

THE DEPOSITIONAL BASIN OF THE SPRINGFIELD (NO. 5) COAL IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS¹

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ABSTRACT

The Springfield (No. 5) coal of northern Illinois was deposited in a basin which permitted a maximum accumulation of coal near its southern margin. The thickness of the deposit diminishes gradually toward the north to the point where the coal lenses out completely. The basin had its principal elongation from east to west and may have extended originally much farther west than the present erosional boundary of the coal. The southern margin of the coal is abrupt, and follows a line trending about N. 65° W., passing near Mt. Sterling in Brown County, and Chatham in Sangamon County. The basin is about 100 miles in width from north to south in western Illinois.

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