

Article - Natural Resources

7-501.

(n) "Open-pit mining" [or], "strip mining" [means], AND "SURFACE COAL MINING" ARE TERMS USED INTERCHANGEABLY IN THIS SUBTITLE TO MEAN the mining or recovery of bituminous coal by removing the strata or material which overlies or is above the coal deposit or seam in its natural condition, or any other recovery of coal by methods other than deep-mining, and land affected by such activities. It includes methods such as contour, strip, auger, mountaintop removal, box cut, open-pit, and area mining, the use of explosives and blasting, and in situ distillation or retorting, leaching or other chemical or physical processing, and the cleaning, concentrating, or other processing or preparation, loading of coal at or near the mine site.

7-505.

(c) The application for a permit or permit revision shall be submitted in a manner satisfactory to the Department and shall contain at a minimum:

(1) A copy of the applicant's advertisement to be published, FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county of the proposed mining site [at least once a week for 4 successive weeks, and] which includes the ownership of the land to be affected, a description of the location and boundaries of the proposed site sufficient so that the proposed operation is easily locatable by local residents, the location of where the application is available for public inspection, and notice that written comments and requests for a public hearing will be received by the Department for at least 30 days after the last newspaper publication;

(d) Procedures for review of an application shall be as follows:

(1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, upon receipt of a complete application for a permit or permit revision the Department shall [issue public notice of the opportunity to submit written comments and to request a hearing] REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO PUBLISH AN APPROVED ADVERTISEMENT OF THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

(ii) The [Department shall issue the] public notice required in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph SHALL BE PUBLISHED at least once a week for [2] 4 successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county of the proposed mining operation.