

"Tract" shall mean a single parcel of land or two or more contiguous parcels of land with common ownership.

"Operator" shall mean a person, firm, corporation or partnership engaged in open pit mining, as a principal as distinguished from an agent or independent contractor, and, who is or becomes the owner of such coal or fire clay as a result of such mining.

"Landowner" shall mean the person, firm, corporation or partnership, or the persons, firms, corporations or partnerships in whom the legal title to the land is vested.

"Overburden" shall mean the strata or material overlying a bituminous coal or fire clay deposit in its natural state and shall mean such material before or after its removal by open pit mining.

"Spoil pile" shall mean the overburden and reject coal or fire clay as it is piled or deposited in open pit mining.

"Area of land affected" shall mean the area of land from which the overburden is removed.

180. Before any operator shall hereafter engage in open pit mining of bituminous coal or fire clay within the State, he shall pay a filing fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) and register with the Bureau of Mines of this State by filing a certificate, on a form to be provided by the Bureau, and giving information sufficient to identify the operator, and an estimate of the number of acres of land that the operator will affect by open pit mining during one year immediately following the date of filing. The operator shall attach to such certificate a map of the operation certified by a registered professional engineer, showing the boundary lines of the tract or tracts, the access to the operation from the nearest public highway, the area of land affected by open pit mining, and the proposed plans in connection therewith. Contemporaneously with and as a part of said registration, the operator shall file with the Bureau of Mines a separate surety bond on a form to be prescribed and furnished by the Bureau, payable to the State and conditioned that the operator shall faithfully perform all of the requirements of this sub-title. The bond shall be in an amount to be specified by the Director of the Bureau of Mines but in no event shall be less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) nor more than Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00.)

181. Within thirty (30) days after starting the removal of overburden at an operation for the removal of coal or fire clay by open pit mining, the operator shall file an operation report with the Bureau of Mines on a form to be prescribed and furnished by the Director, giving the follow-