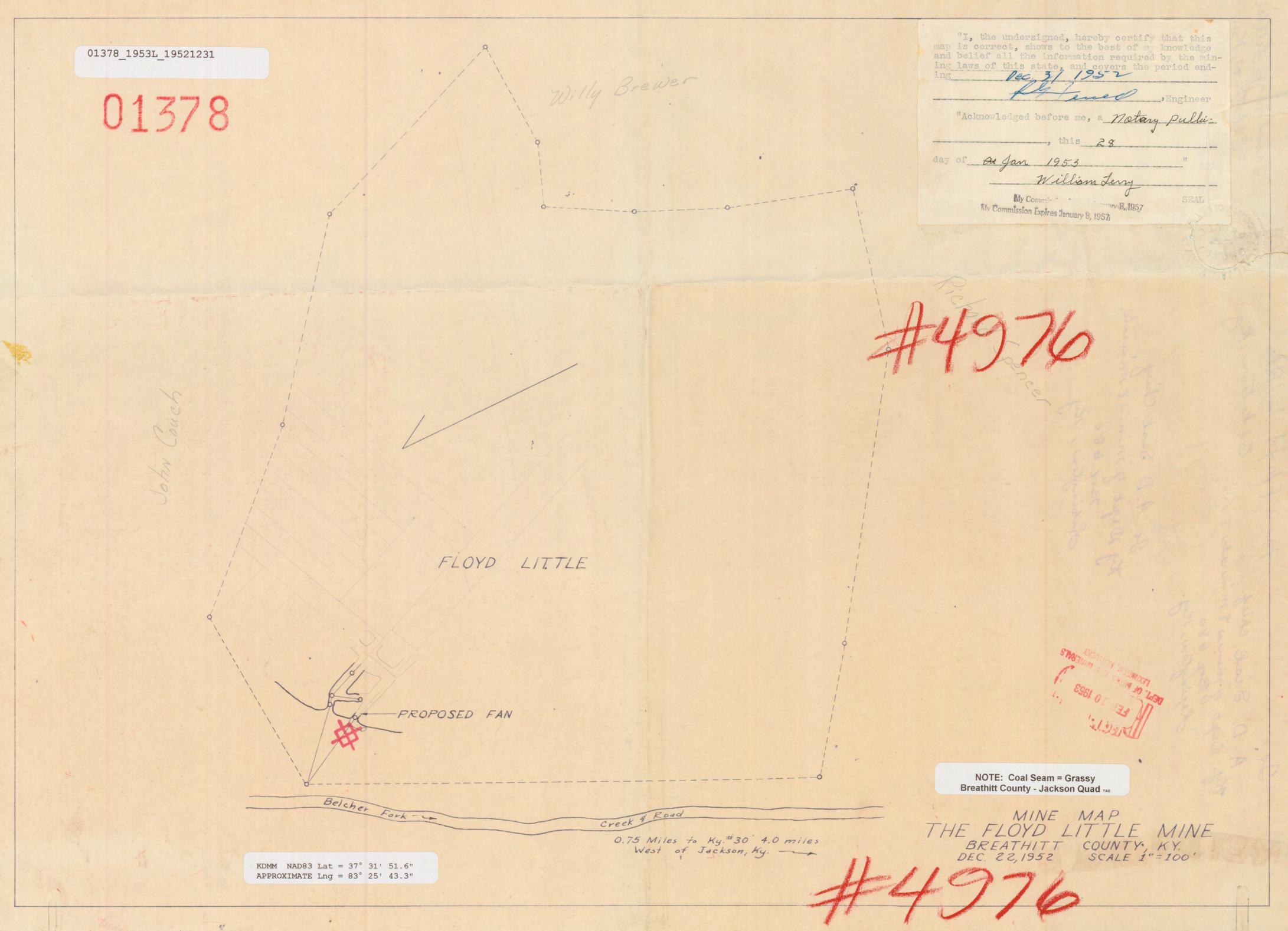
Jack son Ky
Locyted on Cain Creek

Scale 4 = 100

Higher time Reg Ne 1133

Hindman Ky





01672\_1957M\_19530129 01672 01672-1\_1957L\_19570102 01672-1 SFN 01672-1 KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 27' 45.0" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 39' 16.1" SAM SMITH SFN 01672 NOTE: Coal Seam = Jellico SAM SMITH COAL CO. BOONEVILLE, OWSLEY CO., KY. H.S. ADKINS, MININGENGINEER MANCHESTER, KY. SAM SMITH SCALE 1=100 MARCH 25, 1950. EXTENDED JAN 29 1953 JAN 1- 1954 10-1622 PEC 30 - 1955 JAN 2- 1957 I. the undersigned, hereby certify that this map is correct, shows to the best of my knowledge and belief all the information my comm. eff. Track 145, 1958 Bell Co. Ker

Extent of Norts State of Kentucky
County of Knott /SCT

I, A.G. Perkins, Engineer, certify
that this map is correct to the best
of my knowledge and that it complies
with the State Laws of the Department
of Mines and Minerals of the State of
Kentucky, and cover the period ending
Theb. 12 1958 KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 32' 47.7" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 25' 35.8"

