

pealed; and that new Section 662(b-1) be and it is hereby added to the same title, subtitle and subheading, to follow immediately after Section 662(b) thereof, all to read as follows:

658.

**[The following words and phrases, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context, have the following meanings:]**

*The words and phrases defined in this Section have the meanings specified herein, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context.*

(a) "Open Pit mining or strip mining" means the mining or recovery of bituminous coal by removing the strata or material which overlies or is above the coal deposit or seam in its natural condition. For purposes of this subheading auger mining shall be deemed an integral part of open-pit mining and subject to the provisions of this subheading.

(b) "Pit" means the place bituminous coal is being mined by the open-pit mining method.

(c) "Operation" means the pit or pits located upon a single tract of land or a continuous pit embracing or extending upon two or more contiguous tracts of land.

(d) "Land" means the surface of the land upon which open-pit mining is conducted.

(e) "Tract" means a single parcel of land or two or more contiguous parcels of land with common ownership.

(f) "Person" means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, or other entity.

(g) "Operator" means a person engaged in open-pit mining, as a principal as distinguished from an agent or independent contractor.

(h) "Landowner" means the person in whom the legal title to the land is vested.

(i) "Overburden" means the strata or material overlying a bituminous coal deposit in its natural state and means such material before or after its removal by open-pit mining.

(j) "Spoil pile" means the overburden and reject coal as it is piled or deposited in open-pit mining.

(k) "Land affected" means the land from which the overburden is removed and that occupied by the spoil.

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

(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.