

APPENDIX A: Mine Land Definitions

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1. Abandoned: generally those areas mined and abandoned before SMRCA in 1977.
2. Acid Mine Drainage (AMD): Pollution resulting when coal minerals are exposed to air and water forming sulfuric acid and ferrous sulfate. Ferrous sulfate then forms ferric hydroxide, which is a yellow to orange precipitate that is found in waters polluted with AMD (Energy Information Administration).
3. AML Program: Abandoned Mine Lands Program through DNR funds reclamation of abandoned mine areas to restore these areas to natural habitat.
4. Active: Post 1977 operations that are/were authorized under a SMRCA permit. This can include mines that have been reclaimed for many years, but are still considered “active” because they were authorized under SMRCA. These areas are not eligible for AML funding.
5. Current: Mine operations are in progress at this time.
6. Gob Pile: Unusable or waste coal that is produced through processing (Energy Information Administration).
7. Historic: Operations that were in progress prior to SMRCA in 1977.
8. Inactive NPDES Permit: No longer has an active NPDES permit.
9. Non-reclaimed: Areas that have not been actively restored to pre-existing conditions.
10. Reclaimed: Areas that have been actively restored to pre-existing conditions (Energy Information Administration).
11. Surface (strip) mine: Usually coal-collecting activities are within a few hundred feet of the surface. Earth is removed to reach the coalbed, which is then mined (Energy Information Administration).
12. Tailings: Leftover material from extraction process (Energy Information Administration).
13. Underground Mine: A tunnel is made to reach the coalbed (Energy Information Administration).