Watts Coal Co

Potter & Sons Coal Co

Mine Nºº 1

Located on Miller Branch Breathitt Co Ky

P.O. Elkatawa Ky

Scale 1º 100'

F.G. Per Kins Reg. Nº 1183

Hindman ky

Witness my signature this the

Son Mullens Clerk of Knott County Court

Hindman ky

Watts Coal Co

Extent of Norks

KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 32' 47.7" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 25' 35.8"

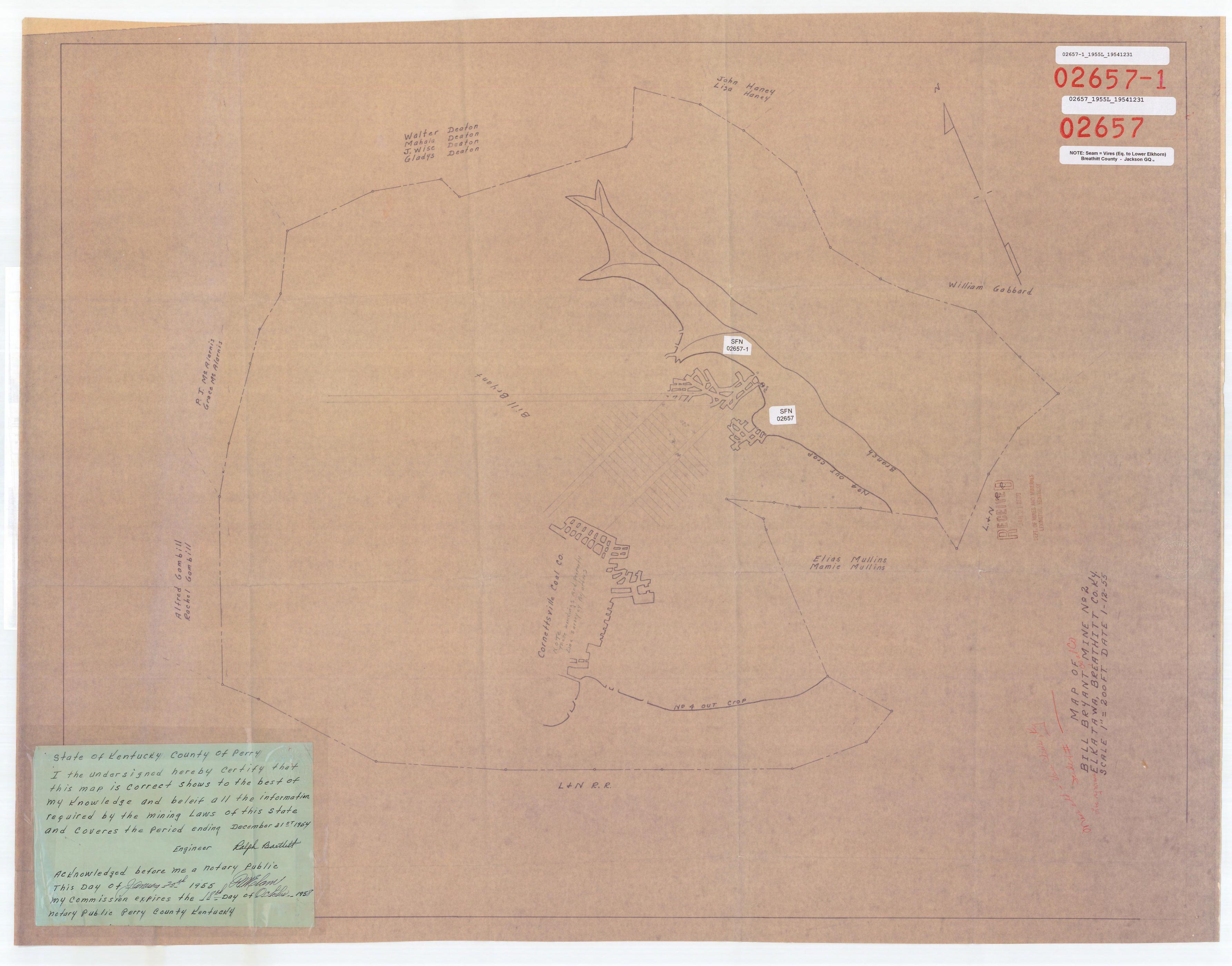
State of Kentucky
County of Knott /SCT

I, A.G. Perkins, Engineer, certify
that this map is correct to the best
of my knowledge and that it complies
with the State Laws of the Department
of Mines and Minerals of the State of
Kentucky, and cover the period ending
Theo 1

Witness my signature this the 17 day of 14 19 5%

State of Kentucky
County of Knott/SCT
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this // dayof ///

Clerk of Knott County Court



NOTE: Seam = Vires (Eq. to Lower Elkhorn) Breathitt County - Jackson GQ ...

