

(l) "Abandoned" means an operation where no coal has been produced or overburden removed for a period of one year.

(m) "Degree" means the angle of slope from the horizontal.

(n) "Auger Mining" means the mechanical removal of coal from the subsurface by augering from the outcrop.

(o) "Deep Mining" means all methods of extracting coal from the subsurface excepting open pit mining and auger mining and includes such methods as drift mining, shaft mining, and inclined slope mining.

#### 659. Regulatory Powers.

The Bureau of Mines may make rules and regulations necessary for preventing, minimizing, or repairing damage to the land or the natural resources associated with the land which may result from open pit mining operations. All rules and regulations adopted under the provisions of this subheading shall be enforced by the Bureau of Mines, and any operator found in violation of any such rule and regulation is subject to the penalties provided in this subheading. Nothing contained in this subheading shall be construed to abrogate or supplant any of the enforcement or regulatory powers of the State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department of Water Resources or the Water Resources Commission.

#### 660. Land Reclamation Advisory Committee.

(a) There is hereby created a standing advisory committee which shall be known as the Land Reclamation Advisory Committee, to be composed of nine members as follows: The Director of the Maryland Geological Survey, who shall act as Chairman; two (2) representatives from the mining industry; two (2) Soil Conservation District Supervisors from the Soil Conservation Districts of Allegany and Garrett Counties; and three (3) representatives from the Board of Natural Resources representing the Departments of Game and Inland Fish, Forests and Parks, and Water Resources; and one (1) individual representing the Bureau of Mines. All members of the Committee except the Chairman shall be appointed by the Maryland Geological Survey Commission for an indefinite term. Vacancies shall be filled by the Commission as in original appointments. The Committee members shall serve without compensation, other than reimbursement for travel and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under this subheading. These expenses will be provided for in the budget of the Maryland Geological Survey. The Chairman shall call the meetings, but in no case shall meetings be held less often than twice a year.

(b) It is the duty of the Land Reclamation Advisory Committee to establish plans and methods of procedure as well as practical guidelines for the prompt and adequate reclamation of all lands disturbed by open pit mining of bituminous coal within the State of Maryland. The Committee shall study and recommend procedures for back-filling and grading, the restoration of plant cover, the prevention of erosion, the prevention of the creation and the release of acid waters, and any other reclamation actions which may be necessary to restore the disturbed area to a condition conducive for the conservation and best utilization of the natural re-