

form shall be a Mining and Reclamation Final Report which shall contain information identical to that required for the initial reclamation plan and the annual Mining and Reclamation Progress Report. This report shall be reviewed by the Land Reclamation Committee and if the Committee does not approve the report, the Director, SHALL NOTIFY THE OPERATOR IN WRITING THE REASONS FOR REJECTING THE REPORT. THE OPERATOR MAY REQUEST A HEARING WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS AFTER NOTIFICATION OF THE REJECTION. THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD A HEARING WITHIN TWENTY (20) DAYS OF THE REQUEST FOR HEARING. IF AFTER THE HEARING THE COMMITTEE STILL DISAPPROVES THE REPORT THE DIRECTOR shall suspend the open-pit mining permit of the operator concerned until such time as the Land Reclamation Committee does approve the report. Failure of the Committee to act upon a report within sixty (60) days after its submission shall constitute approval of the report.

667.

(a) The Land Reclamation Committee shall also establish revegetation bonds for each open-pit mining operation at the time of approval of the mining and reclamation plan. The amount of these bonds shall be based upon the estimated revegetation costs for the area affected by said operation. These bonds shall be cash, negotiable, surety or performance, bonds and shall not be less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) nor more than one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per acre. The bonds shall be deposited by the operator with the Bureau of Mines and upon receipt of any such deposit the Director shall immediately place it with the State Treasurer, whose duty it is to receive and hold the bond in the name of the State, in trust, for the purposes for which the deposit is made. When the Land Reclamation Committee approves the Mining and Reclamation Final Report on the operation in question the Director shall release the bond on the area affected and upon such release the State Treasurer shall immediately return to the operator the amount of cash or negotiable bonds specified therein. INCLUDING THE PLANTING REPORT FILED BY THE STATE FORESTER UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 668 OF THIS SUBHEADING, THE DIRECTOR SHALL RELEASE THE BONDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN SECTIONS 668 AND 669 OF THIS SUBHEADING.

(b) To encourage optimum revegetation the Land Reclamation Committee may recommend to the State of Maryland that the State participate up to fifty percent (50%) in the cost of fertilizer, lime and seeds as may be required by an approved Mining and Reclamation Plan.

(c) The Director may receive funds from any source and, upon approval of the Land Reclamation Committee, spend said funds for reclamation and revegetation of strip mined areas.

674.

All pits mined prior to June 1, 1967, under then valid permits, and for which legally sufficient backfilling bonds had then been posted, shall be backfilled in accordance with the requirements of Sections 657 to 674, inclusive, of this Article, as said sections existed im-