

"SHIPPING AMMONIUM NITRATE FOR THE CERREJON COAL PROJECT COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA"

A. Gene Riggs
Principal Engineer
Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc.
Boise, Idaho

INTRODUCTION

The Cerrejon Coal Project in Colombia, South America is one of the largest coal mines in the world. The mine is located in northeastern Colombia on the La Guajira peninsula. The area is in a remote valley 132 miles east of the city of Barranquilla. (See Figure 1).

At full production, coal will be mined in two pits. Overburden will be drilled blasted, and then loaded by electric shovels into 170-ton rear dump trucks. Coal will be ripped and pushed by dozers to front-end loaders for loading into 170-ton bottom dump trucks. Bucket capacities for the rope shovels will be 19 cubic meters (25 cubic yards) and front-end loaders will have bucket capacities of 17 cubic meters (22 cubic yards).

To show you the comparison size of the equipment, we have four drawings (See Figures 2,3,4, and 5). The small 3/4 ton pickup on each drawing shows the size of related equipment.

In March, 1981, Morrison-Knudsen was awarded the prime contract for the design and construction for the total project. Work included the Port of Portete (See Figure 6). The port area consists of the coal pier, shiploader, commodity pier, coal piles, stacker-reclaimers, maintenance areas, living areas and airport.

The coal will be hauled from the mine to the port by two unit trains. The railroad is 90 miles long. The overall mine site (See Figure 7) consists of office areas, truck and maintenance building, truck dump, drive house, conveyors and coal storage and loadout silos.

The balance of the project consists of a large community and the mine airport capable of handling 727's.