

GLOSSARY

Abandoned mine - A mining operation where coal is no longer being produced. This term includes strip, underground, and bank mines.

Aquifer - A water bearing formation, through which water moves more readily than in adjacent formations with lower permeability.

Backfill - The operation of refilling an excavation, usually abandoned strip mines (pits).

Barrier breach - The penetration of a mine barrier pillar, usually resulting in the interconnections of different mines.

Mine subsidence - The collapse of mine workings causing the loss of support for topsoils and surface structures, often resulting in exposing the mine working either directly or indirectly to the surface.

Oxidation potential - A measure of how oxidizing an environment is.

Refuse material - All the solid waste from a coal mine, including tailings and slurry. A more general term for rock, culm and silt bank. Also called cast overburden and waste material.

Stream modification - Erosion prevention and stabilization of stream banks. Also used to minimize infiltration of stream water to mine pools and to prevent contact of stream water with pyritic material.