State of Kentucky County of Knott /SCT

I,A.G.Perkins, Engineer, certify that this map is correct to the best of my knowledge and that it complies with the State Laws of the Department of Mines and Minerals of the State of Kentucky and coversthe period ending

Ridge Line Not Lun

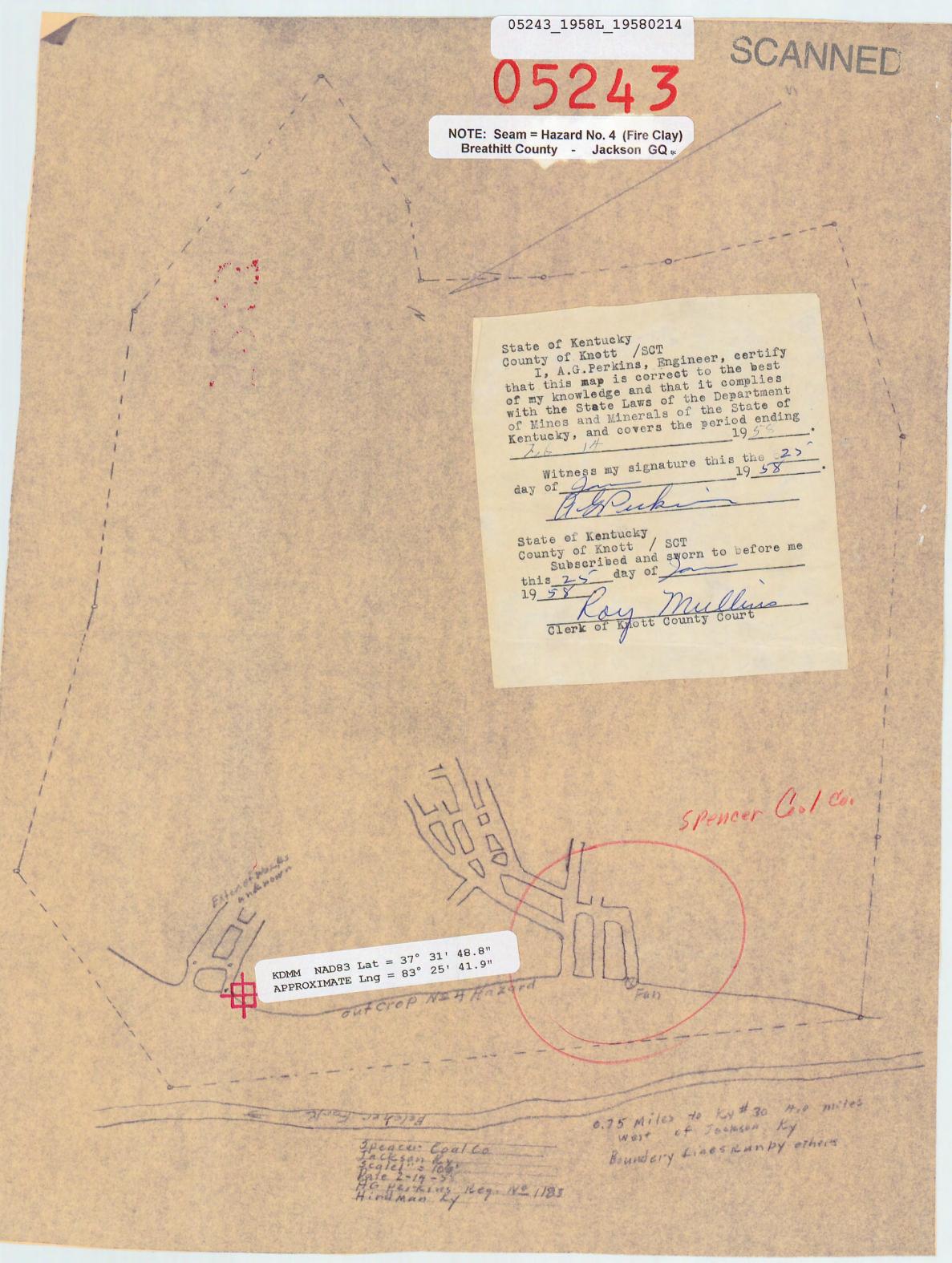
State of Kentucky County of Knott SCT

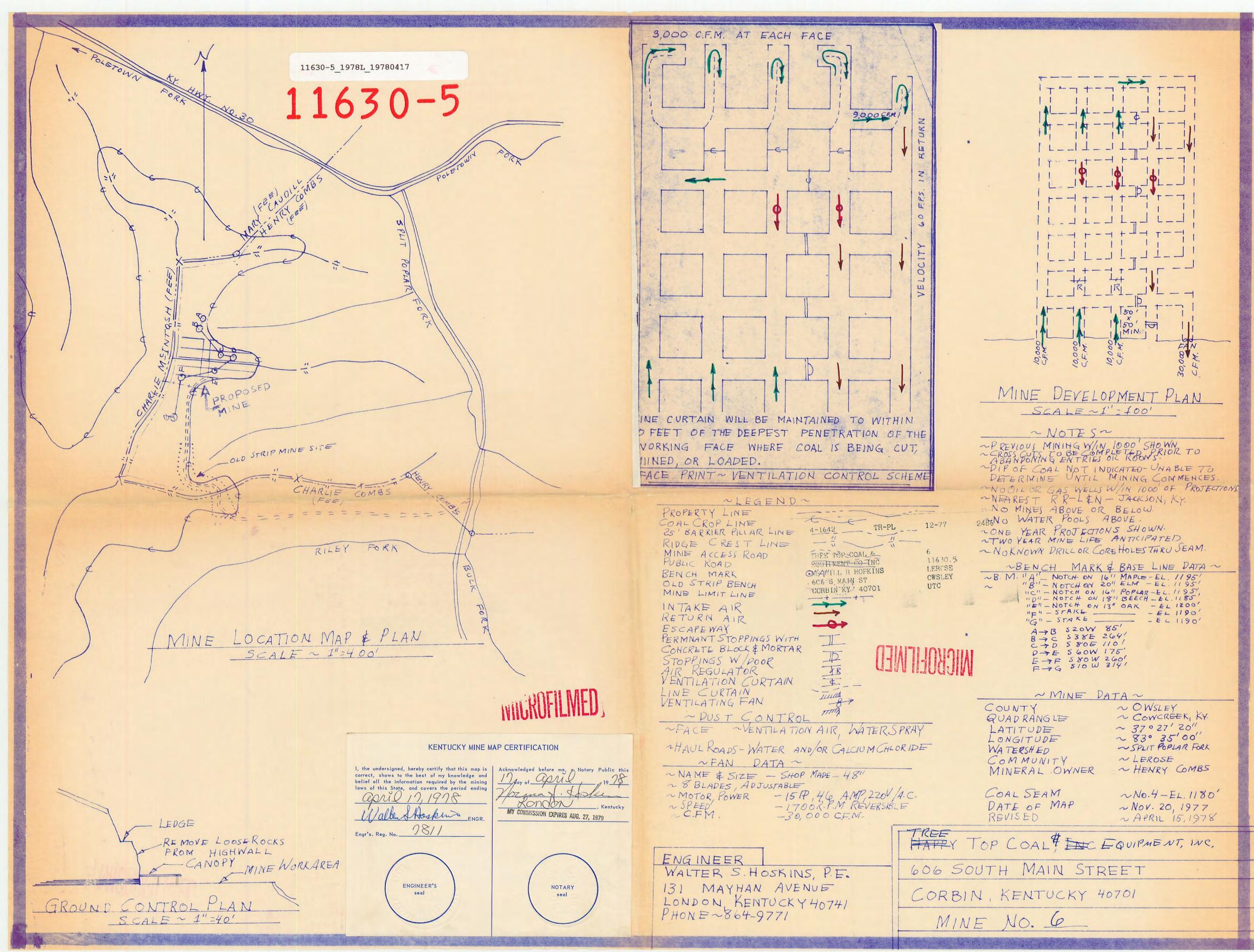
Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 27 day of Bel 1960

