

7-501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

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

7-505.

(b) (2) Subject to valid existing rights, as that term is used in the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, the Department may not issue, extend or renew any permit:

(i) Which would adversely affect any publicly owned park or place recorded in the National Register of Historic Sites, unless approved by the federal, State or local agency with jurisdiction over the park or historic site;

(ii) Within the Youghiogheny River scenic corridor, notwithstanding any other provision of law;

(iii) Within 100 feet of the outside right-of-way line of any public road (except where mine access roads or haulage roads join the right-of-way line), unless the Department, after PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR a public hearing in the locality, determines that the interests of the public and the affected landowners will be protected;

(iv) Within 300 feet from any occupied dwelling, unless waived by the owner thereof;

(v) Within 300 feet of any public building, school, public park, church, community or institutional building; or

(vi) Within 100 feet of a cemetery.

7-506.

[(a) The Committee shall establish a revegetation bond for each open-pit mining operation at the time of approval of the reclamation plan. The amount of the bond shall be based on the estimated cost of revegetation for the area permitted. The amount of the bond may not be less than \$500 per acre. The bond shall be deposited with the Department prior to issuance of the permit. The liability under the bond shall be for a period coincidental with the operator's responsibility for revegetation under § 7-511. The bond may not be released until the Committee inspects and approves the revegetation of the area for which liability under the bond exists.]