

Appendix

Glossary of Mining Terms

ACID MINE DRAINAGE (AMD): Toxic drainage resulting from the exposure of pyrite to air and water.

ALLUVIAL VALLEY FLOOR (AVF): "unconsolidated stream laid deposits holding streams where water availability is sufficient for subirrigation or flood irrigation agricultural activities..." 30 U.S.C. § 1291 (1).

AQUIFER: A stratum or zone below the surface of the earth capable of producing water, as from a well.

COAL IMPOUNDMENT: a dam created of the solid waste created in the process of washing coal; this dam holds the liquid waste (slurry) and any chemicals used in the process of cleaning coal. Coal impoundments are frequently known as slurry impoundments.

COAL PREPARATION PLANT: A plant for the cleaning and sizing of the raw coal before it is loaded into railway cars or trucks.

COMPACTION: An increase in soil density caused by mechanical handling of soil. Excessive compaction inhibits plant growth.

CONTINUOUS MINING: Mining in which a continuous mining machine cuts or rips coal from the face and loads it onto conveyors or shuttle cars.

DEVELOPMENT MINING: Room and pillar mining; frequently used to prepare gate roads for future longwall mining.

DIP: The angle at which a bed, stratum, or vein is inclined from the horizontal.

FACE: The solid surface of the unbroken portion of the coalbed at the advancing end of the work place.

GOB: Waste coal, rock pyrites, slate or other unmerchantable material extracted during underground mining and deposited either underground or on the surface in gob piles.

HIGHWALL: "The face of the exposed overburden and coal seam in an open cut of a surface coal mining activity or for entry to underground mining activities." 30 CFR 701.5.

"HOT": A term used to describe highly acidic material.

INTERMITTENT STREAM: A stream that flows in direct response to a precipitation event but which is dry during much of the year.

LONGWALL MINING: A system of mining on straight faces 80 yards or more in length. A power machine shaves the coal along the face over the entire length of a panel designated for mining. Self-advancing hydraulic lifts are used to hold the ceiling in place until mining is completed on a given panel. The lifts are then removed and the ground is permitted to subside.

OVERBURDEN: Material of any nature, consolidated or unconsolidated, that lies on top of a deposit of useful materials, ores or coal, especially those deposits that are mined from the surface by open cuts.

PERCOLATION: Refers to the downward movement of water in the ground.

PH: A term to describe the acidity of a solution. A pH of 7 is neutral. Each whole number lower describes a solution ten times more acidic than the previous number. Higher whole numbers indicate a solution more basic by a factor of ten.

PORTAL: Any entrance to a mine.

PYRITE: Iron disulfide (FeS_2). (Fool's Gold). Pyrite deposits frequently occur near coal seams. When the pyrite mixes with water and air, a chemical reaction takes place which produces sulfuric acid. This is a significant source of acid mine drainage.

RECHARGE CAPACITY: The ability of the soils and underlying materials to allow precipitation and runoff to infiltrate and reach the zone of saturation or water table. 30 CFR § 701.5.

REFERENCE AREA: A land unit maintained under appropriate management for the purpose of measuring vegetation ground cover, productivity, and plant species diversity that are produced naturally or by approved crop production methods. Reference areas must be representative of geology, soil, slope and vegetation in the permit area. 30 CFR § 701.5.

REFUSE: Solid waste from a coal preparation plant.

RETREAT MINING: Also known as pillar removal, retreat mining involves cutting and retrieving pillars of coal that support the mine roof. The practice results in an intentional roof fall.

SINK HOLE: A hole or depression in the surface of the ground, caused by underground excavations or erosion of vertical support. Sink holes can be as much as 15 feet deep.

SPOIL: The overburden or non-ore material that has been removed to gain access to the mineral.

SUBSIDENCE: Surface collapse or depression caused by underground excavations.

Groups to Contact

Center for Coalfield Justice
96 E. Chestnut Street
Washington, PA 15301
www.coalfieldjustice.org
724.229.3550

Citizens Coal Council
<http://citizenscoalcouncil.org/cccblog/>
ccc@citizenscoalcouncil.org
724.222.5602

Ten Mile Protection Network
546 Lone Pine Road
Washington, PA 15301
www.tmpn.org
724.267.4633

Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy
Attilia Shumaker
724.627.7871

Mountain Watershed Association
P.O Box 408
Melcroft, PA 15462
mtwatershed.com
724.455.4200

PA Chapter of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 663
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0663
<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/Default.htm>
717.232.0101

Taylor County Environmental
Advocacy Membership
<http://www.taylorcountyteam.org/>
info@taylorcountyteam.org

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Beth Little, HC 64, BOX 281,
Hillsboro, WV 24946
<http://www.wvhighlands.org/index.html>
304.653.4277

Regulatory Agency Contact Information

DEP SW-Mining Offices

California District Mining Office
25 Technology Dr.
California Technology Park
Coal Center, PA 15423
(P) 724-769-1100

Cambria District Mining Office

286 Industrial Park Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931
(P)814-472-1900

Greensburg District Mining Office

Armbrust Building
R.R. #2, Box 603-C
Greensburg, PA 15601
(P) 724-925-5500

DEP Bethlehem District Office

4530 Bath Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18017
(P) 610-861-2072

DEP SW-District Offices

Beaver Falls
206 Municipal Building
8th Avenue and 15th Street
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
(P) 724-847-5270

DEP NE-District Office

Scranton District Office
101 Penn Ave.
Scranton, PA 18503
(P) 570-963-4521

Uniontown

Fayette County Health Center
100 New Salem Road
Uniontown, PA 15401
(P) 724-439-7430;
724-439-7431

DEP NE-Regional Office

Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre PA 18711
(P) 570-826-2511

DEP Pottsville District Office

5 West Laurel Blvd.
Pottsville, PA 17901
(P) 570-621-3110

DEP SW-Regional Office

Southwest Regional Office
400 Waterfront Dr.
Pittsburgh PA 15222
(P) 412-442-4000

DEP Pocono District Office

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Swiftwater, PA 18370
(P) 570-895-4041

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