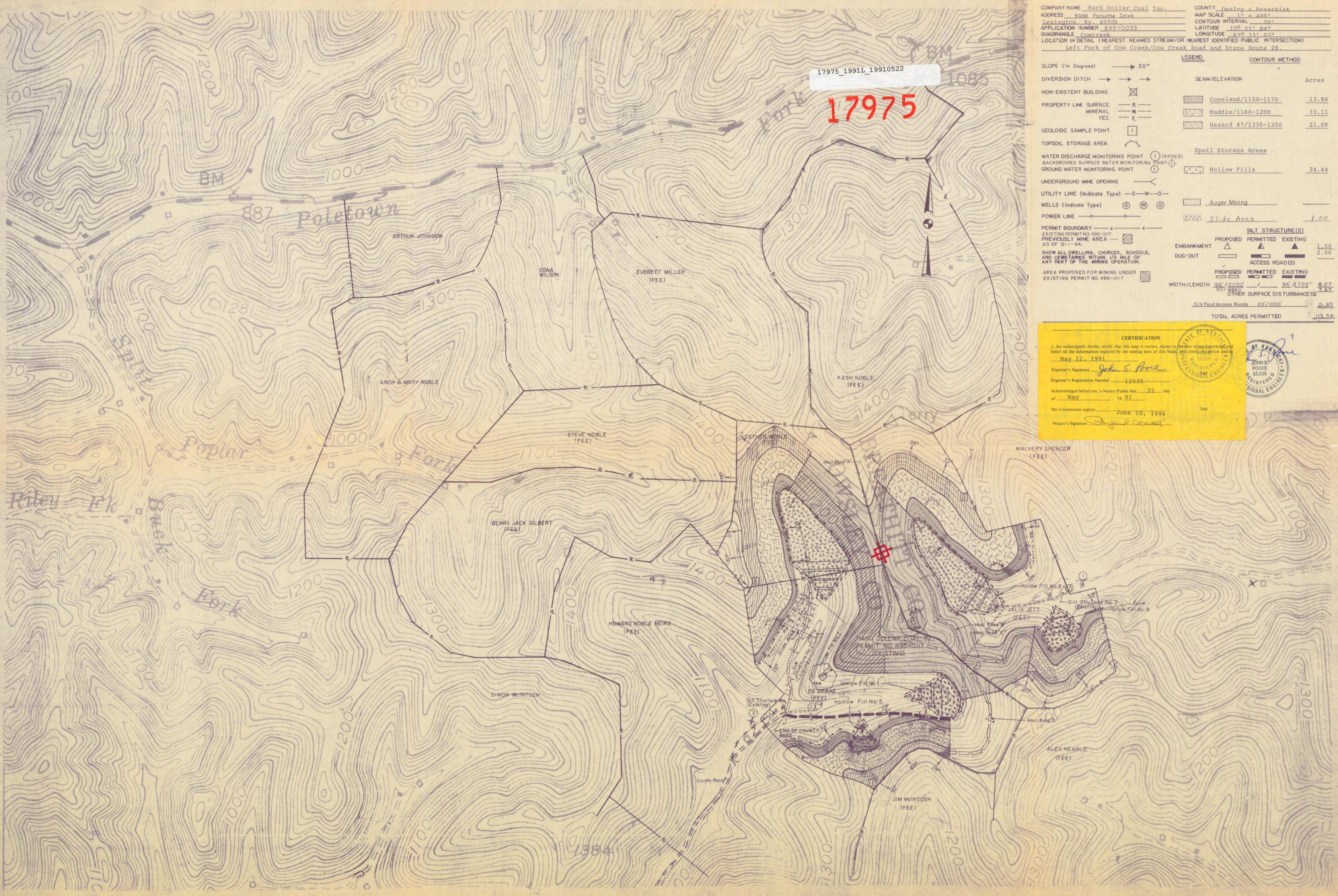
Clerk of Knott County Court

KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 32' 22.2" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 24' 48.4"

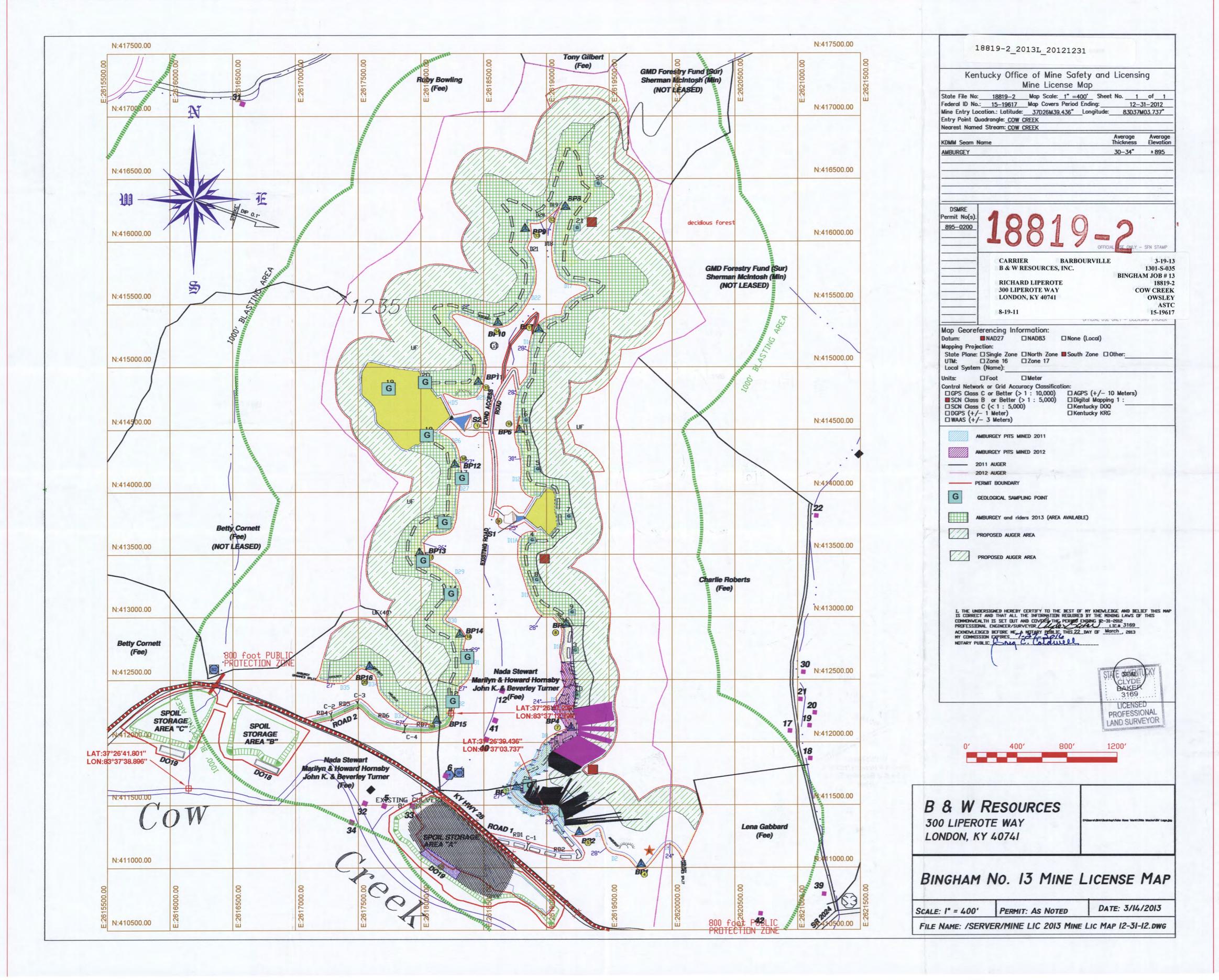
711e Nº 1195.2 (WRONG NUMBER)



