

(2) [to] TO aid in preventing pollution of rivers and streams;

(3) TO prevent combustion of unmined coal;

(4) TO provide for reclamation of the stripped areas;

(5) [generally] TO improve GENERALLY the use and enjoyment of these lands; and

(6) [generally] TO improve GENERALLY the health, welfare, and living conditions in the communities and counties in which coal mining is an important industry.

7-503.

(c) The Department is authorized to administer a surface mining control program consistent with the requirements of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, any amendments to that Act, and [rules and regulations] ANY RULE OR REGULATION promulgated [pursuant thereto] UNDER THAT ACT.

7-511.

(a) (1) Within 2 weeks after any affected area is backfilled and regraded [pursuant to] UNDER 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:

(I) [the] THE number of acres affected on the permit;

(II) [the] THE number of acres backfilled for the period of the report; and

(III) [the] THE number of backfilled acres previously reported.

(2) Based upon inspection and approval by the Department of this report and the planting report required by subsection (b) OF THIS SECTION, the Department may release a portion of the liability on the bond required by § 7-506(b) of this subtitle in accordance with provisions set forth in § 7-506(h) of this subtitle. The Department shall at all times retain bonds in an amount sufficient to insure completion of the reclamation plan by the Department in the event of forfeiture, which amount may not be less than \$10,000.

(b) (1) Within 2 weeks after planting is completed, the operator shall file a planting report with the Department on a form furnished by the Department, giving the following information: