

West Virginia department of environmental protection

WVDEP 2019 Annual I&E Training

Underground Mining Basics and Mine Pools

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Presentation Overview

Introduction

- Basic Hydrology and Geology
- Underground Mining
 - Introduction
 - Above and Below Drainage Mines
 - Entry Types
 - Underground Mining Methods
 - Multiple Seam Mining

Subsidence

- Conditions Governing Subsidence
- Modes of Subsidence
- Kendorski Model
- Subsidence-Related Landslides
- Hydrologic Effects of Subsidence

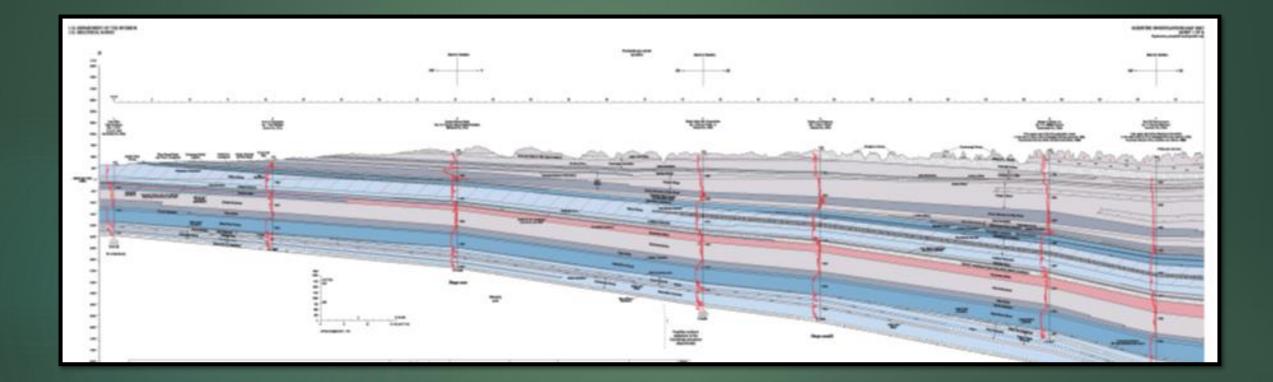
Mine Barriers

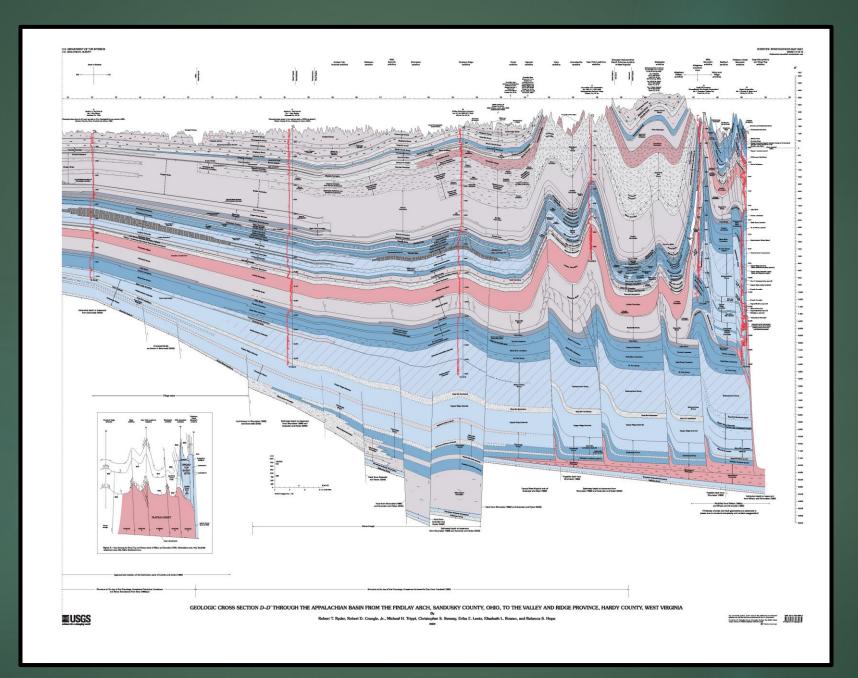
- Outcrop Barriers
- Internal Barriers
- Barrier Design
- Barrier Failure

Mine Seals

- Dry Seals
- Wet Seals
- Borehole/Shaft Seals
- **Mine Pool Development**
 - Factors Influencing Flooding
 - Inflo
 - Outflows
 - Surface Infiltration
 - Hydraulic Conductivity
 - Barrier Seepage

Introduction Basic Hydrology and Geology

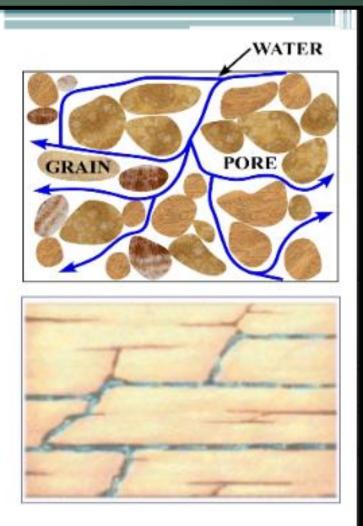




Porosity and Permeability

- Primary porosity & permeability
- Pores between grains

- Secondary porosity & permeability
- Fractures

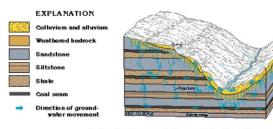


- **Porosity** = % of rock that is open space
- **Permeability** = rate (speed) of flow through porous rock

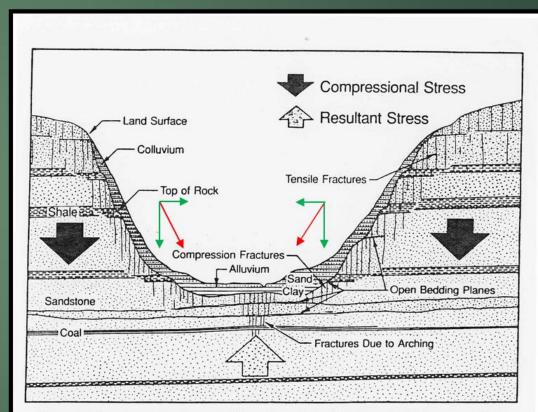
Stress Relief Hydrology

- Black arrows indicate compressional stress, white arrow indicates resultant stress.
- Unequal stress distribution leads to vertical and horizontal fracturing along valley walls and horizontal fractures along the valley floor. This fracturing increases secondary permeability and increases hydraulic communication with nearsurface aquifers.
- These fracture zones contribute to increased recharge to mine voids.

Figure 90. Topography and shallow fracture systems determine groundwater movement in the aquifers of the Appalachian Plateaus. Water infiltrates weathered bedrock and moves mostly through near-surface fractures; some water moves in a steplike fashion vertically along deeper fractures and horizontally through fractured sandstone or coal beds. Because of the absence of deep ground-water circulation and regional flow systems, saline water is at shallow depths.



Modified from Harlow, G.E., Jr., and LeCain, G.D., 1993, Hydraulic characteristics of, and ground-water flow in, coal-bearing rocks of southwestern Virginia: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2388, 36 p.



Generalized geologic section showing features of stress-relief fracturing [after Ferguson (1974)]

Rock Properties

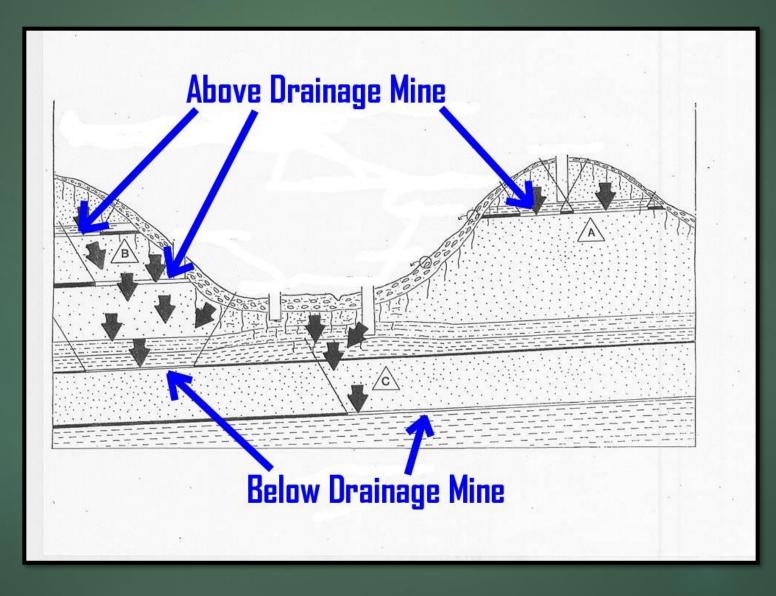
- Sandstone can be hard and brittle
- Coal can be hard and brittle
- Limestone can be hard and brittle
- ► Shale fine grained, can be flexible or resilient
- Claystone fine grained, can be flexible or resilient

Water-Bearing Fractures

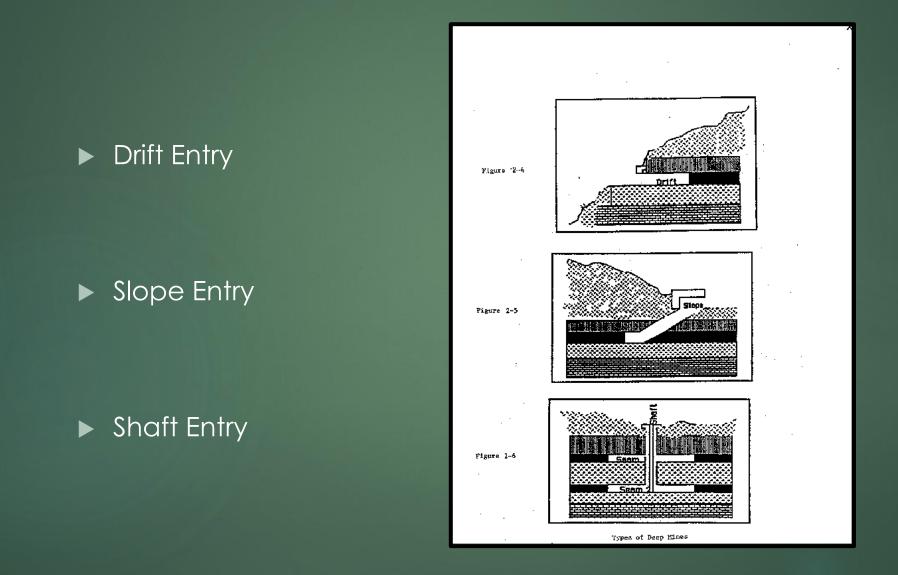
- Most ground water is yielded by a few fractures. Most fractures do not yield or accept water. They are there, but essentially "dead" in terms of ground-water movement.
- Morin and others (1997) noted only 18% of fractures were water-bearing.
- Rasmuson and Neretnieks (1986) noted that 5 to 20% of the fractures carries more than 90% of the water.
- Based on experience, I use the 90/10 rule. About 90% of the water is moved by 10% of the fractures.

Underground Mining

Above and Below Drainage Mines



Drift, Slope & Shaft Entries



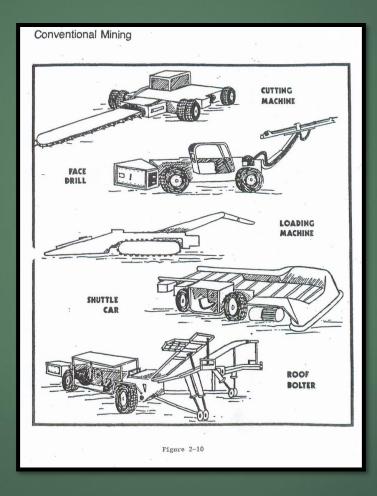
Underground Mining Methods

Conventional

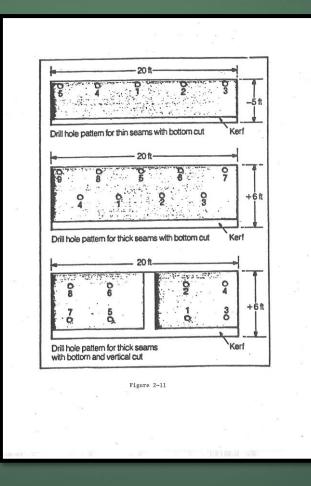
Continuous Miner

Longwall

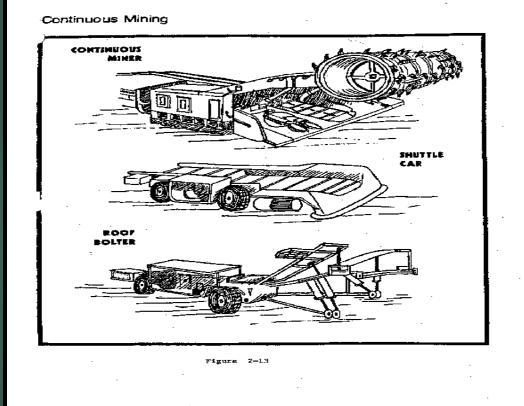
Conventional Mining Equip.