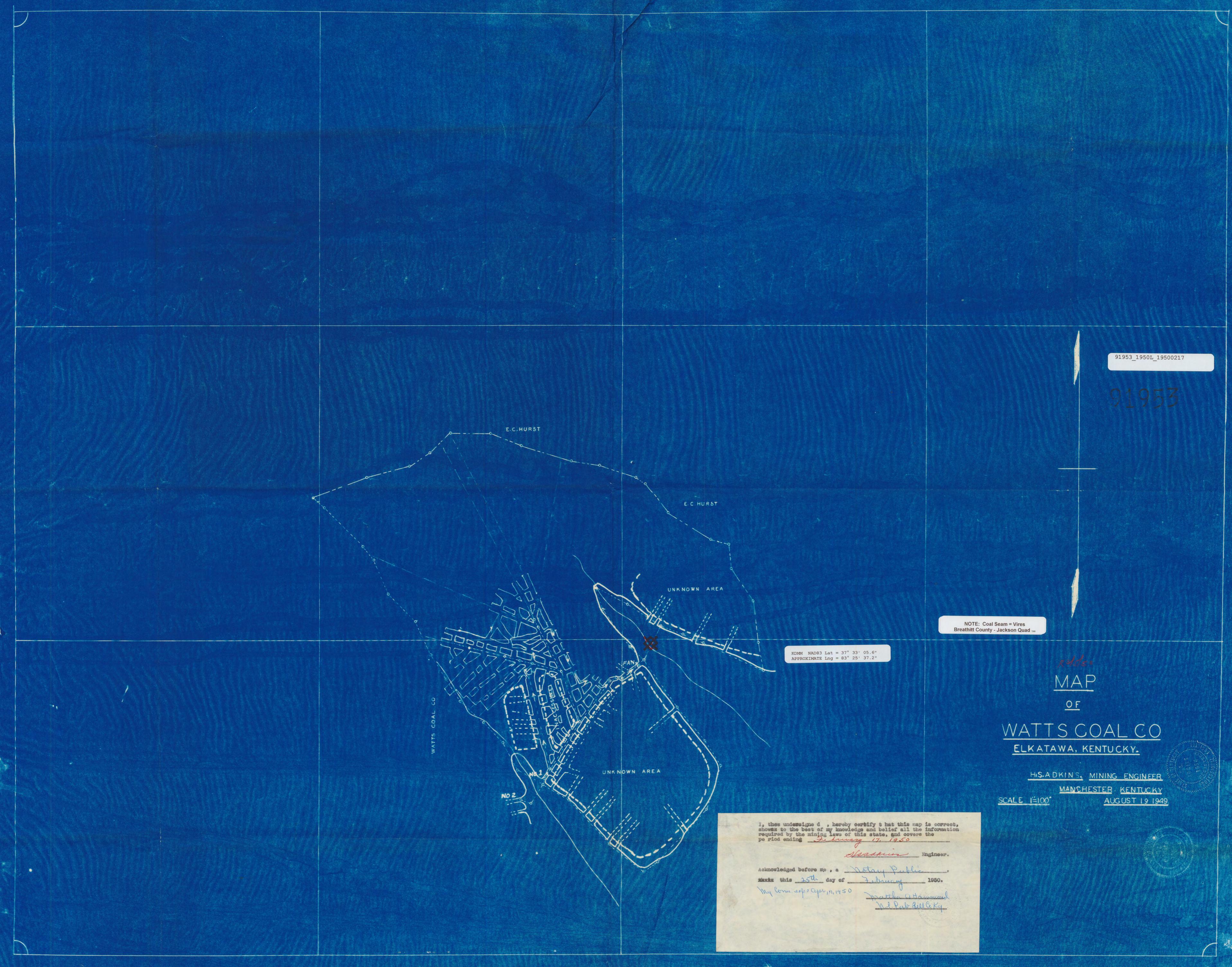


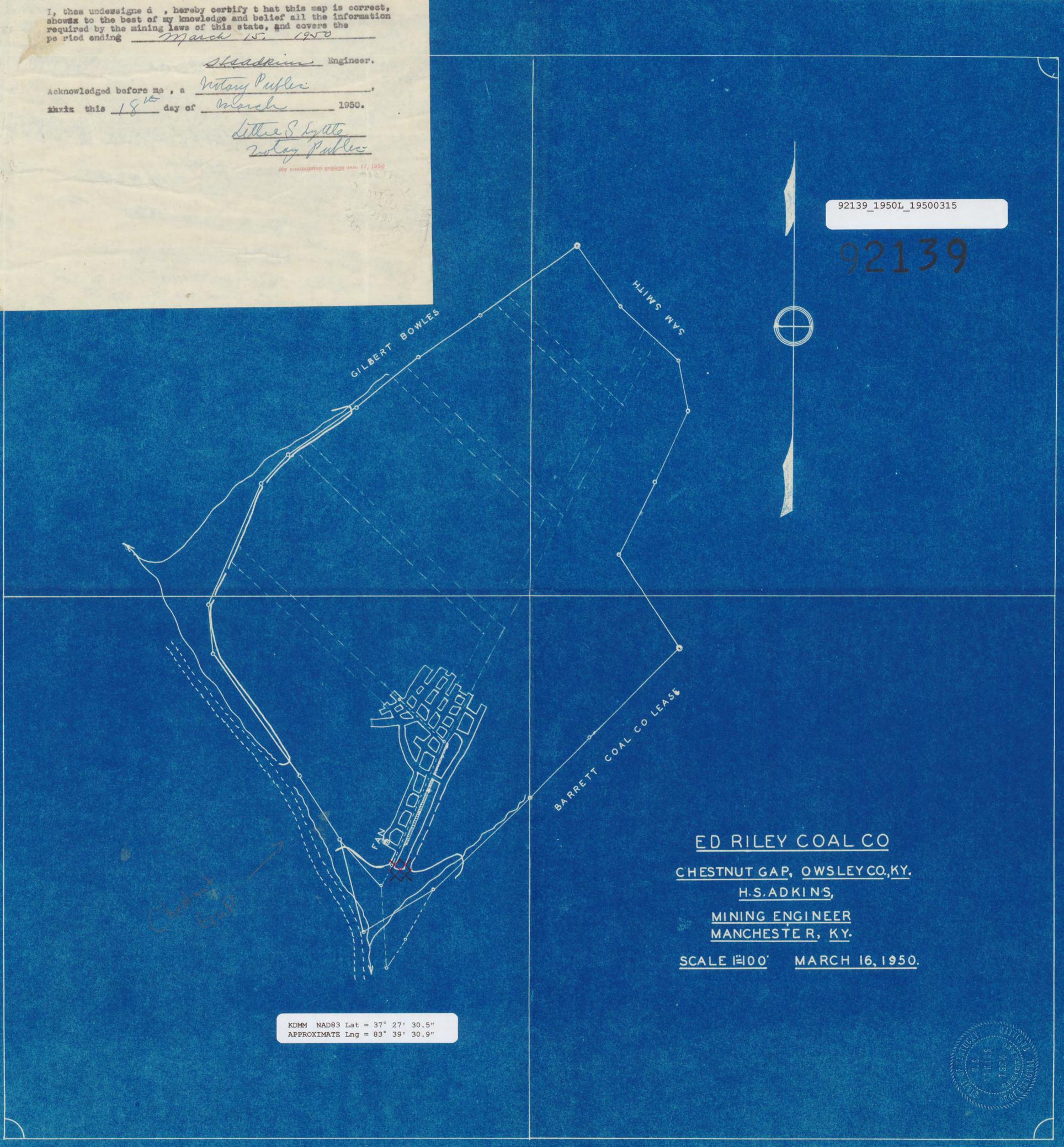


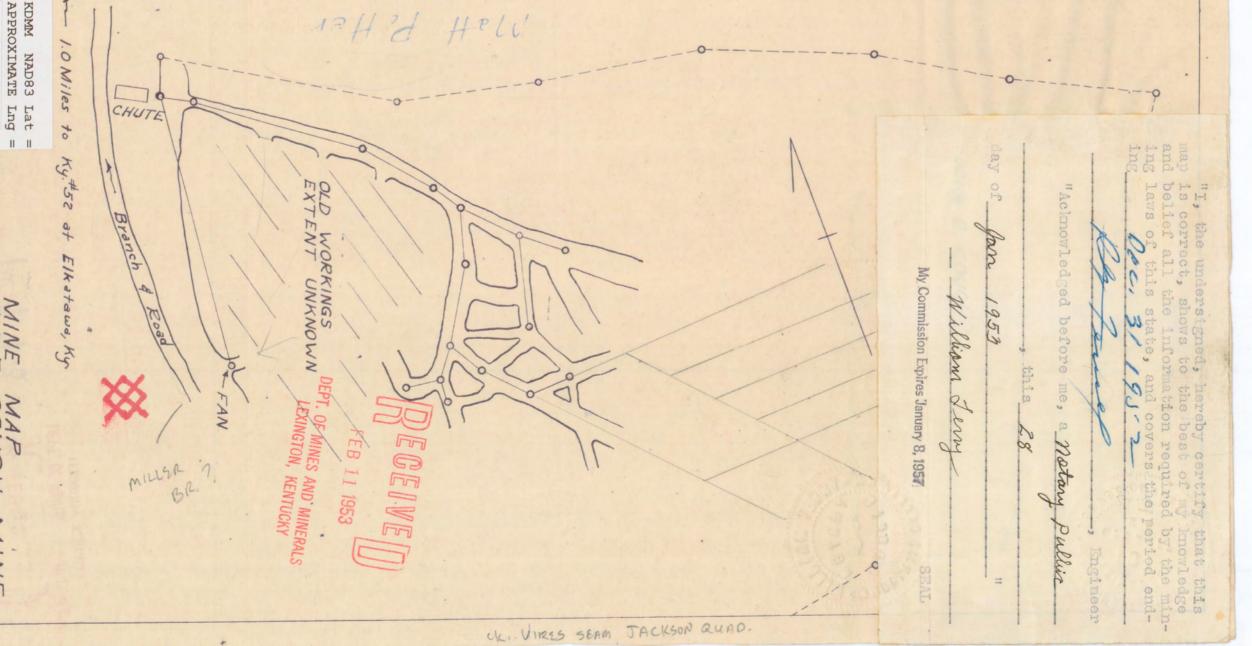








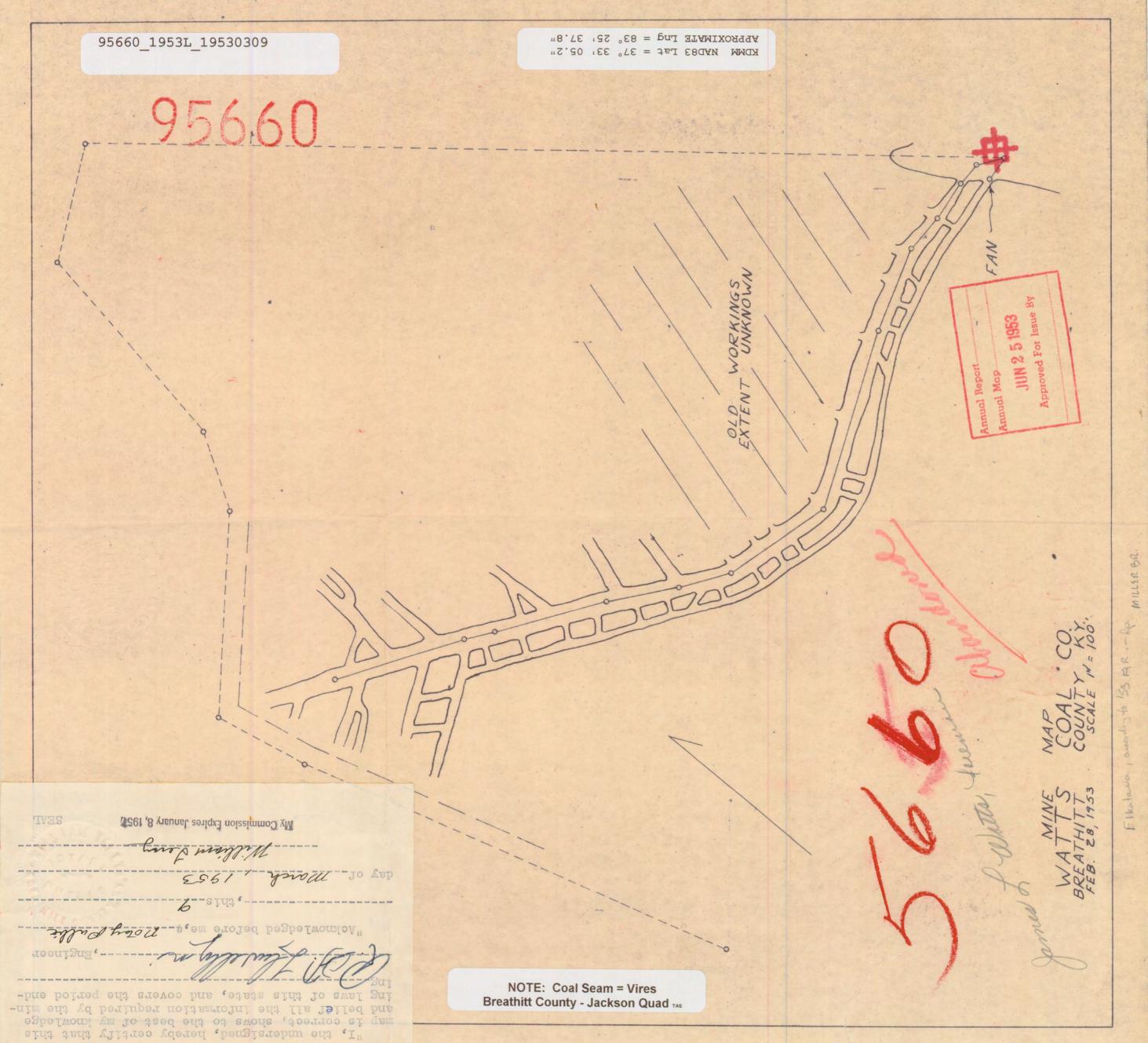




37°

32' 57.8" 25' 33.5"

OEC. 2



96121\_1954L\_19540106 NOTE: Seam = Vires (Eq. to Lower Elkhorn)
Breathitt County - Jackson GQ № John Haney Liza .. (wf) Walter Deaton Mahala .. (wf.) J. Wise Deaton DEPT. OF MINES AND MINERALS
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY Gladys " (wf.1 P.J. Mª Alornis Grace " (wf.) William Gabbard Elsie " (wf.) Alfred Gambill Rochael " (wf.) ELIAS MULLINIS MAMIE " (Wf) I, the undersigned, hereby certify that this map is correct, shows to the best of my knowledge and belief all the information required by the mining laws of this state, and covers the period ending 1-6-54. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13 day of January ..., 195 4.
Witness my hand and official seal. KDMM NAD83 Lat = 37° 33' 30.3" APPROXIMATE Lng = 83° 25' 33.9" Williams Liny Notary Public My Commission Expires January 8, 1957 Crapline -MINE PROPERTY CORNETTSVILLE COAL CO. ELKATAWA, BREATHITT CO. KY. L & N. R.R. Co. LEN R.R. Co. DATED - Jan. 6, 1954