

authorizing the Department to provide for a certain extension for up to a certain period by providing certain notice to an applicant prior to certain dates; and generally relating to the application process for an open-pit strip mining permit.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Environment

Section 15-501(a), (g), (n), and (t)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Environment

Section 15-505(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1996 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

**Article - Environment**

15-501.

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

(g) "Department" means the Department of the Environment.

(n) (1) "Open-pit mining", "strip mining", 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.

(2) These terms include methods such as contour, strip, auger, mountain top 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.

(3) "Open-pit mining", "strip mining", or "surface coal mining" do not include the incidental extraction of coal at a level that does not exceed within any calendar year 16 2/3 percent of the total cumulative production of coal and other minerals removed from a mining area for purposes of bona fide sale or reasonable commercial use.

(t) "Permit" means a permit to conduct open-pit mining pursuant to this subtitle.

15-505.

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