

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

7-501.

(o) "Operator" means any person, partnership, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, or corporation [who] THAT removes or intends to remove more than 250 tons of coal from the earth by surface coal mining within 12 consecutive calendar months in any one location.

(v) "Principal owner" means an owner or beneficial owner of at least 10 percent of a corporation, firm, partnership, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, or association.

7-504.

(b) The Director of the Bureau shall investigate every application for a license or renewal. [He] THE DIRECTOR may not issue any new open-pit mining operator's license or renew any existing license to any person or operator if [he] THE DIRECTOR finds the applicant for licensure or renewal has failed to correct a violation of the rules and regulations established under this subtitle, or to comply with any of the provisions of this subtitle. If the applicant is a corporation, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, partnership, or association, the Director may not issue or renew the license if [he] THE DIRECTOR finds that any officer, director, or principal owner of the corporation, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, partnership, or association, has previously failed and continues to fail to comply with any of the provisions of this subtitle, or if any officer, director, or principal owner is or has been an officer, director, or principal owner of any other corporation, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, partnership, or association, which has previously failed and continues to fail to comply with any of the provisions of this subtitle. The Director may not issue or renew any license to any person or operator who has forfeited any bond posted in connection with strip-mining activity in any state. If the applicant is a corporation, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, partnership, or association, the Director may not issue or renew the license if [he] THE DIRECTOR finds that any officer, director, or principal owner of the corporation, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, partnership, or association, has previously forfeited any bond posted in connection with strip-mining activity in any state.

(c) (1) Any license held under this section may be suspended by the Department if: (i) due to persistent or repeated failure to comply with the requirements under this subtitle, permit revocation procedures under § 7-507(c) of this subtitle have been brought for any operation owned or controlled by the licensee; and (ii) continued operation by the licensee at any other location is determined by the Department to be a contributing factor in the failure to comply. For purposes of this paragraph, continued operation by the licensee at any other location shall include operation by the licensee directly, or operation by any corporation, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, partnership, or association of which the licensee is an officer, director, or principal owner, and which involves use of equipment or resources employed on the permit area in violation under this paragraph.