

## Coalbed Gas

British Columbia is still in the early stages of coalbed gas (CBG) exploration and evaluation, but the potential for CBG to become a new source of gas supply is significant (See **Table**). The province has an estimated resource potential of 100 TCF of coalbed gas. The resource is found in coalfields distributed throughout the province and is generally close to markets and infrastructure.

Industry continues to acquire petroleum and natural gas rights and has spent over \$200 million on various evaluation projects. Commercial production began in December 2008 in the northern Peace River Coalfield; other pilot projects, including one in the southeast, also anticipate reaching commercial production in 2009. Freehold coal owners in the East Kootenays and on Vancouver Island have also submitted requests under the Freehold Coal Agreement for the coalbed gas rights on their freehold coal properties.

As of the end of 2008, over 100 wells drilled in the province had been identified as coalbed gas wells. At present, the Oil and Gas Commission does not recognize CBG reserves.

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**Table**  
**Coalbed Gas Potential**

<b>Area / Basin</b>	<b>Potential</b> (10 <sup>9</sup> m <sup>3</sup> )
<b>Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (NE BC)</b>	1691
<b>Intermontane Belt (incl. Bowser and Nechako Basins)</b>	665
<b>Fernie Basin (SE BC)</b>	397
<b>Georgia Basin (includes Vancouver Is.)</b>	32
<b>Total</b>	2785