

SEC. 138. Whenever any place is being driven towards or is in supposedly dangerous proximity to an abandoned mine suspected of containing explosive gases or which may contain a dangerous accumulation of water, bore holes shall be kept not less than twelve feet in advance of the face and on the sides of such working place, said side holes to be drilled diagonally at intervals not exceeding eight feet. No places so driven to tap water or gas shall be more than ten feet wide; and no water or gas accumulation, nor any bore holes from the surface, shall be tapped until all employees except those engaged upon such work are out of the mine. Such work shall be executed only under the immediate supervision of the mine foreman. *Provided*, that coal shall not be mined within fifty feet of any abandoned mine, suspected to be inundated with water, until danger from such water has been removed by driving a passageway to tap and drain it off; and *Provided*, further, that barrier pillars standing in the vicinity of such abandoned mine shall be in proportion of one foot of additional pillar thickness to each one and one-quarter feet of water-head, if in the judgment of the district mine inspector such thickness is necessary for the safety of persons and property within the operating mine.

SEC. 139. Whenever clay veins, spars or faults are cut in driving entries or other narrow work into solid coal, in gaseous mines, a bore hole shall be kept not less than three feet in advance of the face or a like distance in advance of any shot hole drilled for blasting.

#### CHAPTER XX—*Fire Protection.*

SEC. 140. All underground storage, motor, pump and engine rooms shall be constructed of incombustible material; and it shall be the duty of every operator to provide and maintain some efficient means of fire protection approved by the Bureau, at such points as the Bureau may prescribe. No steam pipes shall be laid within any such mine, unless insulated with approved material.

SEC. 141. No building shall hereafter be erected within such distance of any ventilating fan, or entrance to or exit from any main airway, shaft, slope or drift, excepting the tipple and trestle thereto, as in the judgment of the Bureau may constitute a fire hazard, unless the same be built of fire-proof material satisfactory to such Bureau; and at gaseous