



## Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation

### Restoration Section: Our Work

The Division of Reclamation has scheduled work in your neighborhood and wants you to know about it. This activity is part of our responsibility to restore or rectify the public health and safety hazards associated with past coal mining operations. Coal mining began in Indiana in the middle 1800's. Today, abandoned underground coal mines underlay extensive areas of southwestern Indiana. Underground mining for coal still takes place, but these active mines are regulated under current state and federal reclamation laws. It is the old, abandoned underground mines, like the ones in your neighborhood, that can still cause problems. One of the most significant problems that can occur is subsidence, or the collapse of the ground surface into the underground mine voids. There have been multiple occurrences of subsidence in your neighborhood, and that is the focus of our work and the reason you are being contacted.

IDNR: Division of Reclamation  
Jasonville Office  
14619 West State Road 48  
Jasonville, IN 47438  
Phone: 812.665.2207  
Toll free (within Indiana): 800.772.6463  
Fax: 812.665.5041  
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/reclamation>

## **The Proposed Reclamation Project**

The typical method for stabilizing areas with multiple subsidence events is grouting. The mine stabilization grouting project proposed for your neighborhood will consist of drilling a series of boreholes into the mine voids and filling those voids with a concrete-like mixture which will eliminate the likelihood of future subsidence events. If work is necessary on your property, you will be contacted prior to any activity taking place. Division staff will maintain open and continuous communication with you throughout the project. If construction is anticipated near, but not actually on your property, you may still be contacted. If you have any questions about the proposed project, you should feel free to contact us at any time. You may even wish to schedule an appointment for discussion of this project or potential impacts.



Left:  
Drill rigs  
along SR  
62 during  
a grouting  
project.

## **What is Subsidence? How does it happen?**

Underground mines have removed more than 900 million tons of coal in Indiana since the 1800's. Geologists estimate that up to 150 square miles of underground coal mines exist in the 26 coal producing counties in southwestern Indiana. Some of these mines were never surveyed, so it is impossible to know the location of all abandoned underground mines. The room and pillar method was used most often. Put simply, large areas or "rooms" of coal were taken with columns or "pillars" of coal left in place as roof support.



Above: Subsidence in a residential yard.

Over time, these pillars can erode to the point of collapse, no longer supporting the bedrock above the mine. This loss of support is transferred to the ground surface, which also drops, creating

structural and public safety problems. Modern mining technology is vastly improved from historical practices and provides greater protection for the workers and surface features. The Restoration Section is focused entirely upon subsidence from old, un-regulated and abandoned mines.

### **Where Are Indiana Coal Mines?**

Coal mines in Indiana are located in the southwest portion of the state. Coal has been mined in this region for more than 150 years, and is still a very important and valuable industry. Within the shaded region shown, specific areas may or may not have been mined. Site-specific information is available to property owners via the internet. The Coal Mine Information System (CMIS) shows the location and extent of all known underground and surface mines in the state. Information on the depth, type, and dates of the mining operation is also available. The CMIS can be viewed online at <http://igs.indiana.edu/CMIS>.



## **Future Subsidence Problems**

Citizens who are aware of a hazardous mine condition should call the Division of Reclamation at 1-800-772-6463 (within Indiana) or 812-665-2207. A staff member will survey the problem to determine if the condition was caused by or is the result of an abandoned coal mine. Appropriate actions will then be taken.

## **Mine Subsidence Insurance**

The Division of Reclamation is authorized to fill subsidence holes on your property but is not responsible for structural damage to your home or other buildings. Homes and private property can be protected through your insurance company. Conventional homeowners insurance does not cover damage caused by mine subsidence. However, insurance protection sponsored by the State of Indiana is available for homeowners through the Mine Subsidence Insurance Fund. This insurance is available in those counties most susceptible to mine subsidence damage from inactive underground coal mines abandoned before August 3, 1977. Coverage is designed only for abandoned underground coal mines. Compensation or repairs for damage caused by post-1977 underground mining is the responsibility of the mine operator. CMIS maps are beneficial in determining whether you live in or near an area where underground mining activity took place. Subsidence insurance can be added to your homeowners policy at any time. To be eligible for a claim, your property must be insured prior to any damage from mine subsidence. For more information about coal mine subsidence insurance, contact your insurance agent or the Indiana Subsidence Insurance Fund at the Indiana Department of Insurance.

Consumer Services  
Indiana Department of Insurance  
311 West Washington Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2787  
1-317 232-2385  
1-800-622-4461  
(Toll-Free only in Indiana)  
[www.in.gov/idoi/consumer\\_services/](http://www.in.gov/idoi/consumer_services/)