

the inspector certifies it has been done in the manner prescribed by law, the Director of the Bureau shall release the bond which was filed for that portion of the operation in its full amount less \$50 per acre, which the Director shall retain until the planting is completed and certified by the State forester as done in a workmanlike manner. The director then shall release the bond in the remaining amount of \$50 per acre.] BEFORE COMMENCING OPERATION OF A DEEP MINE, A PERMIT MUST BE OBTAINED AND A BOND FILED AS REQUIRED BY SUBTITLE 5A OF THIS TITLE.

7-510.

[(a) The Committee shall establish a revegetation bond for each open-pit mining operation at the time of approval of the mining and reclamation plan. The amount of the bond shall be based on the estimated revegetation cost for the area affected by the operation. The bond shall be cash or negotiable securities, or a surety or performance bond and may not be less than \$50 per acre. The bond shall be deposited by the operator with the Bureau. On receipt of any deposit, the director immediately shall place it with the State Treasurer, who shall hold the deposit in the name of the State, in trust, for the purpose for which the deposit is made. When the Committee approves the mining and reclamation final report, including the planting report filed under the provisions of § 7-511, the Director of the Bureau shall release the bond in accordance with the provisions set forth in this subtitle. A certificate of deposit is acceptable instead of a corporate surety if the certificate of deposit is in an amount equivalent to the required bond, issued by a bank in the State and accompanied by the written agreement of the bank to pay on demand to the State in the event of forfeiture.]

[(b)] (A) To encourage optimum revegetation, the committee may recommend to the [state] DEPARTMENT that it contribute up to 50 percent of the cost of fertilizer, lime, and seed required by an approved mining and reclamation plan.

[(c)] (B) The [director of the bureau] DEPARTMENT may receive funds from any source and, on approval of the Committee, expend the funds for reclamation and revegetation of any strip-mined area.

7-511.

(A) WITHIN 2 WEEKS AFTER ANY AFFECTED AREA IS BACKFILLED AND REGRADED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBTITLE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED RECLAMATION PLAN, THE OPERATOR SHALL SUBMIT A BACKFILLING REPORT ON A FORM FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE REPORT SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: THE NUMBER OF ACRES AFFECTED ON THE PERMIT; THE NUMBER OF ACRES BACKFILLED FOR THIS REPORT; AND THE NUMBER OF BACKFILLED ACRES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. BASED UPON INSPECTION AND APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THIS REPORT AND