

on the bond. Funds received on a forfeiture in excess of the amount required for reclamation may be used to reclaim any other land affected by open-pit mining of bituminous coal. ~~The Secretary shall use the fund to reimburse counties from which coal is removed by strip or open pit mining for the additional cost of road maintenance attributable to the coal mining industry. All payments to counties, EXCEPT FOR THOSE FUNDS TO BE REMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE COUNTIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 7-507.1 OF THIS ARTICLE, shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly.~~

7-5A02.

In this subtitle the General Assembly intends to provide for the reclamation of the land affected by deep mining operations [and]; PROVIDE for the protection of the waters of the State that otherwise might be affected adversely by pollution from deep mines ; AND PROVIDE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITIES AND COUNTIES IN WHICH COAL MINING IS AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY.

7-5A12.

(a) [At the end of each year of operation] BY THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF EACH MONTH, a deep mine operator shall file [an annual] A MONTHLY progress report with the Secretary on a form furnished by the Secretary. [The] IN THE REPORT, THE operator shall indicate the total area affected, number of mine openings, tonnage of coal removed, and changes in this information over previous [years] MONTHS. AN ANNUAL REPORT SHALL BE FURNISHED TO THE SECRETARY NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY 25 OF EACH YEAR FOR THE PRECEDING YEAR COVERING FACTS THE SECRETARY MAY REQUIRE REGARDING THE PRODUCTION AND CONDITION OF THE OPERATION DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR PRECEDING. The operator also shall update the information on the maps previously supplied with the permit application.

(k) On the basis of the approved annual AND MONTHLY progress or completion reports the Secretary shall assess a 15-cent surcharge for each ton of coal removed during the past year. ~~SEVEN AND ONE HALF~~ NINE CENTS OF THE AMOUNTS COLLECTED FROM EACH TON OF COAL REMOVED SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE SECRETARY AND ~~7-1/2~~ 6 CENTS SHALL BE REMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE COAL WAS REMOVED.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1978.

Approved May 29, 1978.