

(1989 Replacement Volume and 1990 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 7-6A-10.1 and 7-6A-10.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1989 Replacement Volume and 1990 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

7-6A-01.

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

(n) "Permittee" means a person who holds a valid permit to conduct surface mining and reclamation operations approved by the Department under § 7-6A-09 of this subtitle.

(o) "Person" means an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, fiduciary, or representative of any kind, or any partnership, firm, association, public or private corporation, or any other entity.

(p) "Pit" means the place any minerals are being mined by the surface mining method.

(u) "Surface mining" means all of the following:

(1) The breaking of the surface soil in order to facilitate or accomplish the extraction or removal of minerals;

(2) Any activity or process constituting all or part of a process for the extraction or removal of minerals from their original location; or

(3) The extraction of sand, gravel, rock, stone, earth, or fill from borrow pits for highway construction purposes or other public facilities.

7-6A-10.1.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT IN CERTAIN REGIONS OF THE STATE DEWATERING OF SURFACE MINES LOCATED IN KARST TERRAIN MAY SIGNIFICANTLY INTERFERE WITH WATER SUPPLY WELLS AND MAY CAUSE IN SOME INSTANCES SUDDEN SUBSIDENCE OF LAND, KNOWN AS SINKHOLES. DEWATERING IN KARST TERRAIN MAY RESULT IN PROPERTY DAMAGE TO LANDOWNERS IN A DEFINABLE ZONE OF DEWATERING INFLUENCE AROUND A SURFACE MINE.

(B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROTECT AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNERS IN BALTIMORE, CARROLL, FREDERICK, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES WHERE KARST TERRAIN IS FOUND BY