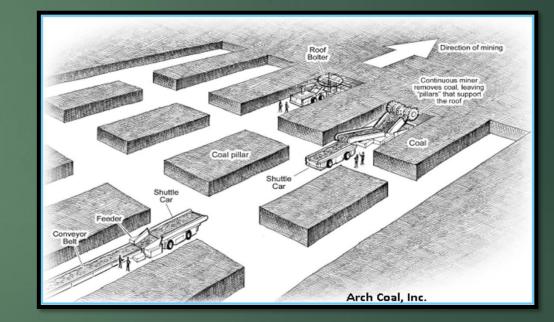


Conventional Mining - Blasting

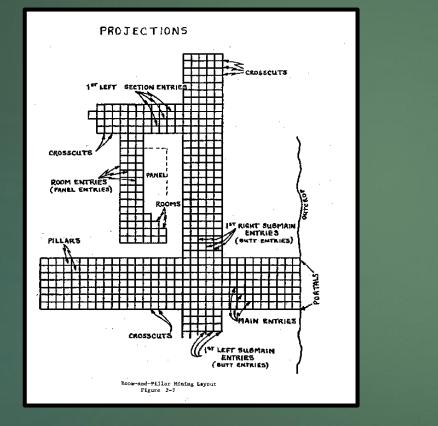


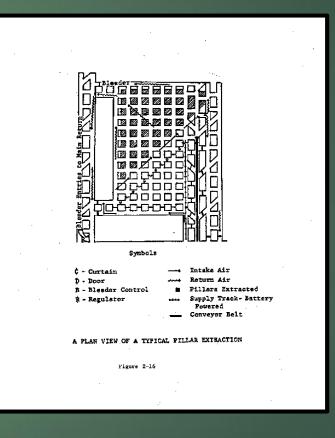
Continuous Mining Equipment



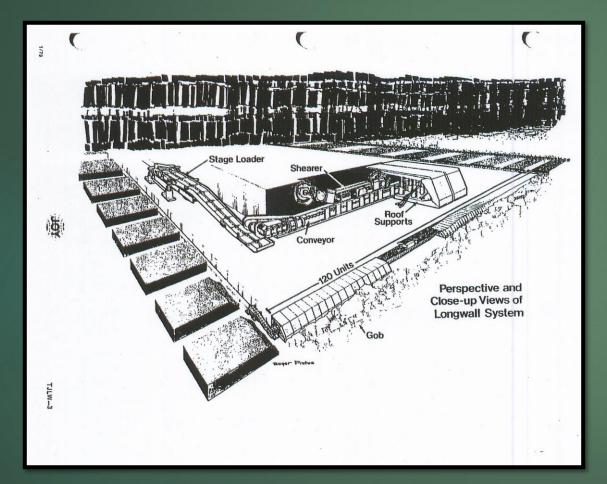


Continuous Mining Layout



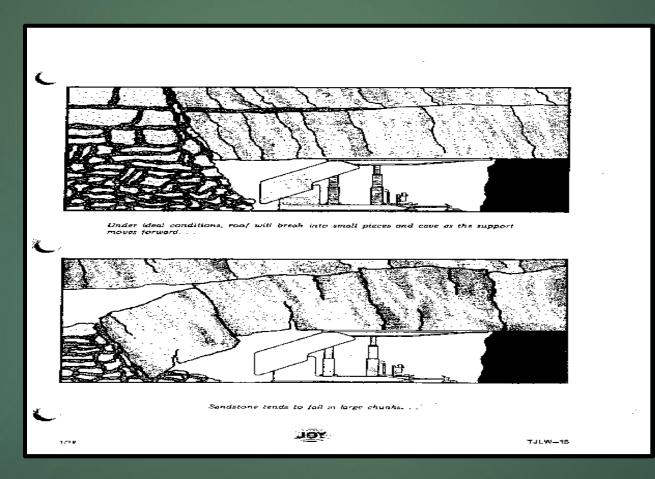


Longwall Mining

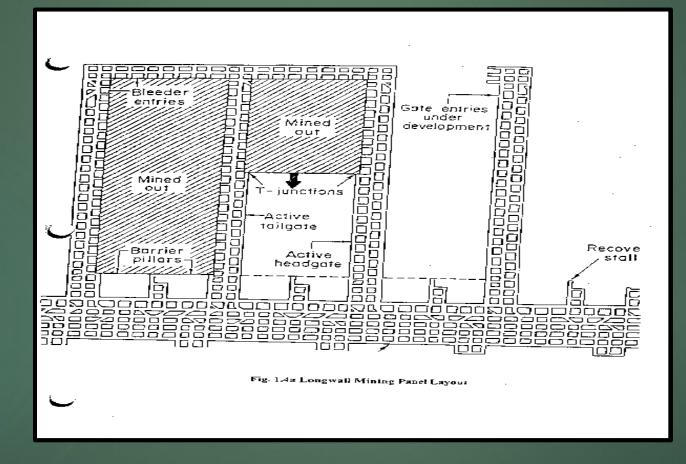




Longwall Mining: Roof Support and Breakage



Longwall Development



Auger Mining



Auger Machine



Auger Holes



Highwall Miner





Highwall Miner



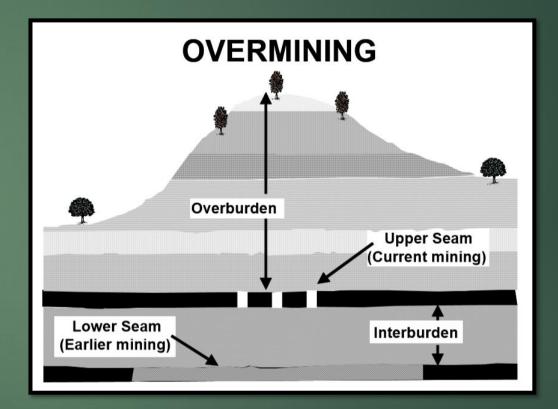
Multiple Seam Mining

Undermining

Overmining

Simultaneous Mining

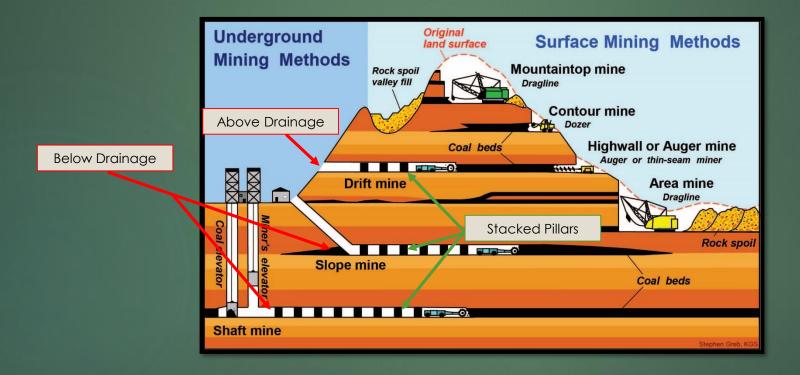
Any combination of the above



Multiple Seam Mining

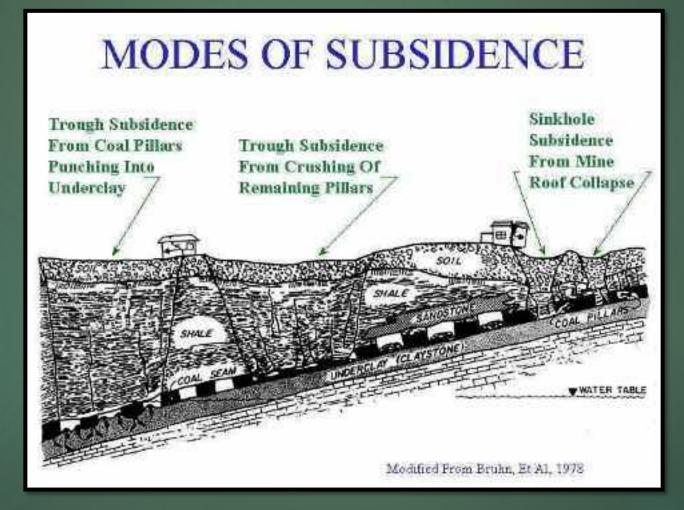
- Overmining is more difficult than undermining, because of the potential for rock damage caused by subsidence. Generally, retreat mining (pillar removal) in these situations should be avoided.
- Multiple-seam mining problems (surface subsidence issues)can be lessened by mining both seams at the same time or by vertical stacking of pillars (remaining pillars are vertically aligned in all mined seams).
- Where previous mining exists above or below a proposed operation, the site-specific mining and geologic conditions should be carefully considered.

