

1023-L1-1902 **George W Heine***, Bureau of Land Management, NI-140, P.O. Box 25047, Denver, CO 80225.
Statistics to Detect Danger Underground. Preliminary report.

Coalbed methane—extracting the gases dissolved in underground coal seams—is mentioned as a new, plentiful, and relatively clean energy source. However, it does have potential environmental problems. These include possible underground migration of gases such as methane and hydrogen sulfide to locations where they are hazardous to livestock or humans. For the past 10 years, geologists at the Bureau of Land Management have been collecting soil vapor in a region with a high density of methane wells. We use nonparametric statistical measures to analyze this data and draw some preliminary conclusions about possible trends in underground migration. (Received September 27, 2006)