Comparison of Mining Methods

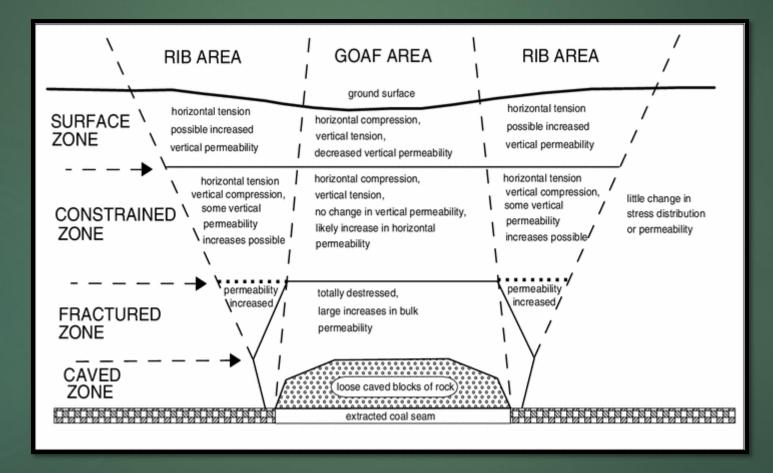


Subsidence

Modes of Subsidence Surface Effects of Limited Extraction/Shallow Mining



Kendorski Model Longwall/High Extraction Mining



Subsidence – Stream Damage

Water Loss In Stream Channel

Loss Of Base Flow

Changes In Grade Of Stream Channel

Subsidence – Stream Damage



Subsidence – Direct Stream Loss



Subsidence – Stream Damage



Subsidence – Stream Damage

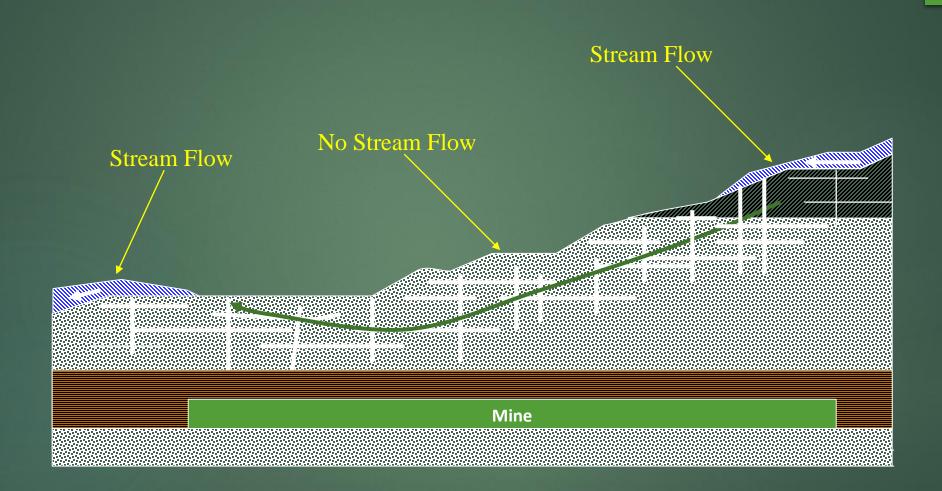












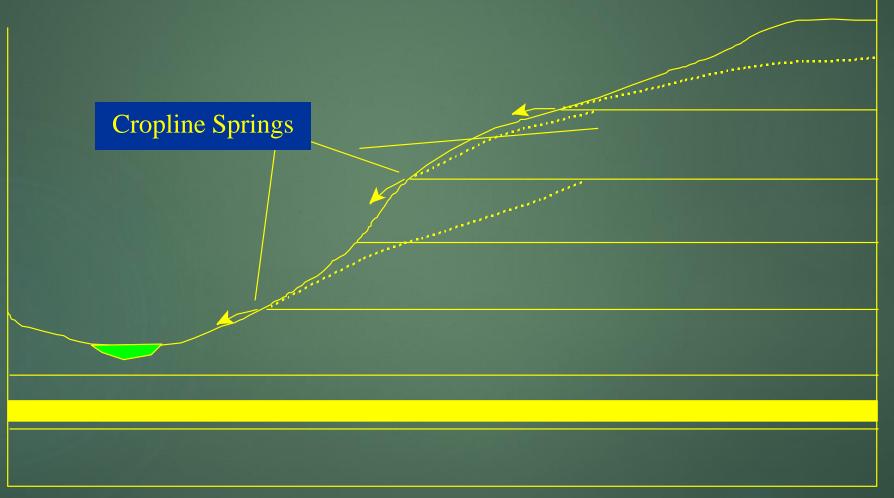
Stream Repair – Grouting Channel



Stream Repair – Grouting Channel

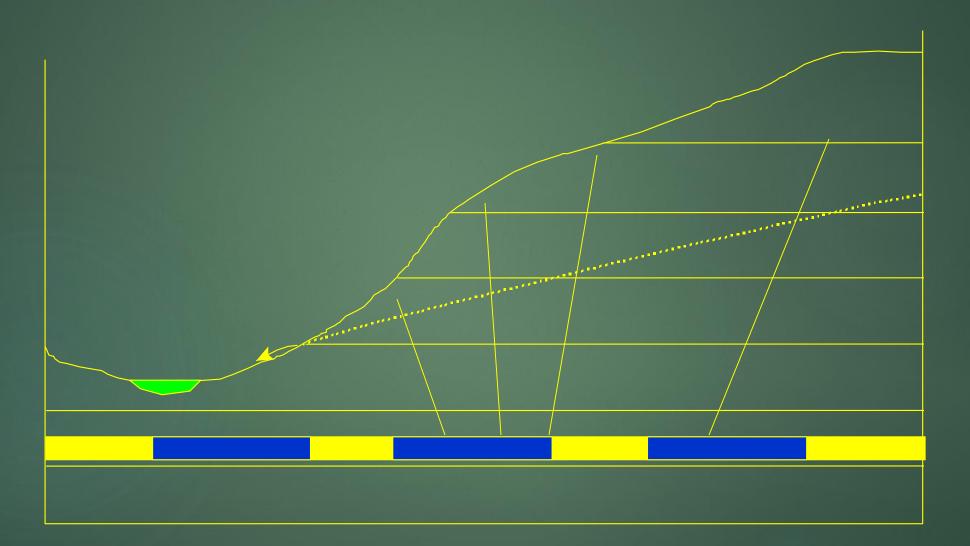


Spring Flow Prior to Mining



44

Spring Flow After Mining



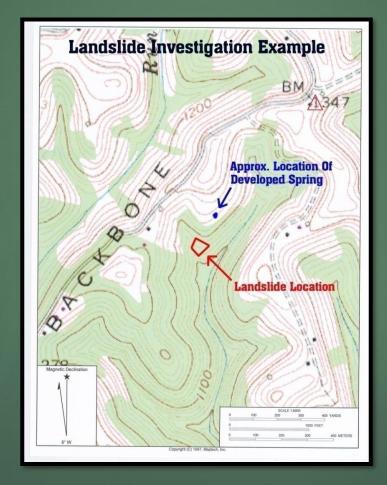
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Landslides Resulting From Underground Mining

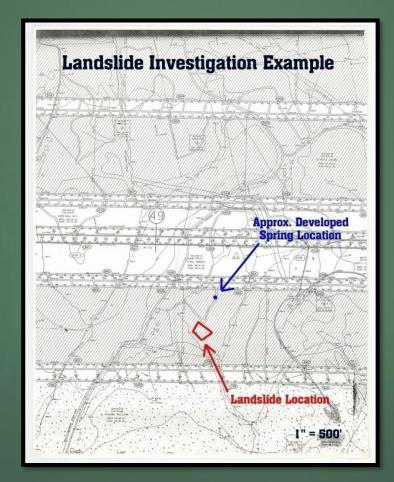
Causes

- New Springs Developing on Slopes
- Changing Slope of Hillside due to Mining-Related Subsidence
- Open, Subsidence-Related Cracks Causing Surface Water to Lubricate and Saturate Slope Material

Landslides – Spring Relocation



Subsidence - Landslides



Subsidence - Landslides



Mine Barriers

Coal Barriers

- ▶ There are two types of coal barriers associated with underground mines:
 - Outcrop Barriers
 - ► Internal Barriers
- Importance of Barriers Safety and Environmental Concerns
 - ► Control of mine discharges.
 - Prevention of blowouts.
 - ▶ Prevention of flooding of adjacent mine works.
 - Prevention and control of landslides.
 - ▶ Control of surface swamping and flooding.

Hydraulic Head

Head is the amount of water above a barrier

Water creates a force equal to 0.433 p.s.i. for each foot of head, therefore 100 feet of head will exert 43.3 p.s.i.

At 100 feet of head , an entry 18 feet wide and 6 feet high would have (18 * 6* 144 * 43.3 / 2000) 337 tons of force against it

Outcrop Barriers

- Outcrop barriers are solid coal barriers between the mine workings and the coal seam outcrop in above drainage mines.
- Below drainage mines do not have outcrop barriers.
- These barriers are designed to minimize post-mining seepage along the outcrop and prevent rapid, large volume discharges from mine pools that may develop in abandoned underground mine workings (blowout).
- Outcrop barrier design specifications must be included in each permit application that involves expansion of underground mining area (typically SCP Revisions and some IBR's). Plans for preventing the buildup of hydraulic head at, or below, an elevation that will not exceed the design limitations of down-dip outcrop barriers.
- When necessary, pumping and designed gravity dewatering of the mine workings may be required to safeguard against potential blowout.

Outcrop Barriers On Mine Maps

🕨 🛑 Outcrop Barrier (Lower Kittanning Seam)



Outcrop Barrier Design

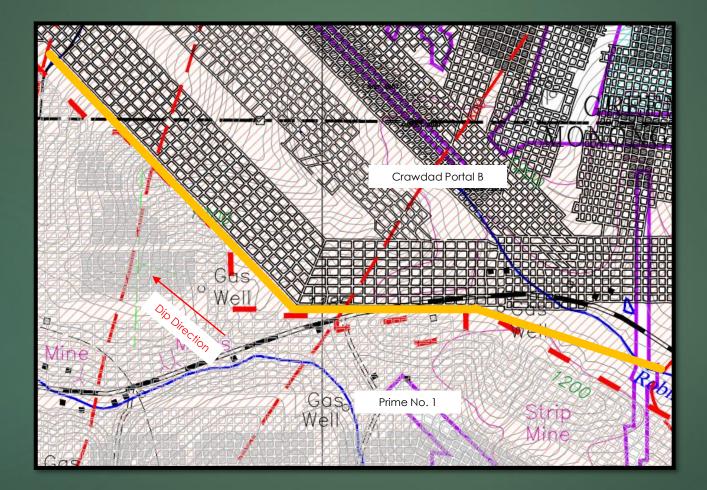
- Geologic features such as faults, existing slope failures, stress relief joints, weather, etc. can facilitate leakage across outcrop barriers.
- When these features exist, they should not be considered as part of the outcrop barrier width.
- A site-specific design incorporates a comprehensive assessment of the various influencing factors, including the geology and structure of the site, weather, faulting, erosion, slope stability and hydrogeologic factors.

Internal Barriers

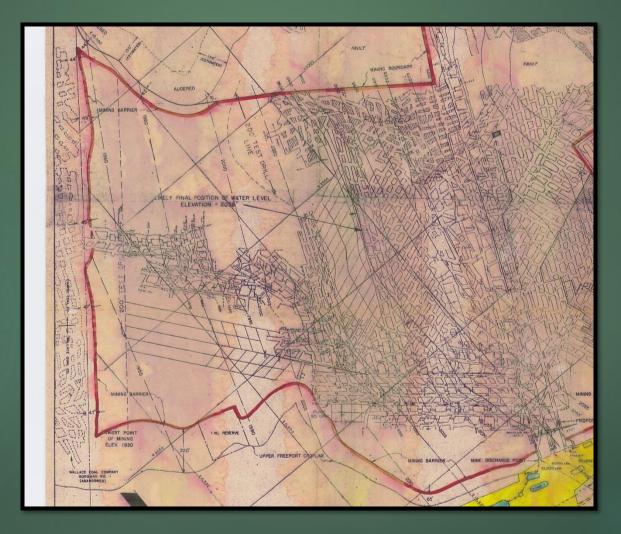
- Internal coal barriers are barriers between adjacent mines in the same coal seam.
- These barriers are designed to minimize mechanical effects and seepage from adjacent mine workings.
- Internal Barriers must be designed to withstand the pressures applied by the impounded pool in the adjacent mine workings in order to prevent catastrophic failure.

Internal Barriers on Mine Maps

Internal Barrier between Crawdad Portal B and Prime No. 1 Mines (Sewickley Seam)



Barriers Between Mines Example Of Mining Through Required Barrier



Guidelines for Estimating Barrier Widths

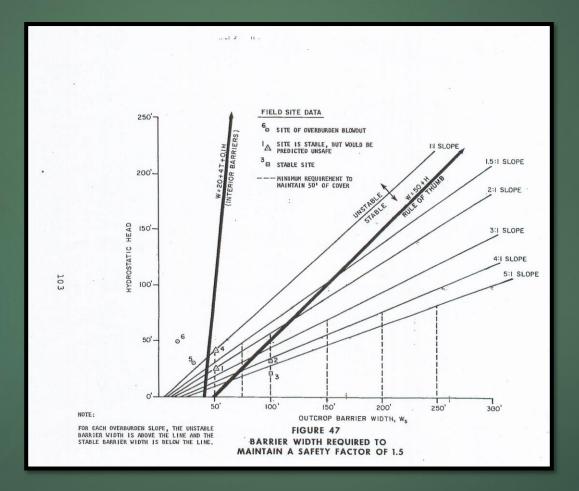
Ashley Formula (Interior)

- W = 20 + (4 * T) + (0.1 * D)
 - W = the barrier thickness that you are calculating
 - T = the thickness of the coal seam
 - D = the thickness of the overburden or potential hydraulic head

Rule of Thumb (Exterior)

Minimum Barrier Thickness = 50' plus the expected hydraulic head

(Dames and Moore 1981)



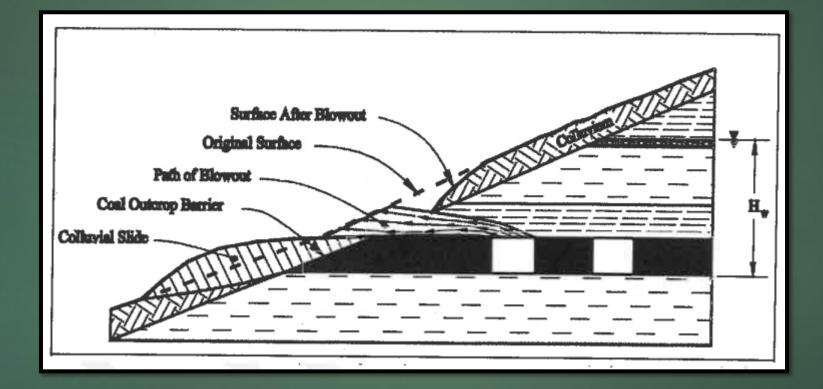
Barrier Failure Major Causes of Blowouts



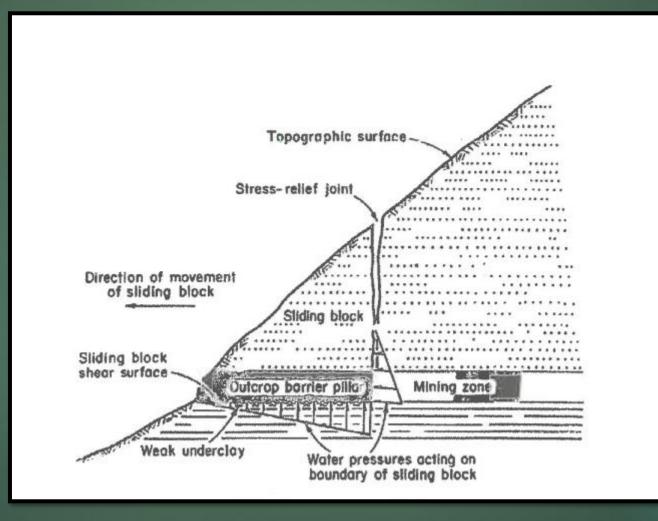
Wedge-Type Failure

Surface Landslides

Barrier Failure Vertical Displacement

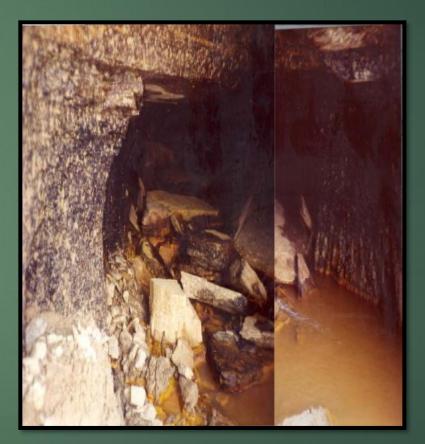


Barrier Failure Wedge-Type Failure



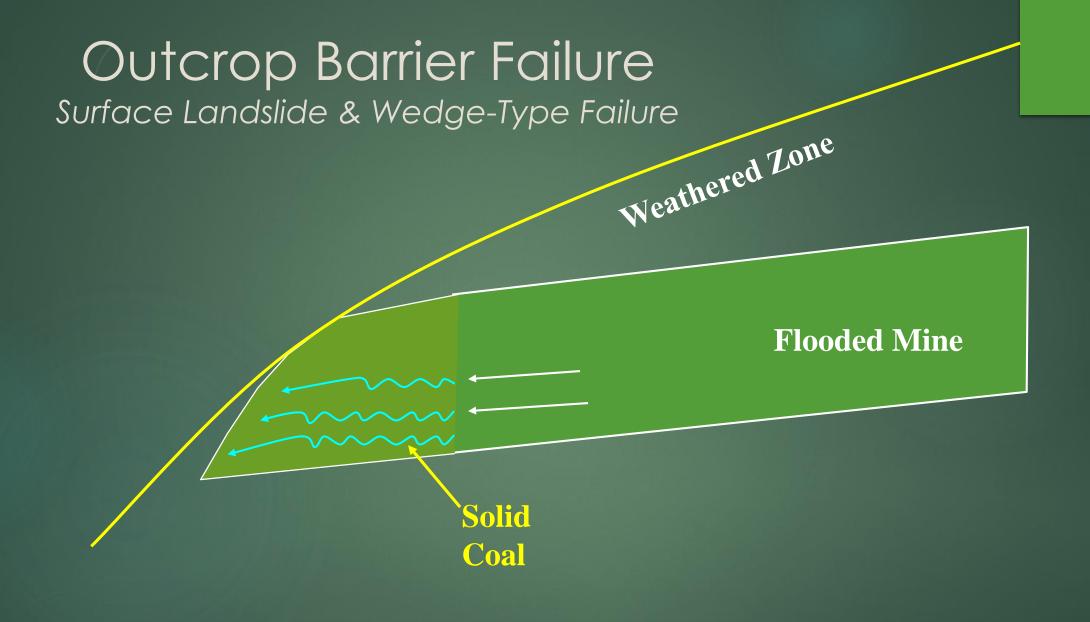
Blowout From Below





Barrier Failure Surface Landslides

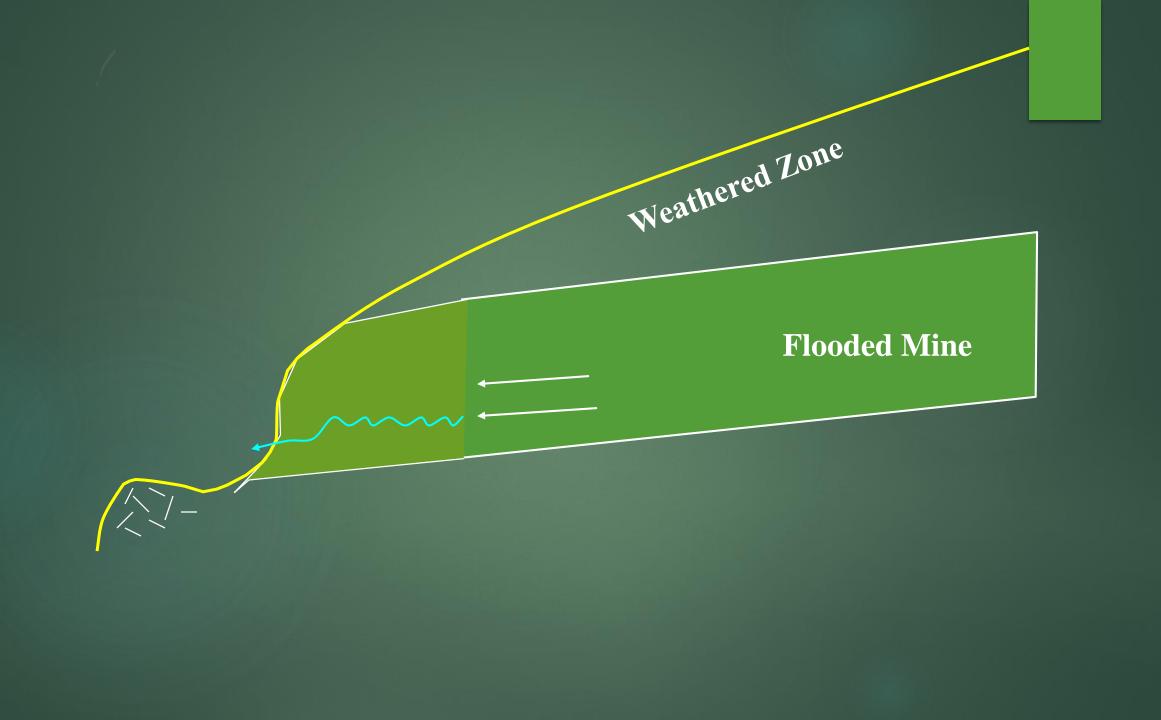
- Similar to Vertical Displacement Failures, slope failures that are unrelated to uplift generated by hydraulic head pressure can cause a blowout
- Surface Landslides may act alone or in conjunction with one, or a combination, of the previous failure modes



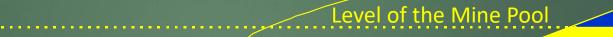
Outcrop Barrier Failure

Surface Landslide & Wedge-Type Failure

Flooded Mine

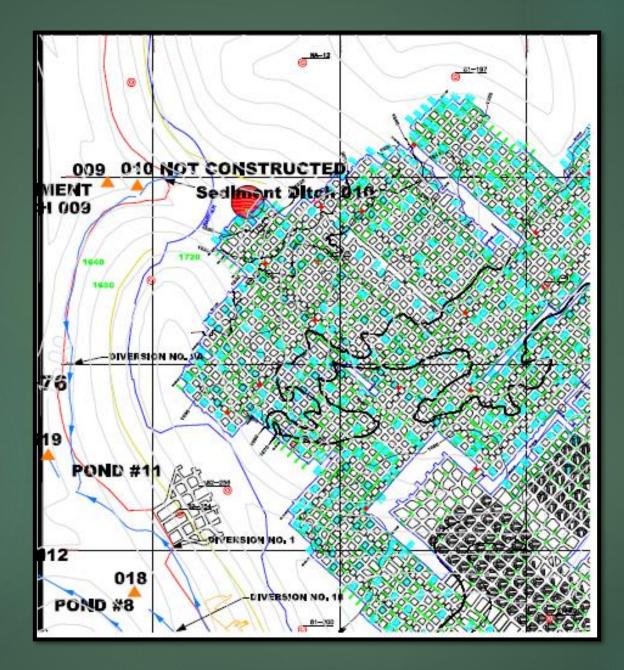


Upwelling Mine Waters









Mine Seals

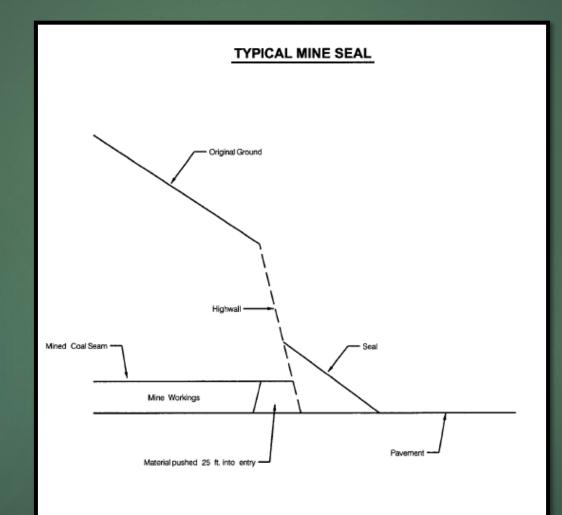
Drift Opening - Wet Seals

Drift Opening – Dry Seals

Shaft Seals

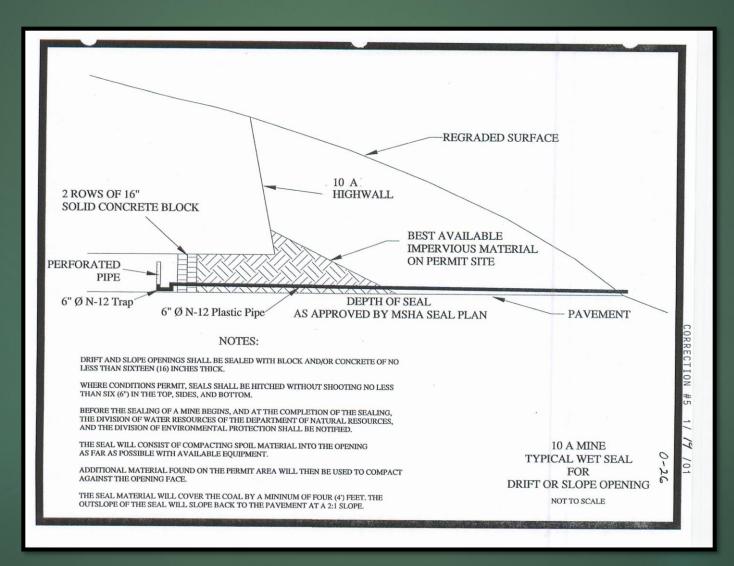
Borehole Seals

Drift Opening – Dry Seal

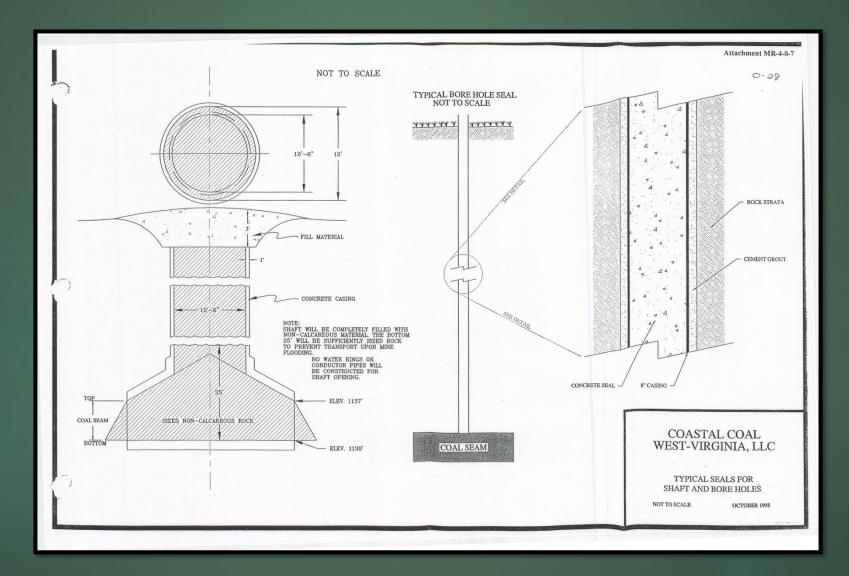


NOTE: SEALS TO BE CONSTRUCTED WITH NON-COMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL

Drift Opening – Wet Seal



Shaft and Borehole Seals



Installation of Seals

- Seals must be certified by a Registered Professional Engineer
- The certification should include pictures
- It is good if the inspector can also observe and document seals
- Approval for sealing a borehole that is currently, used for monitoring pool elevation should not be given until after the PUMA evaluation revision has been approved for the permit in question. At that time, the final pool monitoring requirements will be established and all surface connections to the mine workings, that are not required for post-closure monitoring, may be sealed as outlined in the permit.

Mine Pool Development

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development

Hydraulic Conductivity

- Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity K_h
- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity K_v

Surface Infiltration

- Potential Sources
- Apparent Vertical Infiltration (AVI)

Barrier Permeability

- Outcrop Barriers
- Internal Barriers (Adjacent Mining)
- Static (Equilibrium) Pool Elevation
 - Inflow = Outflow

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration

Background Why is this Important?

- Inflow rate during mining pumping/treatment rates
- Rate of flooding after mining
- Ultimate discharge rate once equilibrium is reached (inflow = outflow)
- Impact the post-mining hydraulic head
- Strongly impact treatment plant set up and cost of treating post-mining discharges
- Other factors to be considered

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration

Background What is the source of there recharge water?

- Precipitation
- Ground water stored in aquifers
- Direct stream loss
- Seepage from adjacent flooded mines
- Interaction of overlying or underlying mines
- Wells and other manmade structures acting as conduits
- Underground injection of mine waste (refuse slurry, AMD, etc.)

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration – Range of Reported Recharge Rates

Recharge Rate in gpm/acre	Source	Context	
0.47 - 0.76	U.S. EPA, 1975	From Research in PA	
0.011	Permitting Info.	SW PA	
0.20 and 0.464	Winters et al., 1999	PA <200' and avg. 250' OB	
0.029 to 0.29	Lovell and Gunnett, 1974	РА	
0.01	Tieman and Rauch, 1987 SW PA and Northerr		
0.654	Miller and Thompson, 1974	PA included barrier seepage	
0.16	Hollyday and McKenzie, 1973	MD	
0.76 to 1.20	Hlortdahl, 1988	MD	
1.74 to 2.92	Booth, 1986	PA mountains	
0.21 to 0.35	Burbey et al., 2000	VA	
0.16 to 0.96	Cifelli and Rauch, 1986	Northern WV	
0.21 to 0.174	Donovan et al., 1999	Southern Mon. Basin	
0.41	McCament et al., 2003	Southern Ohio	
0.52 to 0.775	Stoertz et al., 2001	Southern Ohio	
1.0	Hobba, 1987	Upshur Co., WV	
0.35 to 0.70	Carpenter and Herndon, 1933	Northern WV	
0.35 to 0.75	Hawkins and Perry, 2005	Central PA	

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration – Range of Reported Recharge Rates

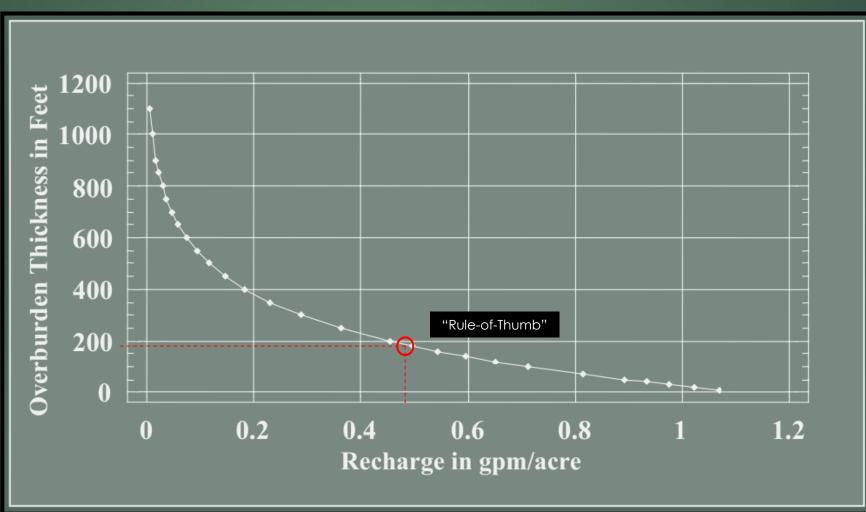
Summary

Range of reported values 0.01 to 2.92 gpm/acre Mean = 0.59 gpm/acre Median = 0.44 gpm

*Rule of Thumb = 0.5 gpm/acre based on Parizek's work from the early 1970's

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development

Surface Infiltration



Post-Closure Mine Pool Development

Surface Infiltration – Range of Reported Recharge Rates

Factors that Likely Impact Recharge Rates

- Depth of cover (<150-200' vs. >200', etc.)
 Overburden lithology (sandstone vs. shale &
- Overburden lithology (sandstone vs. shale & claystone)
- Method of mining (e.g., longwall vs. 1st mining vs. retreat mining)
- Laterally adjacent mining (flooded and unflooded)
- Super- and Sub-adjacent mining (flooded and unflooded)

• Lineaments, faults, fracture zones, etc. (presence or absence)

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration – Time to Total Inundation Example (1)

- Useful Conversion: 1 cu. ft. = ~ 7.48 gallons.
- Account for mining method/extraction percentage:

 $V_{c} = (A * (M/A)) * b,$

where, V_c = Mined Coal Volume, M = Mined Acreage, b = Seam Thickness, M/A = Extraction Ratio





Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration – Time to Total Inundation Example (1)

Facility:	Bismarck Mine			
Coal Seam:	Bakerstown			
		AVI _{range}	gpm	Time to Total Innundation (years)
Mining Area (acres):	131.3	1.2	157.56	2.48
Seam Thickness (feet):	5	1.1	144.43	2.71
Extraction Ratio:	0.6	1	131.3	2.98
AVI _{max} (gpm/acre):	1.2	0.9	118.17	3.31
AVI _{min} (gpm/acre):	0.1	0.8	105.04	3.72
		0.7	91.91	4.25
		0.6	78.78	4.96
		0.5	65.65	5.95
		0.4	52.52	7.44
		0.3	39.39	9.92
		0.2	26.26	14.88
		0.1	13.13	29.76

Mined-Out Area (sq. ft.): Total Mine Void Volume (cu. Ft.): Total Mine Void Volume (gallons): 3431656.80 17158284.00 128343964.32

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Surface Infiltration – Time to Total Inundation Example (1)



Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Barrier Permeability – Hydraulic Conductivity

- Hydraulic Conductivity: A measure of the permeability of a lithologic unit (rock layers, coal seams). Given as a rate (feet/day).
- Horizontal Hydraulic Conductivity K_h
 - Important when considering internal and outcrop barrier seepage rates.
 - May be higher depending on cleat orientation in relation to the coal barrier.
- Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity K_v
 - Important when considering surface infiltration rates.
 - Generally higher in areas of greater secondary permeability – valley stress-relief fracture zones, low-cover mine voids.

Material Description	Tests	Depth	Average Permeability
Upper Freeport Coal	4	23'-67'	1.00 ft/day
Base of Upper Freeport Coal	3	28*=68*	3.21 ft/day
Lower Kittanning Coal and adjacent shale w/sandstone	4	54'-109'	0.75 ft/day
Shale w/sandstone bridged through a height of 44' over a lower Kittanning mine void	7	50'-99'	4.25 ft/day -
Shale w/sandstone over solid coal	12	44'-95'	0.74 ft/day
Mine debris		99'-104'	1.98 ft/day

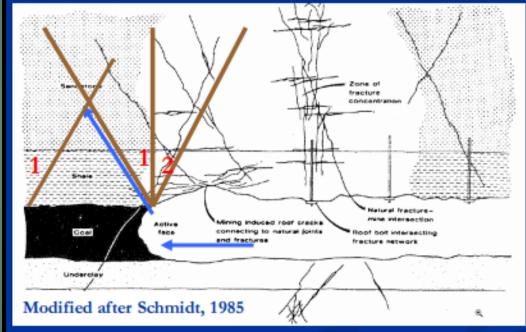
TABLE 1 - Permeability Values Typical of the Appalechian Regio

ource: Miller, J.T., and D.R. Thompson, 1974.

	50	epage Analysis	
Material	Premining	> Pos	Mining
Coal Overburden Underclay	 1.0 ft/day ^a 0.01 ft/day ^d 0.0005 ft/day ⁹	3.21 ft/dayb 0.74 ft/daye	4.86 ft/day 4.25 ft/day .013 ft/day

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Barrier Permeability – Mine-Induced Fractures/Seepage over the coal barrier

- Presence of fractures within mine roof (overburden)
 - Angle of advance influence-1
 - Angle of complete mining-2
 Intersections of fractures from adjacent mines separated by coal barrier
- Stress relief and mine-induced fractures occurring in zones
 - Horizontal and vertical continuity of fractures
- Zones of intense fracturing have K_h values order of magnitude higher than adj. unfractured strata



Darcy's Law

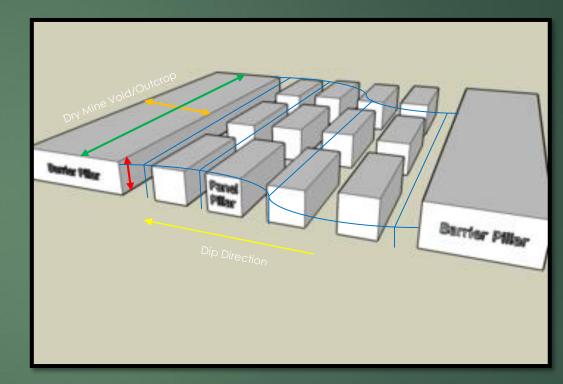
In modern format, using a particular sign convention, Darcy's law is usually written as:

Q = -KA dh/dl

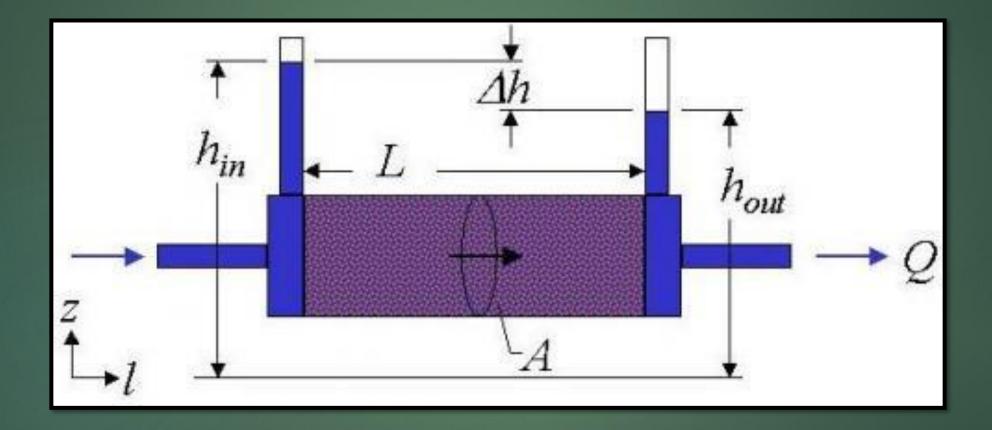
where:

- Q = rate of water flow (volume per time)
- K = hydraulic conductivity
- A = column cross sectional area

dh/dl = hydraulic gradient, that is, the change in head over the length of interest.



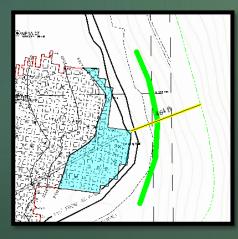
Darcy's Law

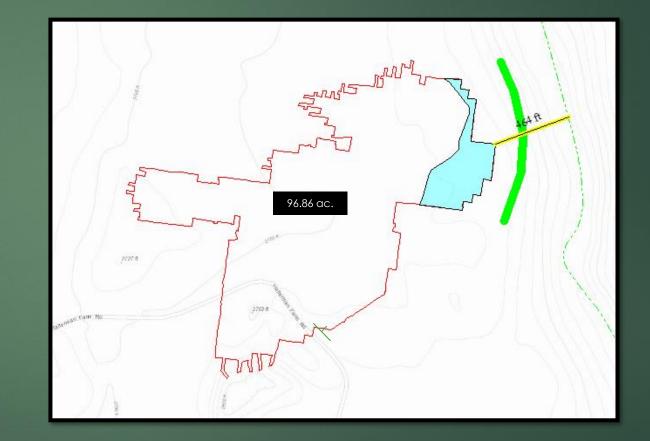


Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Barrier Permeability – Outcrop Barrier Seepage Example (1)

North Pointe Mine (U-2007-01): Bakerstown Seam A = 96.86 ac. $b_{avg} = 5'$ M/A = 0.6 (60% Extraction) BAK Outcrop

Barrier Segment No. 1: $L_1 = 991.90'$ $w_1 = 200'$ (Highwall





Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Barrier Permeability

	Permit No.: Company Name:	U-2007-01 North Pointe Mine				
	Avg. Coal Seam Thickness (feet): Infiltration Constant (0.31 to 2): Hydraulic Conductivity (Coal - ft/day): Hydraulic Conductivity (Overburden - ft/day):	5 0.5 3.21 4.25	Est. Pool Elevation (feet m.s.l): Mined Acreage (acres):	2555 96.86 GPM	CFD	
	Incrimental Head (feet):	20	Estimated Surface Recharge:	48.43	9322.78	
	Barrier ID:	ID: North Pointe	Type: Coal			
Single Segment Analy	sis:					
Barrier Segment	Bottem Elevation (wet - feet)	Top Elevation (dry - feet)	Barrier Length (feet)	Barrier Width (feet)	Seepage Rate (cfd)	Seepage Rate (gpm)
1	2550.00	2530.00	991.90	200.00	1990.00	10.34
					CFD	GPM
				Total Barrier Seepage:	1990.00	10.34
				Precentage of Total Est. Inflow:	21.35%	
	Note:					

Note:

1. See page Rate calculation adapted from McCoy, Donovan, and Leavitt (2006):

$$Q_{\text{total}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} Kh * b * Li * \left(\frac{\Delta hi}{wi}\right)$$

2. Upper Freeport $K_{\rm h}$ values from Hobba (1991) and Dames and Moore (1981)

Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Barrier Permeability – Outcrop Barrier Seepage Example (2)

9A Mine: Lower Stockton Seam A = 193.08 ac. (Injection Lobe) b_{avg} = 5' M/A = 0.6 (60% Extraction) ------LS Outcrop

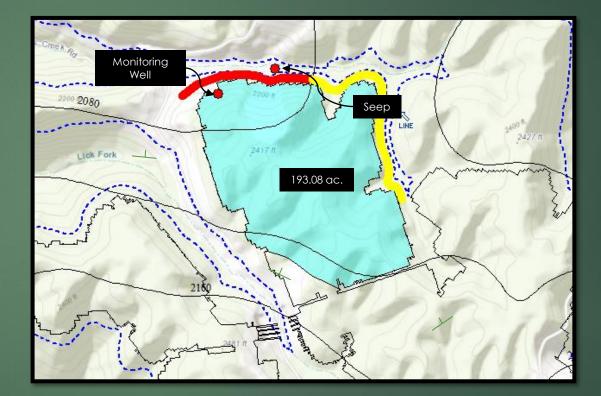
```
Mine Pool – 2120' amsl:
```

Barrier Segment No. 1: L₁ = 3467.30' w₁ = 150'

```
Barrier Segment No. 2:

L_2 = 2090.4'

w_0 = 125'
```



Post-Closure Mine Pool Development Barrier Permeability

Permit No.: U-2004-93 Company Name: 9A Injection Lobe to May Fork 5 2120 Avg. Coal Seam Thickness (feet): Est. Pool Elevation (feet m.s.l): 0.5 193.08 Infiltration Constant (0.31 to 2 GPM/acre): Mined Acreage (acres): Hydraulic Conductivity (Coal - ft/day): 3.21 GPM CFD Hydraulic Conductivity (Overburden - ft/day): 4.25 18583.95 Incrimental Head (feet): 20 Estimated Surface Recharge: 96.54 ID: Type: Barrier ID: 9A Injection Lobe Coal Multi-Segment Analysis: **Barrier Segment** Bottem Elevation (wet - feet) Top Elevation (dry - feet) Barrier Length (feet) Barrier Width (feet) Seepage Rate (cfd) 2120.00 2080.00 3467.30 150.00 14840.04 2 2080.00 2070.00 2090.40 125.00 13420.37 CFD 28260.41 Total Barrier Seepage: Precentage of Total Est. Inflow: 152.07% Single-Segment Analysis: **Barrier Segment** Bottem Elevation (wet - feet) Top Elevation (dry - feet) Barrier Length (feet) Barrier Width (feet) Seepage Rate (cfd) 137.50 2120.00 2070.00 5557.70 32436.76 1 CFD **Total Barrier Seepage:** 32436.76 Note: 1. Seepage Rate calculation adapted from McCoy, Donovan, and Leavitt

(2006):

 $Q_{total} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} Kh * b * Li * (\frac{\Delta hi}{mi})$

				-	, ,						
											Barrier
		Average						Barrier			Leakage
		Barrier					k	Leakage			Cubic
Section		Width L	Length	Height	Head 1	Head 2	(feet/day)	gal/day	gal/hour	gal/min	feet/day
	1	50	250	5	1995	1930	3.210	39,023	1,626	27	5,224
	2	300	400	5	1995	1930	3.210	10,406	434	7	1,393
	3	400	850	5	1995	1940	3.210	14,033	585	10	1,879
	4	50	100	5	1995	1950	3.210	10,806	450	8	1,447
	5	200	400	5	1995	1970	3.210	6,004			and the second s
									250	4	804
	6	50	1000	5	1995	1990	3.210	12,007	500	8	1,607
	7	90	220	5	1995	1995	3.210	-	-	-	-
	8	100	230	5	1995	2005	3.210	-	-	-	Ξ.
										64	12,353
											,
										69	acres

Seepage Estimate for Rock Bull Mining Company Using 3.21 feet/day Permeability

69 acres

0.93 gal/min/ac

Permeability Estimate for Rock Bull Mining Company Using 2010 head and 0.50 gpm/acre

										Barrier
	Average						Barrier			Leakage
	Barrier					k	Leakage			Cubic
Section	Width L	Length	Height	Head 1	Head 2	(feet/day)	gal/day	gal/hour	gal/min	feet/day
1	135	350	5	2010	1950	1.930	11,230	468	8	1,503
2	75	200	5	2010	1961	1.930	9,433	393	7	1,263
3	105	150	5	2010	1965	1.930	4,641	193	3	621
2	50	175	5	2010	1969	1.930	10,360	432	7	1.387
5	100	220	5	2010	1977	1.930	5,241	218	4	702
6	80	220	5	2010	1985	1.930	4,963	207	3	664
7	90	220	5	2010	1995	1.930	2,647	110	2	354
8	100	230	5	2010	2005	1.930	830	35	1	111

34 6,606 69 acres

0.50 gal/min/ac

Ventilation Fan

