

CHAPTER B.

EVALUATION REPORTS, CROSS SECTIONS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

This chapter contains a discussion of each of the 19 permits initially selected for this review. Each discussion describes the type of mining, mining status, postmining land use, and AOC status of the 19 permit areas, as well as the number of excess spoil fills constructed or to be constructed at the sites. The chapter discusses the permits, by year, in the order in which their permit applications were submitted to the State for approval, beginning on page B-2a with Cedar Coal Company permit S-201-76—submitted in 1976—and concluding on page B-92 with Independence Coal Company permit S-5023-96—submitted in 1996.

It is difficult, by narrative means alone, to adequately compare the final contour of a section of reclaimed land to the premining contour of the same area. Because of this, OSM has included photographs and computer-generated cross sections of each permit area.

The photographs show the status of the mining operation at the time of the field work for this report (primarily July 1998). The photographs may have been taken from the air or during a field visit, and OSM used its best judgment in picking photographs that represented the mining operation. The narrative at the beginning of each section describes the mining status at the time the photographs were taken.

The cross sections serve to support the narrative descriptions provided for each permit. Unlike the photographs which only represent the operation in its current condition, the cross sections in this report are intended to compare the premining topography with the final configuration after mining and reclamation. In order to provide a better understanding of this relationship, a brief description of these cross sections, and how they were derived, follows:

A 1968 Bureau of Mines publication, A Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1968), defines cross section as a “profile portraying an interpretation of a vertical section of the earth ...” Generally, in mine surveying, this would involve establishing a baseline on a topographic map so that it would run the centerline and the length of a ridge or mountain. The next step in the process would be to profile or take cross sections of the baseline, usually every 100 feet. This process necessitates determining the ground elevation at known points along the cross section line. These cross sections, taken at right angles or perpendicular to the baseline, represent a slice “through the mountain” and provide a vertical profile of the existing terrain.

For this evaluation, OSM established a line that, in its judgment, would be representative of the centerline of a ridge or mountain and made the measurements along that one line as opposed to measuring points on several lines at right angles from the centerline.

Therefore, although data from the permits was often used in the development of the OSM cross section, the representations in this report may appear different from cross sections in the permit that were taken in different places or at different angles from OSM's selected line.

The premining configuration, (ORIGINAL GROUND on the cross sections) was plotted from existing topographic maps while postmining configurations were either surveyed from actual ground conditions after reclamation or plotted from company or permitting data describing the anticipated final configuration after mining and reclamation (REGRADE on the cross sections). Both configurations were plotted (translated to a graph) on the same scale to compare the premining configuration with the postmining configuration.

These cross sections were then plotted on a vertical axis (representing elevation) and a horizontal axis (representing width). When the cross sections were plotted according to mean sea level elevations, the resulting graphs were not easily comparable on a visual basis among minesites. Because of this, a model graph was developed that made allowances for the wide range of elevations found in the various permits. This model created a scale, for each axis, where one increment represents 200 feet. With the data plotted on the new scale, the resulting graphs, although not representative of mean sea elevation, provide an excellent visual representation of the premining, postmining, and elevation changes associated with each permit that is comparable among permits.

OSM encourages readers of the report to cross-reference the figures, tables, graphs, and cross sections with the descriptions of the 19 permit areas under discussion here.

1. Cedar Coal Company, Inc.

Permit S-201-76

State Designation: Mountaintop/Auger Operation with Mountaintop-Removal AOC Variance

Cedar Coal Company, Inc., Permit S-201-76; Permit Issued September 23, 1976

Location: Lat.: 38° 05' 18", Long.: 81° 35' 11", in Boone County.

Field Inspection Date: June 15, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop and auger operation with an AOC variance. The permit application stated that Cedar Coal Company would be "regrading a portion of the area within this permit to create a level plateau on a ridgetop..." The "Cross-Section of Regrading /Section 'A-A'" in the application shows that this area will be backfilled to an equal or higher elevation than the original ground. The cross-section shows that up to 150 feet of overburden will be removed from the AOC variance area, and the area will be backfilled with 150 feet of spoil. The eastern end of the permit area is the only portion of the permit area that is specifically discussed in connection with the AOC variance. The May 3, 1979, "Amended Proposal Map" notes that the ridgetop between the two valley fills has been "Regraded to AOC." Page "B-3" contains the actual premining and postmining cross sections. These may differ slightly from the proposals in the application.

Mining Status: Mining and reclamation have been completed on the permit area. The permit received a Phase III bond release on April 2, 1985. The permit area is 100 acres, all of which was disturbed by mining. Field observations found that little, if any, spoil was placed in Valley Fill No. 2. Valley Fill No. 1 was constructed and appears stable and well vegetated with trees.

Postmining Land Use: This permit was approved with a postmining land use of "pastureland" and "woodland/wildlife habitat." The ridgetop between the two valley fills is grown up in hardwoods and pines. The eastern AOC variance end of the permit area has a vegetative cover of grasses and legumes. The premining land use was "woodland and wildlife." The permit application does contain supporting documentation for the land use change. However, there was no evidence of livestock using this area for grazing. See pages "B-4" and "B-5" for pictures of the present site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: The AOC variance portion of the permit area does have a level plateau on it. There is no information in the permit application regarding spoil calculations, backfill, and fill-storage volumes.

Excess Spoil Fills: According to the May 3, 1979, "Amended Proposal Map," Valley Fill No. 1 is approximately 1,050 feet long; however, the lower 900 feet of the fill was in place prior to the effective date of SMCRA.

1200

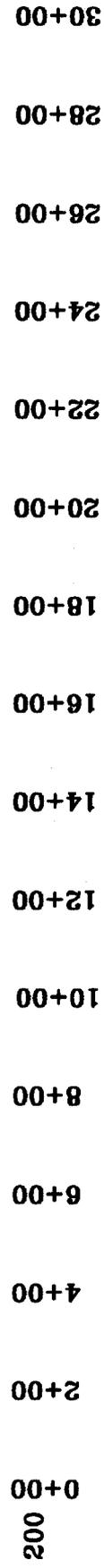
1000

800

B-3

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE



Scale: 	Cedar Coal Company, Inc.
Quad: Sylvester	Permit S-201-76
County: Boone	Regrade Cross Section





2. Concord Coal Corporation/Logan County Airport Contract

Permit S-198-77

State Designation: Mountaintop Operation with AOC Variance

Concord Coal Corporation/Logan County Airport Contract, Permit S-198-77; Permit Issued January 7, 1977

Location: Lat.: 37° 51' 11", Long.: 81° 55' 14", in Logan County.

Field Inspection Date: June 16, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop mining operation. The permit application did not contain any discussion about AOC nor did it request a mountaintop-removal AOC variance but the intention was clear. The application did discuss how the six coal seams will be mined and reclaimed. It indicated that the area would be left for a proposed airport. This area was contour mined prior to this permit's issuance and the passage of SMCRA.

Mining Status: Coal removal and reclamation have been completed on the permit area. The permit area is 185 acres. The November 30, 1990, "Final Map" shows that all 185 acres were disturbed by mining. The permit received a Phase III bond release on December 16, 1996.

Postmining Land Use: This permit was approved for an "airport" subsequent to mining. The airport has been constructed on the permit area. The airport consists of a 3,500 foot runway and support facilities. All areas outside of the airport are well vegetated with grasses and legumes. See pages "B-9" and "B-10" for pictures of present site conditions. The premining land use was "forestland."

Approximate Original Contour: Although the permit application does not specifically request an AOC variance, the mining and reclamation plan as approved does grant a *de facto* AOC variance. Whereas specific figures are not listed in the application, information taken from diagrams in the application shows that the original surface elevations were lowered by as much as 200 feet. The final runway elevation was to be 1,650 feet. Again, specific figures about total cubic spoil yardage are not in the application. The application does state that the mined areas will be backfilled to at least the 1,650 foot elevation and that 4.3 million cubic yards of spoil will be placed in the valley fill. Page "B-8" contains the actual premining and postmining cross sections. These may differ slightly from the information in the application.

Excess Spoil Fills: The valley fill appears to have been constructed as proposed. The fill was used in part to provide an access road to the airport. Measurement of the "Final Map" shows that the fill is approximately 800 feet long.

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600

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2+00

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6+00

8+00

10+00

12+00

14+00

16+00

18+00

20+00

22+00

24+00

26+00

28+00

30+00

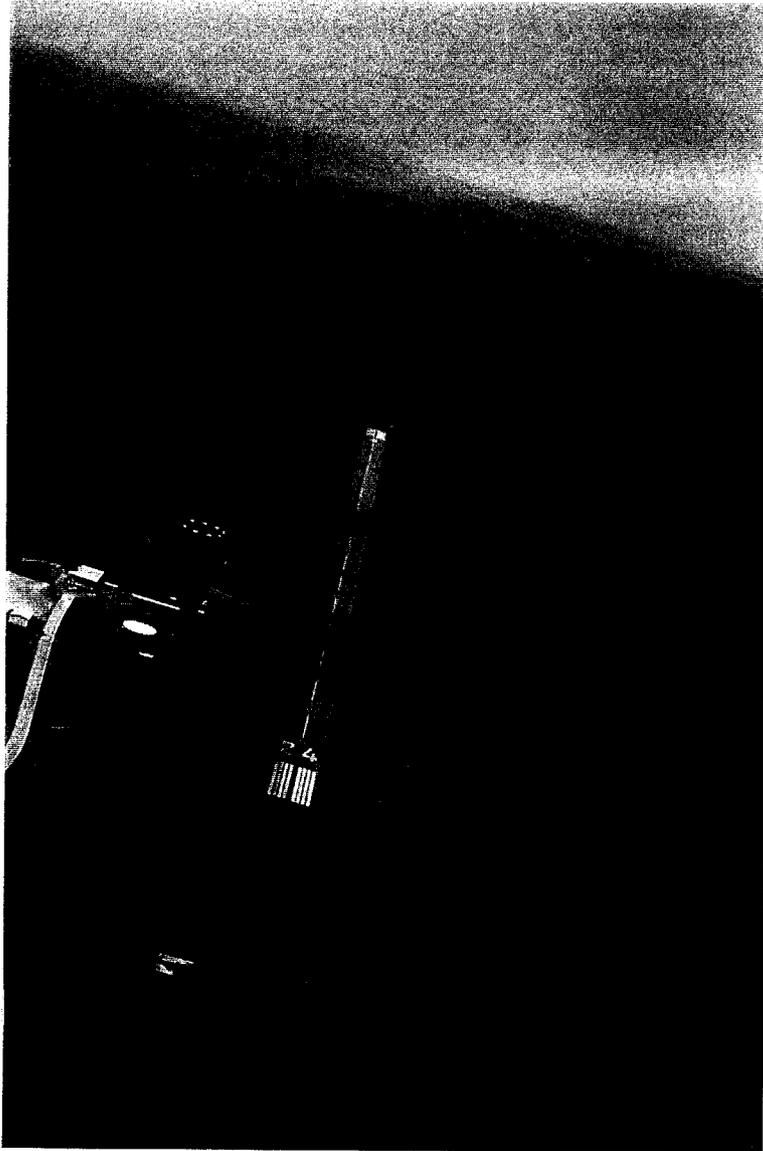
ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

B-8

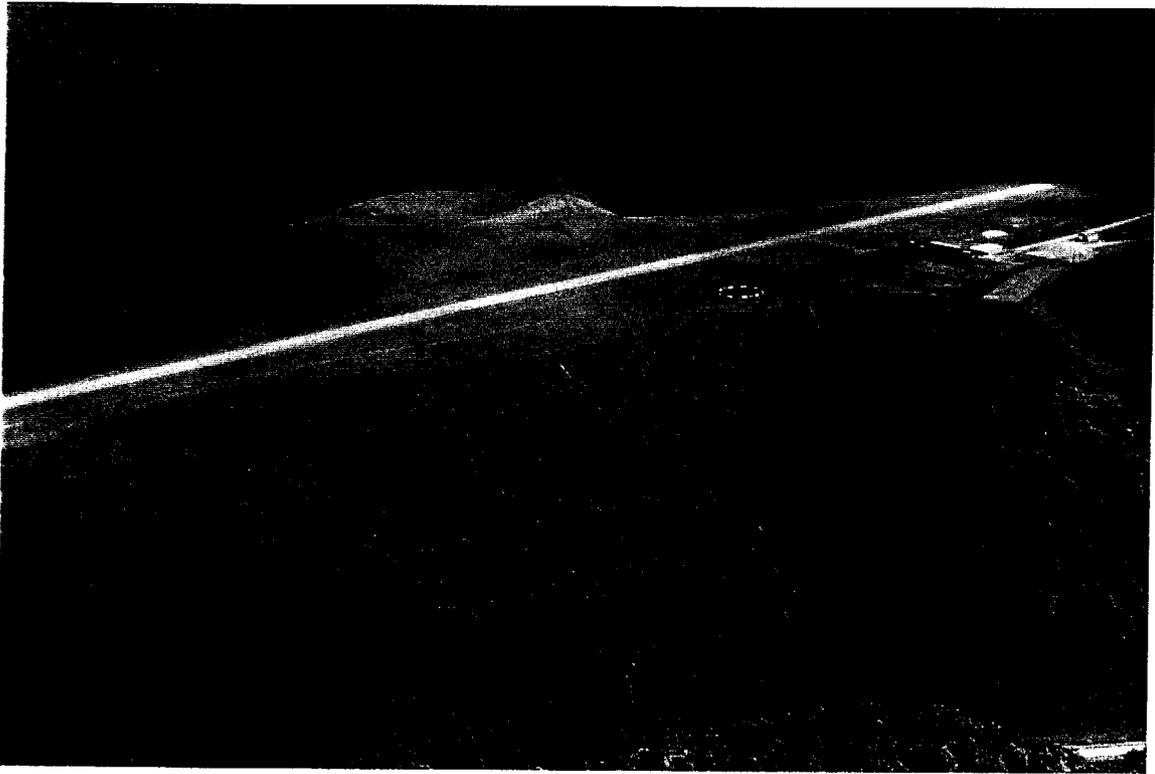
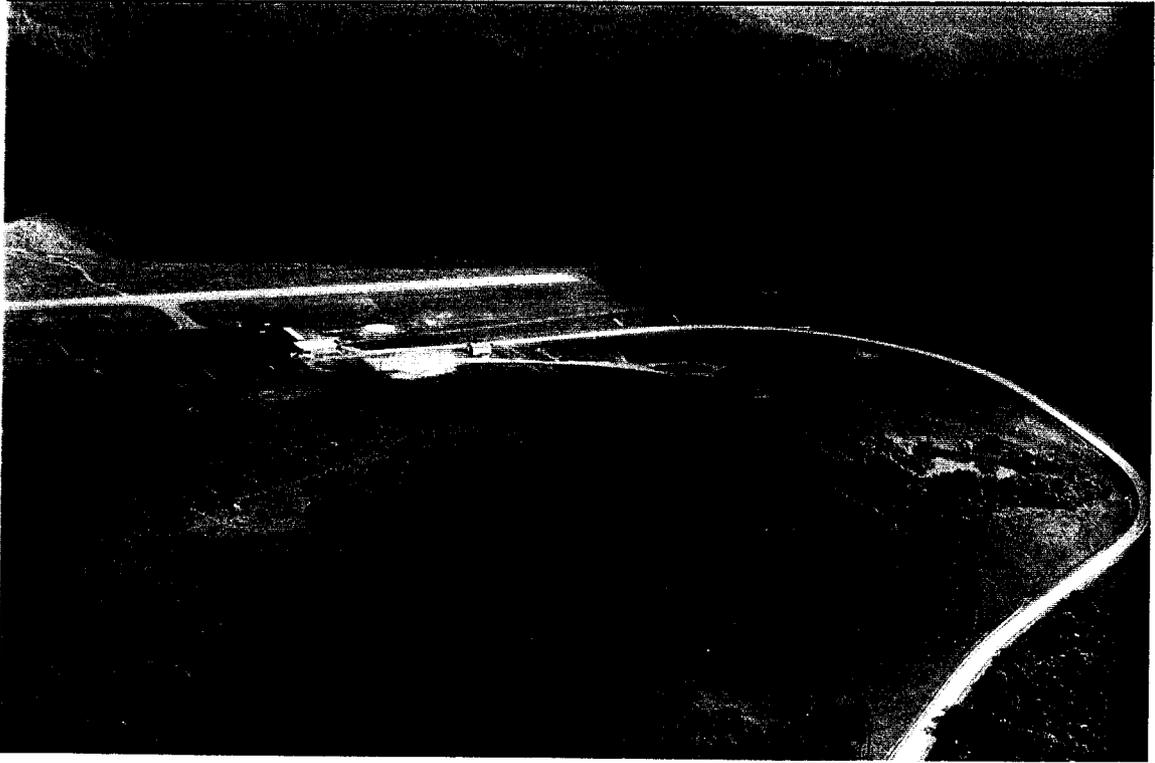
Scale: 0 200	Concord Coal Corporation Logan County Airport Contract Permit S-198-77 Regrade Cross Section
Quad: Logan	
County: Logan	

Concord Coal Corporation/
Logan County Airport Contract
Permit S-198-77



B-9

Concord Coal Corporation/
Logan County Airport Contract
Permit S-198-77



B-10

3. Hobet Mining, Inc.

Permit S-128-78

State Designation: Mountaintop/Contour Operation with Mountaintop-Removal AOC Variance

Hobet Mining, Inc., Permit S-128-78; Permit Issuance May 26, 1978

Location: Lat.: 38° 06' 37", Long.: 81° 52' 26", in Boone County.

Field Inspection Date: June 9, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop and contour mining operation with a mountaintop-removal AOC variance. The mountaintop mining lay generally south and west of Bragg Fork; areas to the north and east were contour mined. The permit application does not contain any specific narrative about how much spoil was to be backfilled on the mined area. The permit application's February 26, 1979, "Cross Section of Final Regrading" for section "C-C" shows that as much as 210 feet of overburden was to be removed to reach the lowest coal seam and that 30 to 60 feet of spoil would be backfilled onto the mined areas. The original ground level would be lowered as much as 170 feet after mining. The mined area was proposed to have inward drainage with controlled discharge. There are three coal seams permitted for mining. Page "B-13" contains actual premining and postmining cross sections. These may differ slightly from the information in the application.

Mining Status: Coal removal has ceased and the permit area is in reclamation status. Coal removal has been completed on the mountaintop portion of the permit area, but there is still some coal left on the contour mining part. The permit area is 1,040 acres. An estimated 833 acres had been disturbed by the mining, and all disturbed acreage has been reclaimed. Both valley fills that were planned were used, but to what extent is not clear.

Postmining Land Use: The permit area has a postmining land use of "rangeland." Permit modification No. 5, issued February 24, 1998, changed the land use from "forestland/hayland" to "rangeland." Pages "B-14" and "B-15" contain pictures of the present site conditions. The premining land use was "forestland."

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the mountaintop part of the permit area was not returned to AOC. Information regarding spoil calculations and disposal was not available.

Excess Spoil Fills: Information regarding the two valley fills was not available. Both fills were located on top of pre-existing fills. It is not known how much fill volume was generated by this mine. The combined length of the fills is 13,730 feet.

1200

1000

800

600

400

B-13

REGRADE

ORIGINAL GROUND

0+00 2+00 4+00 6+00 8+00 10+00 12+00 14+00 16+00 18+00 20+00 22+00 24+00 26+00 28+00 30+00

Scale: 0 200

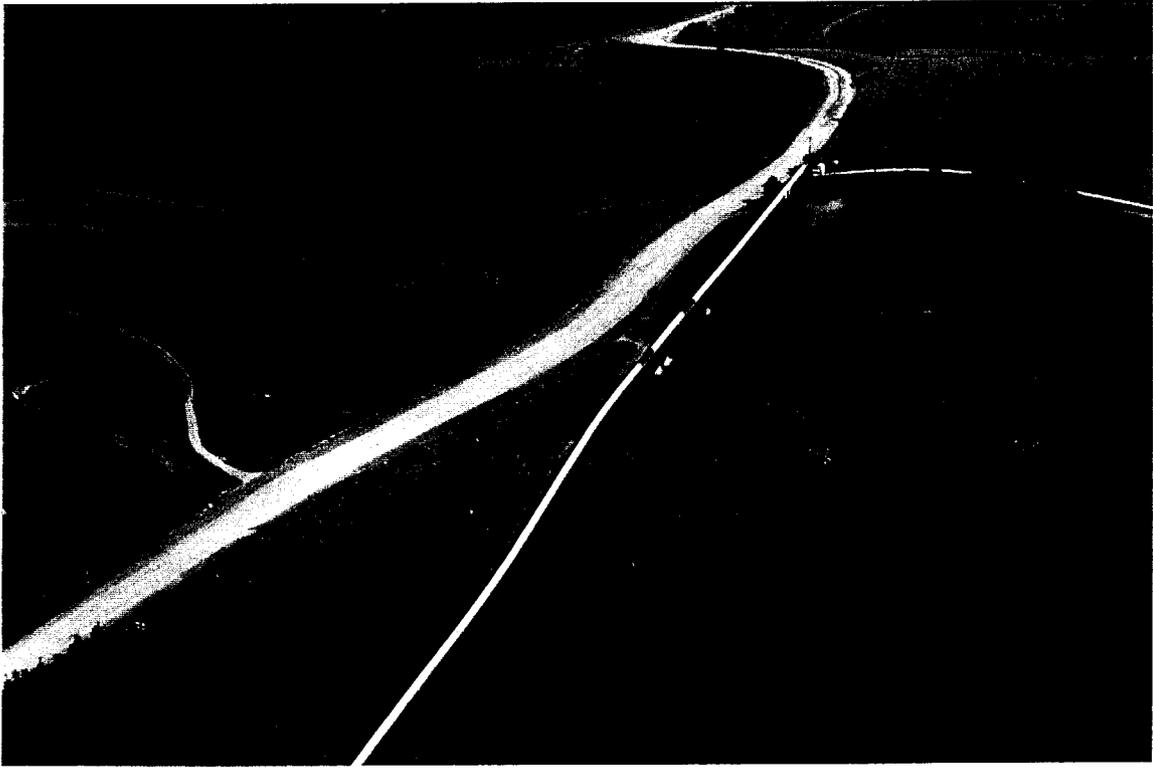
Quad: Madison

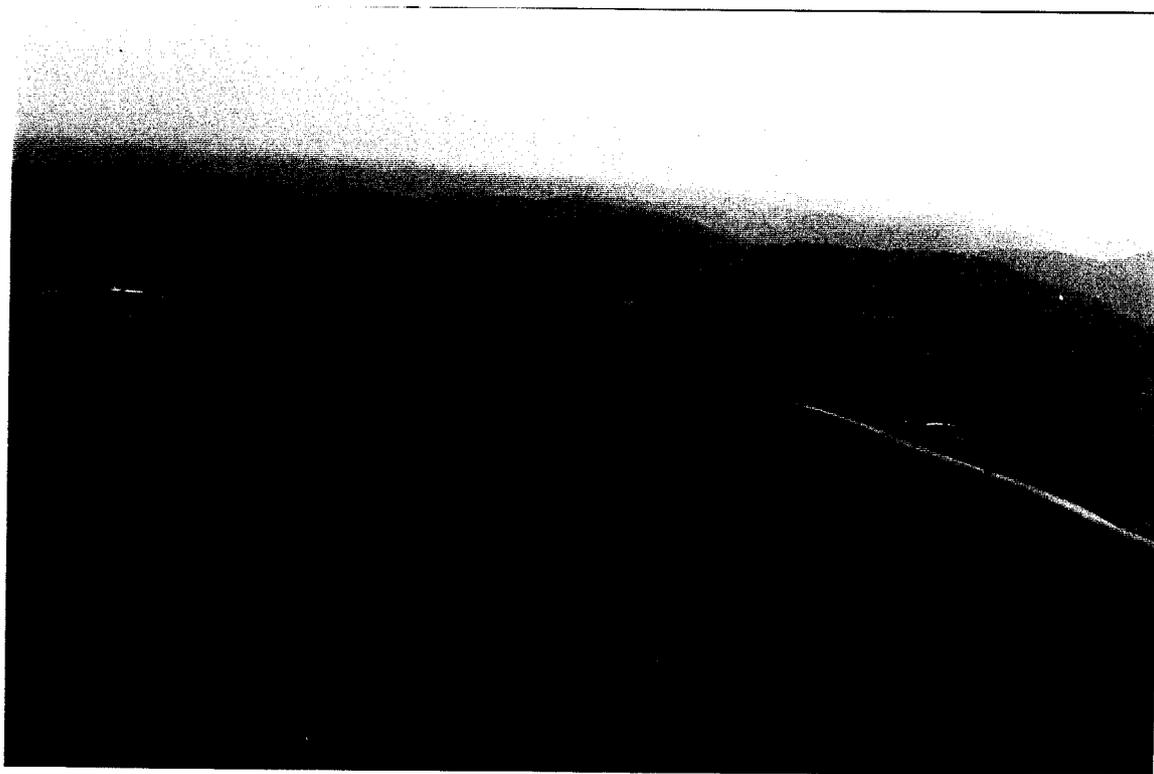
County: Boone

Hobet Mining, Inc.

Permit S-128-78

Regrade Cross Section





4. Consolidation Coal Company

Permit S-142-78

State Designation: Mountaintop Operation with Mountaintop-Removal AOC Variance

Consolidation Coal Company, Permit S-142-78; Permit Issued December 29, 1978

Location: Lat.: 37° 50' 39", Long.: 81° 20' 00", in Raleigh County.

Field Inspection Date: June 2, 1998

Mining Type: ERIN shows this to be a mountaintop mining operation, but the correct mining type is not clear from the application. WVDEP classified this operation as a mountaintop-removal AOC variance. The initial application listed the operation as "steep-slope mining (return to approximate original contour)." The application described AOC as "The amount of backfill to be regraded and the elevations will be controlled by placing the material back to 25 percent of its original height or 50 feet, whichever is greater (*i.e.*, 400 feet original height will be placed back to 100 feet)." The December 21, 1977, "Regraded Cross-Section," diagram No. DN 771208, showed that 20 to 400 feet of overburden would be removed and that 20 to 60 feet of spoil would be backfilled on the mined areas. A January 18, 1980, permit modification changed the operation to mountaintop removal; however, there were no changes to the mining and reclamation plan. A company letter stated they felt the original plan would result in achieving AOC.

Mining Status: Coal removal has not been completed on the 483 acre permit area. The August 28, 1997, "Renewal Progress Map" listed 425.06 acres as regraded, 10.16 acres as operational, and 48.24 acres as undisturbed. Field observations supported these figures. No coal has been removed since 1993. All mined areas have been revegetated; however, final reclamation has been completed only on the lower faces of the spoil fills. Ed Fanning, Engineer, stated that the company plans no more mining on the permit and will apply for a Phase I bond release.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with a postmining land use of "forest and commercial forestland." The premining land use was "forestland." The areas where final reclamation has been completed have dense stands of black locust, which is listed in the revegetation plan.

Approximate Original Contour: It is not clear whether this permit has an AOC variance. A December 21, 1977, "Regraded Cross-Section" shows the original elevations will be lowered zero to 340 feet. The cross section on page "B-18," which represents a different location on the permitted area, shows the elevation reduction for that area to be about 190 feet. Premining overburden is estimated as 33.4 million cubic yards. The permit applicant used a 25 percent swell factor (8.4 million cubic yards). If the permit were mined as planned, the mining would generate 41.8 million cubic yards of spoil, and 17.6 million cubic yards would be placed in fills (42 percent of the spoil). Since there is potential coal removal left on the area, no judgments about inward draining plateaus were made. Field observations did not identify any major changes from the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: There are five valley fills proposed, none of which have been completed. The estimated current lengths based on field observations are: Fill No. 2 is 1,300 feet long; Fill No. 6 is 125 feet long; Fill No. 7 is 1,850 feet long; Fill No. 8 is 1,300 feet long; and Fill No. 9 is 1,250 feet long.

1200

1000

800

600

400

B-18

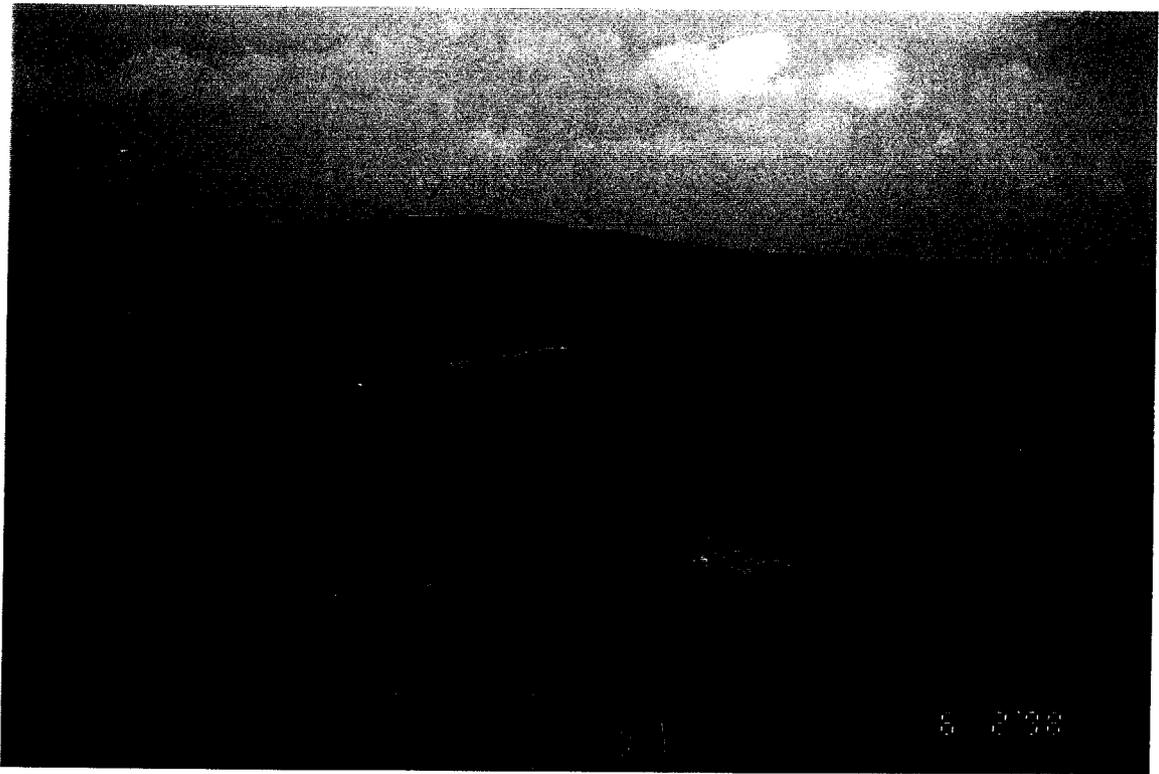
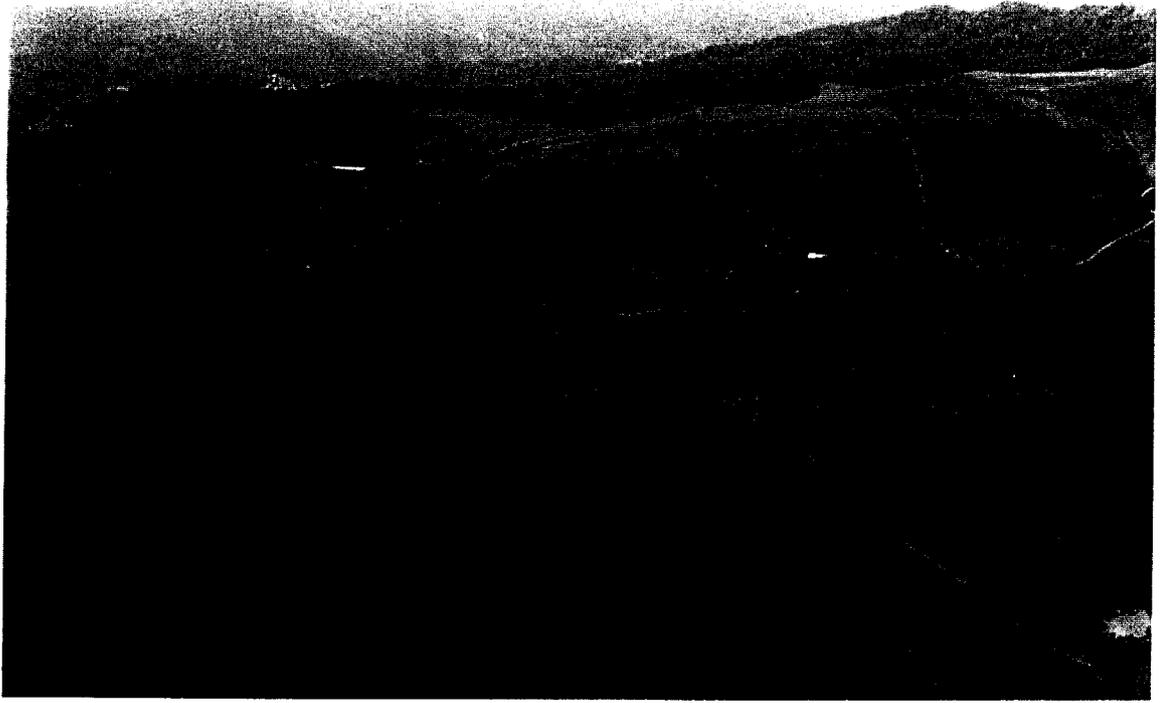
0+00 2+00 4+00 6+00 8+00 10+00 12+00 14+00 16+00 18+00 20+00 22+00 24+00 26+00 28+00 30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

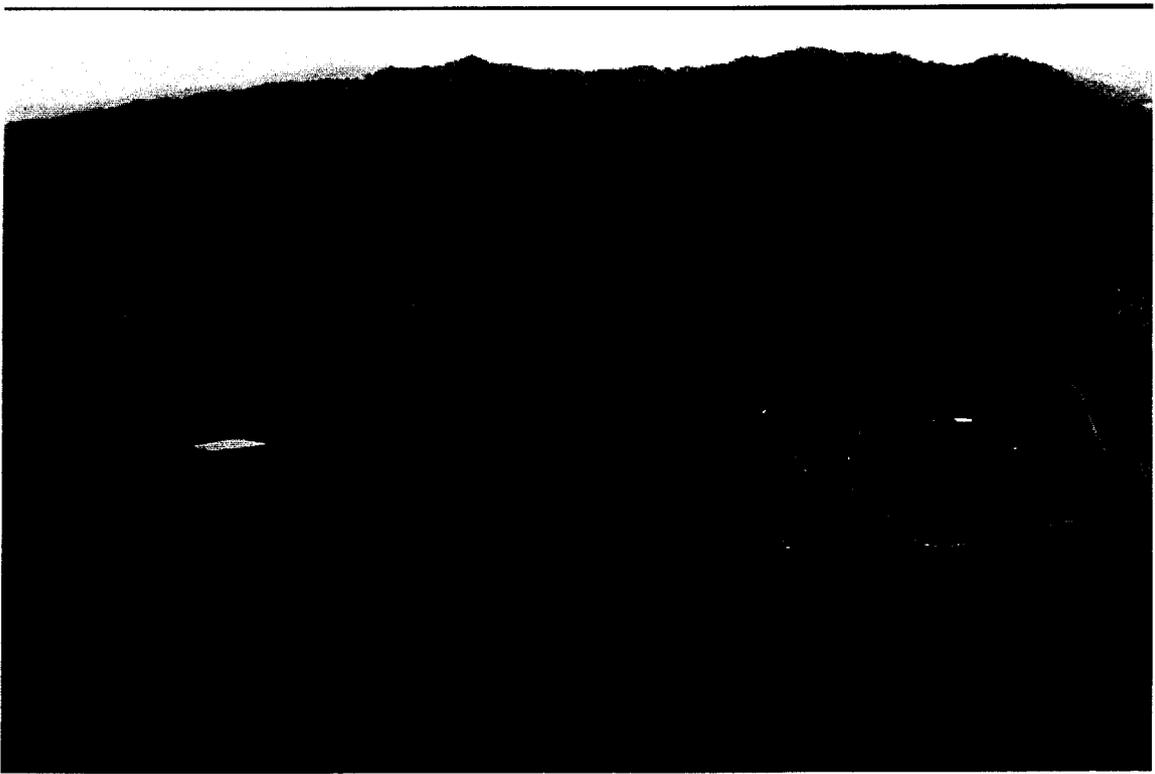
REGRADE

<p>Scale: </p> <p>Quad: Eccles</p> <p>County: Raleigh</p>	<p>Consolidation Coal Company</p> <p>Permit S-142-78</p> <p>Regrade Cross Section</p>
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Consolidation Coal Company
Permit S-142-78



Consolidation Coal Company
Permit S-142-78



5. Cannelton Industries, Inc.

Permit S-175-78

State Designation: Mountaintop Operation with Mountaintop-Removal AOC Variance

Cannelton Industries, Inc., Permit S-175-78; Permit Issued October 10, 1978, Permit Modification Approved May 20, 1982

Location: Lat.: 37° 25' 10", Long.: 81° 33' 20", in McDowell County.

Field Inspection Date: June 30, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop mining operation with an AOC variance. The permit was initially issued without an AOC variance, but the permit was amended in 1978 to include a variance. The permit application did not have any narrative explanation of how much the original surface elevations would to be changed by mining. The application did contain typical cross-sections showing how the two permitted areas would be mined and backfilled. There was no scale with the cross sections, and it was unclear how much the elevations would be lowered. Page "B-23" shows actual premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study.

Mining Status: Mining and reclamation have been completed, and the Phase III bond release was granted on April 12, 1985. The permit area was 127 acres divided into two areas, "A" and "B." The final inspection report stated that 124.3 acres were disturbed by mining. Both areas had sections of pre-SMCRA mining on them. Area "A" was not mined via the proposed mountaintop-removal method, but as a contour mining operation with 400 to 500 feet of point removal area mining. All highwalls were eliminated on this area. Area "B" was a mountaintop-removal operation, and it was backfilled to a level to gently rolling plateau with inwardly draining parts.

Postmining Land Use: This permit has a postmining land use of "pastureland and hayland." "Forestland" was the premining land use. Some supporting documentation for the proposed postmining land use was in the application. During the field investigation, three head of livestock were observed. It is believed that this site currently provides grazing for 10 to 15 head of bison/cattle. Pages "B-24" and "B-25" contain pictures of the present site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, area "B" was not returned to AOC. There is no information in the permit application about spoil swell factors, cubic yardage of spoil generated, or spoil disposal. Field observations determined that the general drainage pattern was not affected by the mining.

Excess Spoil Fills: Valley Fill No. 1 was estimated to be 1,050 feet long. Field observations found that very little, if any, spoil was placed in Valley Fill Nos. 2 and 3; both of these fills did have the rock core underdrains installed.

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10+00

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14+00

16+00

18+00

20+00

22+00

24+00

26+00

28+00

30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

Scale:



Quad:

Welch

County:

McDowell

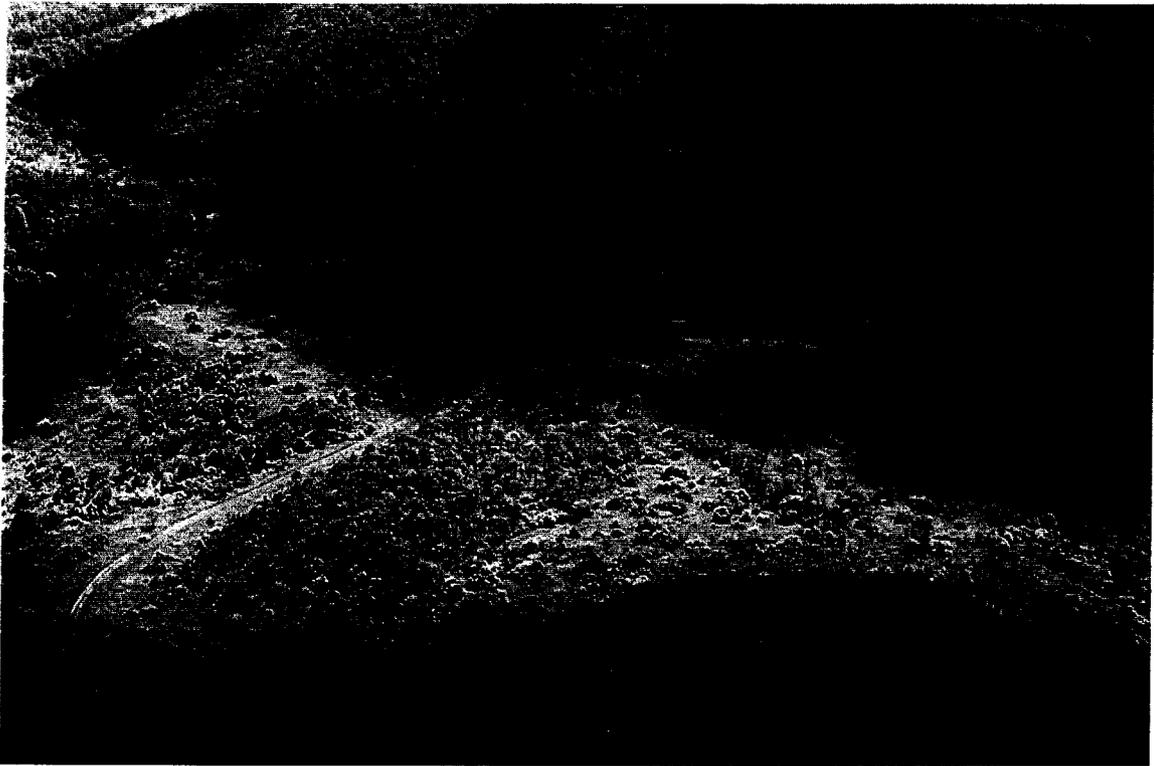
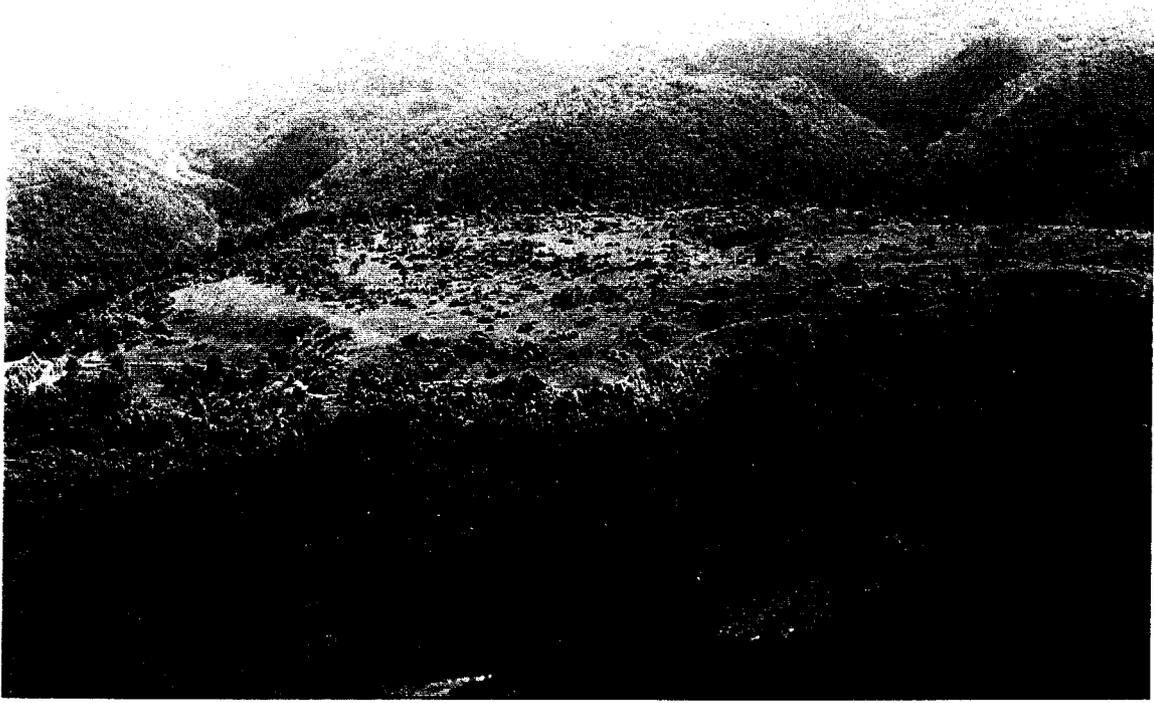
Cannelton Industries, Inc.

Permit S-175-78

Regrade Cross Section



B-24



6. Donaway Coal, Inc.

Permit S-47-84

State Designation: Mountaintop and Area Operation with Steep-Slope AOC Variance

Donaway Coal, Inc., Permit S-47-84; Permit Issued July 24, 1984

Location: Lat.: 37° 38' 00", Long.: 81° 53' 00", in Mingo County.

Field Inspection Date: June 23, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop and area mining operation with a steep-slope AOC variance. The permit application did not contain specific narrative about the proposed backfilling and grading plan. There was some pre-SMCRA mining within the permit area. There were six coal seams permitted to be mined. Page "B-28" contains premining and postmining cross sections of the permit area.

Mining Status: Coal removal and reclamation have been completed. The permit area was granted a Phase I bond release on February 19, 1998. The permit area was 107 acres. Approximately 85 acres was disturbed by mining. The proposed mining area was a long ridgetop that was to be area mined and there would be a highwall created at the eastern end of the mined area. However, the actual mining of the ridgetop was mostly a contour mining operation. All highwalls created by the mining have been eliminated. Both valley fills that were planned were used; however, Fill No. 1 is much smaller than planned.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with a postmining land use of "fish and wildlife habitat." The premining land use was listed in the application as "fish and wildlife habitat with old surface mines." Pages "B-29" and "B-30" contain pictures of present site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the mined area was not returned to AOC. The original permit application planned for 10.0 million cubic yards of spoil to be generated by mining with 6.2 million yards, 62 percent of the spoil, going into the two fills. Because the permit area was not mined as planned, it is not clear exactly how much spoil was generated. An estimated 1.5 million cubic yards of spoil was placed in Fill No. 1, and an estimated 500,000 cubic yards went into Fill No. 2.

Excess Spoil Fills: Based on maps and drawings for Incidental Boundary Revision No. 2, the main branch for Valley Fill No. 1 is approximately 1,400 feet long, with a secondary branch of 800 feet. Valley Fill No. 2 is approximately 900 feet long.

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0+00 2+00 4+00 6+00 8+00 10+00 12+00 14+00 16+00 18+00 20+00 22+00 24+00 26+00 28+00 30+00

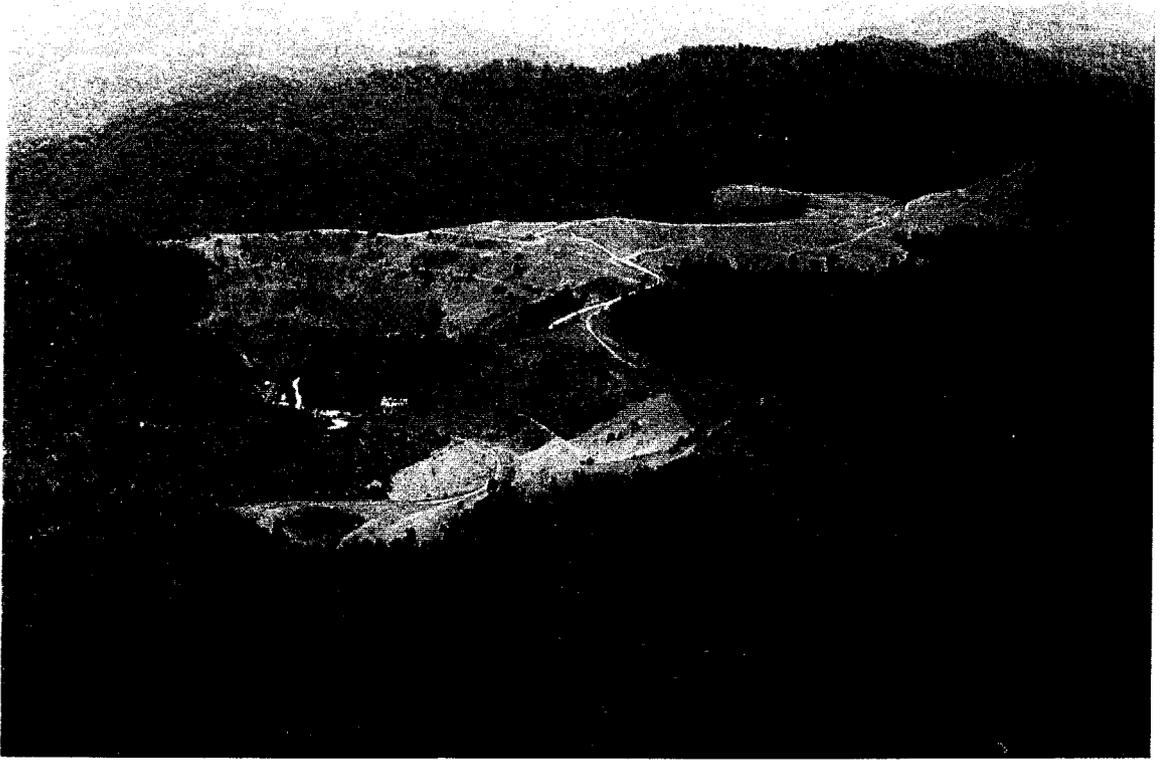
REGRADE

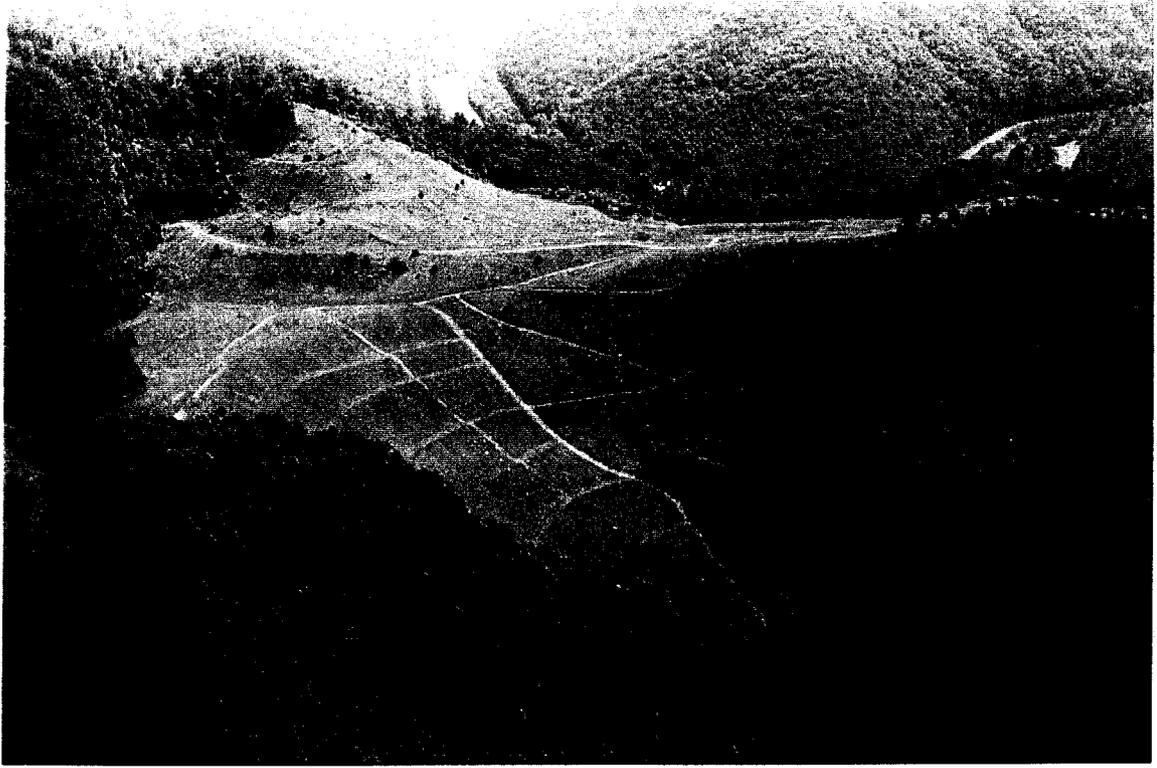
ORIGINAL GROUND

B-28

<p>Scale: </p> <p>Quad: Man, Wharnccliffe</p> <p>County: Mingo</p>	<p>Donaway Coal Company</p> <p>Permit S--47-84</p> <p>Regrade Cross Section</p>
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Donaway Coal Company
Permit S-47-84





7. Hobet Mining, Inc.,

Permit S-5062-86

State Designation: Area Mining Operation with Steep-Slope Variance

Hobet Mining, Inc., Permit S-5062-86; Permit Issued August 12, 1986

Location: Lat.: 37° 45' 50", Long.: 82° 07' 50", in Logan and Mingo Counties.

Field Inspection Date: June 22, 1998

Mining Type: This was an area mining operation with a steep-slope AOC variance. The permit application had no information, narrative, or cross sections about the premining and postmining surface configuration. Page "B-33" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study.

Mining Status: Coal removal has been completed and reclamation of the disturbed area is nearing completion. The permit area is 535 acres. An estimated 525 acres was disturbed by mining. Both valley fills appear to have been completed as proposed.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with a postmining land use of "rangeland." The premining land use was "forestland." Pages "B-34" and "B-35" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area was not returned to AOC. Information on spoil calculations and disposal was not available in the permit application. Field observations did not find any major changes to the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: If the fills are completed as proposed in the permit application, the "Right Fork Valley Fill" will be 850 feet long, and the "Estepp Hollow Valley Fill" will be 1,500 feet long.

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6+00
8+00
10+00
12+00
14+00
16+00
18+00
20+00
22+00
24+00
26+00
28+00
30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

B-33

Scale:



Quad:

Myrtle, Holden

County:

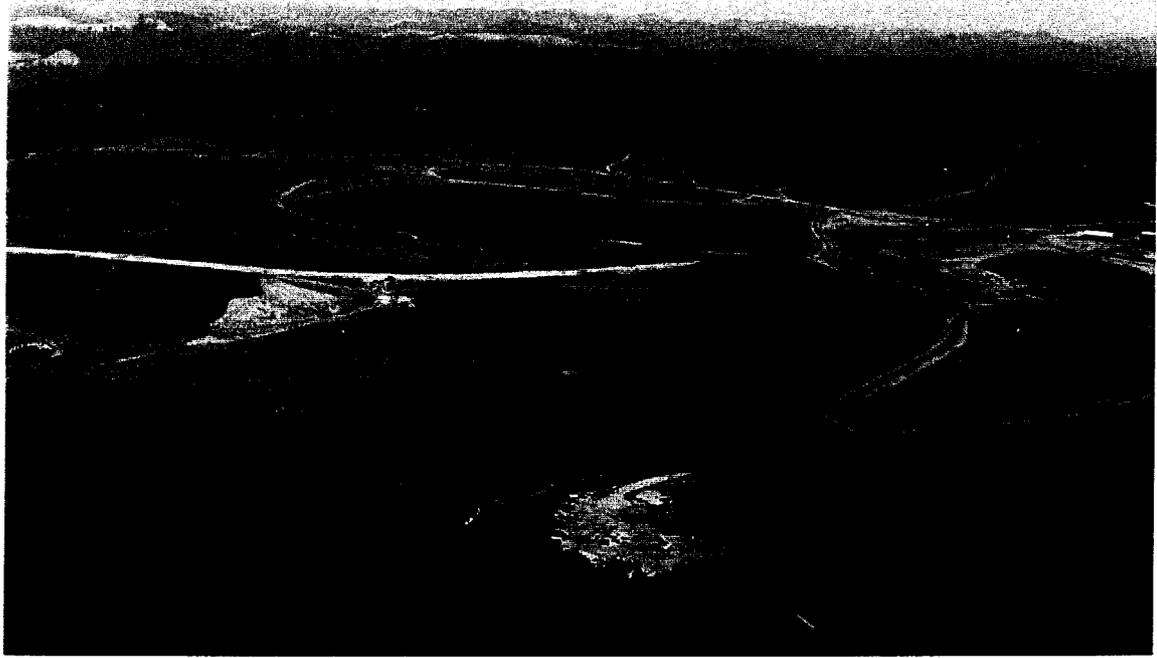
Mingo

Hobet Mining, Inc.

Permit S-5062-86

Regrade Cross Section





8. Chafin Branch Coal Company

Permit S-5082-86

State Designation: Mountaintop Operation with Mountaintop-Removal AOC Variance

Chafin Branch Coal Company, Permit S-5082-86; Permit Issued August 25, 1986

Location: Lat.: 37° 35' 55", Long.: 81° 54' 18", in Mingo County.

Field Inspection Date: June 23, 1998

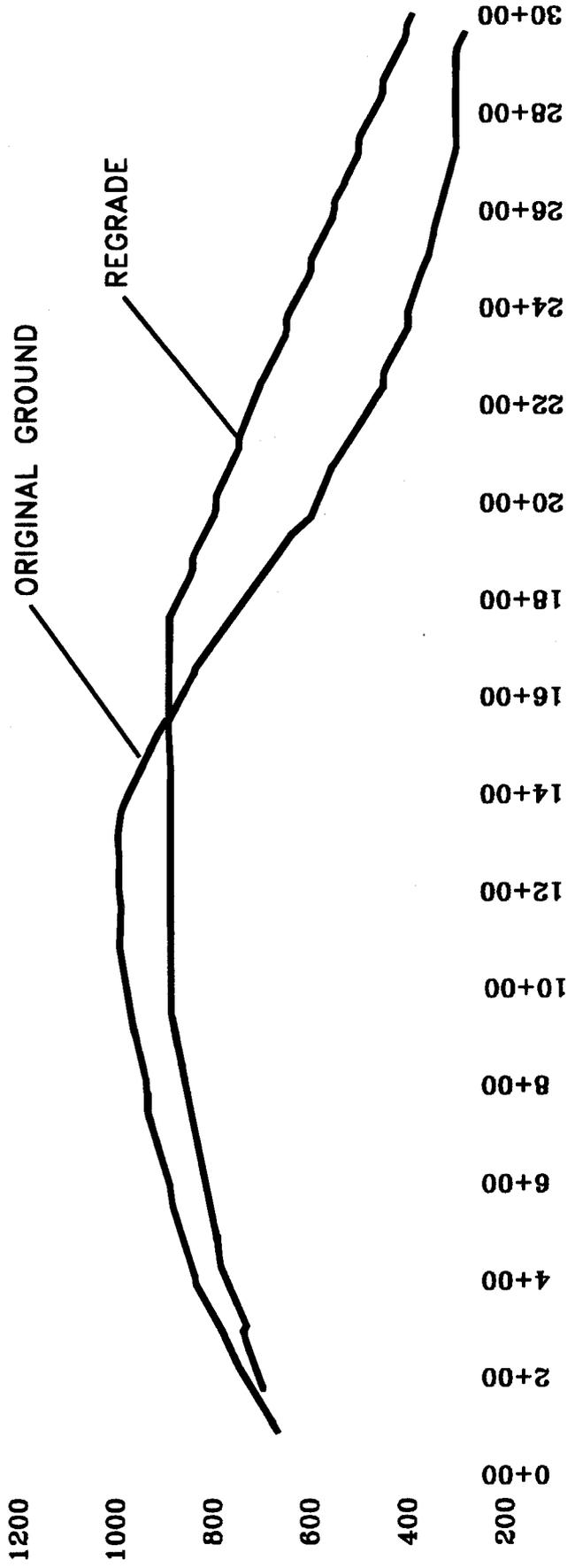
Mining Type: This is a mountaintop mining operation with a mountaintop-removal AOC variance. The permit area includes areas of pre-SMCRA mining. The permit application did not contain any information about how many feet of overburden would be removed nor how much spoil would be backfilled on the mined areas. Field observations estimated that the premining ground elevations were lowered at least 100 feet by the mining. There are three coal seams permitted to be mined. Page "B-38" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study.

Mining Status: Coal removal and final reclamation are nearing completion. The permit area is 242.2 acres. An estimated 240 acres was disturbed by the mining. The backfilling created three level to gently rolling plateaus. Field observations did not determine if these plateaus are inward draining; however, these areas do not have controlled drainage points on them. Both valley fills that were planned were constructed. Both fills were enlarged by Incidental Boundary Revision No. 3.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with a postmining land use of "fish and wildlife habitat." The permittee also states that this was the premining land use. Pages "B-39" and "B-40" contain pictures of current site conditions.

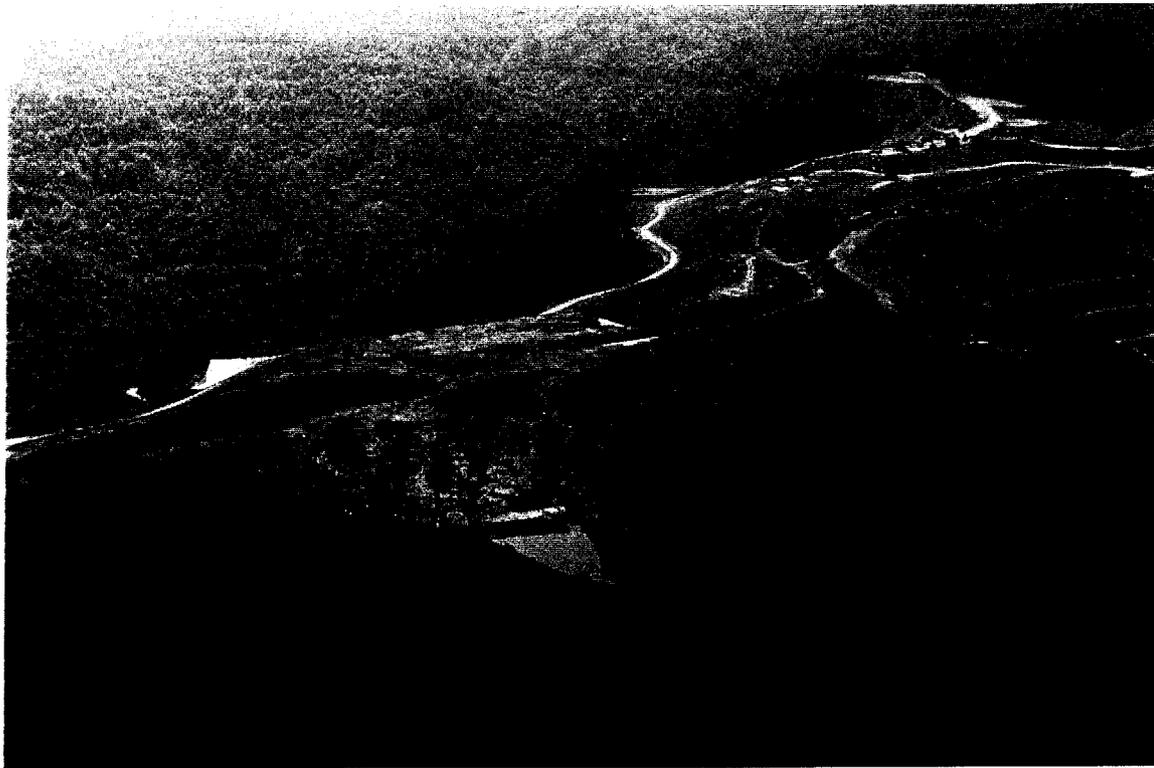
Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area was not returned to AOC. The premining overburden is estimated to be 19.8 million cubic yards. The permit application, using a 21 percent swell factor, states that 23.9 million cubic yards of spoil will be generated by the mining. The valley fills were to receive 13.8 million cubic yards, or 58 percent, of the spoil. Field observations did not identify any major changes from the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: After the valley fills are completed, Valley Fill No. 1 will be approximately 1,350 feet long, and Valley Fill No. 2 will be approximately 1,200 feet long. These lengths are taken from measurements of maps and drawings in the permit file.



B-38

<p>Scale: </p> <p>Quad: Wharncliffe</p> <p>County: Mingo</p>	<p>Chafin Branch Coal Co.</p> <p>Permit S-5082-86</p> <p>Regrade Cross Section</p>
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Chafin Branch Coal Company
Permit S-5082-86



B-40

9. War Eagle Construction Company

Permit S-5046-88

State Designation: Mountaintop Operation to be Returned to AOC

War Eagle Construction Company, Permit S-5046-88; Permit Issued October 28, 1988

Location: Lat.: 37° 40' 55", Long.: 81° 56' 10", in Logan County.

Field Inspection Date: June 22, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop mining operation without an AOC variance. WVDEP classified this permit as a mountaintop mining operation with a mountaintop-removal AOC variance. However, OSM's review of the permit application did not find any request for an AOC variance. The regrading cross sections in the application show that the north peak of the permit area will have as much as 100 feet of overburden removed, and the south peak will have as much as 140 feet of overburden removed. Both peaks were to have 50 to 60 feet of spoil backfilled on them. The consensus of the OSM field team was that the mined areas were generally backfilled to within 40 feet of the original surface elevations. Page "B-43" contains actual premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ slightly from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: Coal removal has been completed and the permit area has been reclaimed. However, the permit has been revoked and the bond forfeited. The permit area is 96.87 acres. An estimated 90 acres were disturbed by the mining. All three valley fills that were planned were constructed. Field observations found that the backfilling and grading was in general compliance with the proposed plan in the permit application.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with postmining land uses of "forestland and wildlife habitat," which are also listed in the permit application as the premining land uses. WVDEP may need to reclassify the permit. Since the premining and postmining land uses are the same, no alternative postmining land use findings are required. Pages "B-44" and "B-45" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: The mined areas were backfilled to within 40 feet of the original elevations. The permit application had no information on spoil calculations and disposal.

Spoil Fills: Valley Fill No. 1 is approximately 500 feet long. Valley Fill No. 2 is forked with both forks being about 800 feet long, for a total of 1,600 feet. Valley Fill No. 3 is approximately 850 feet long. These lengths are taken from measurements of maps and drawings in the permit file.

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14+00

16+00

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24+00

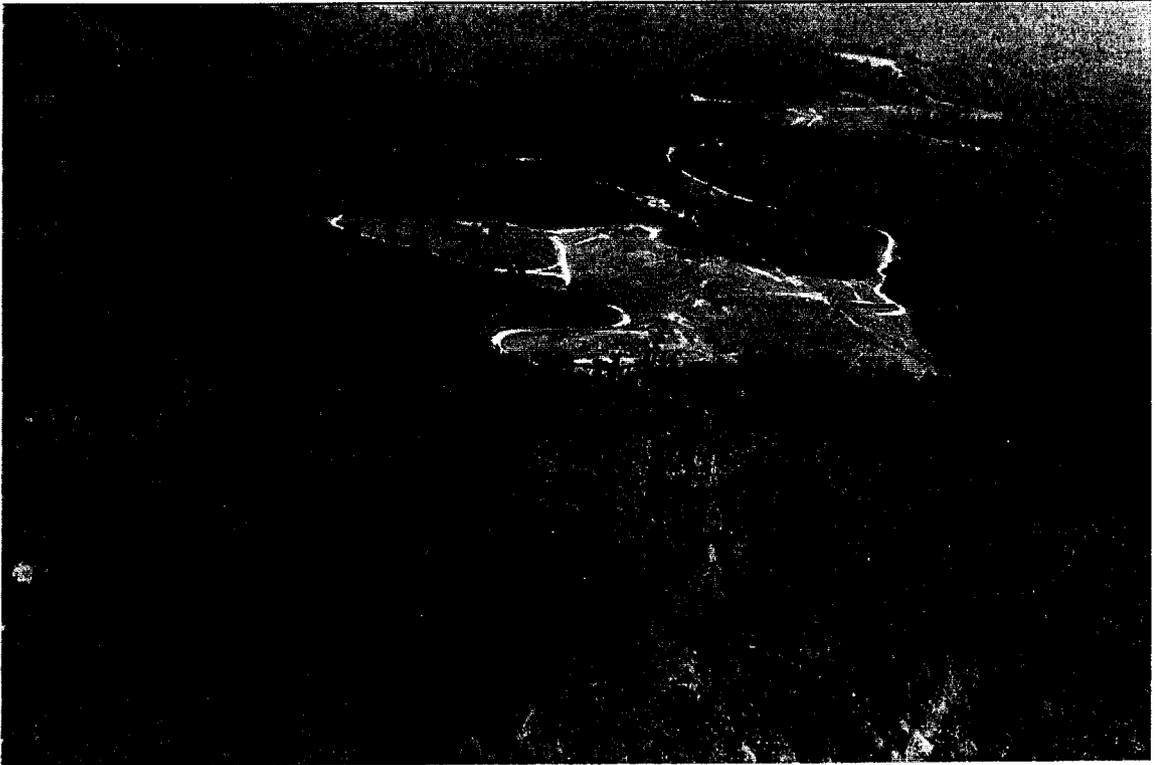
26+00

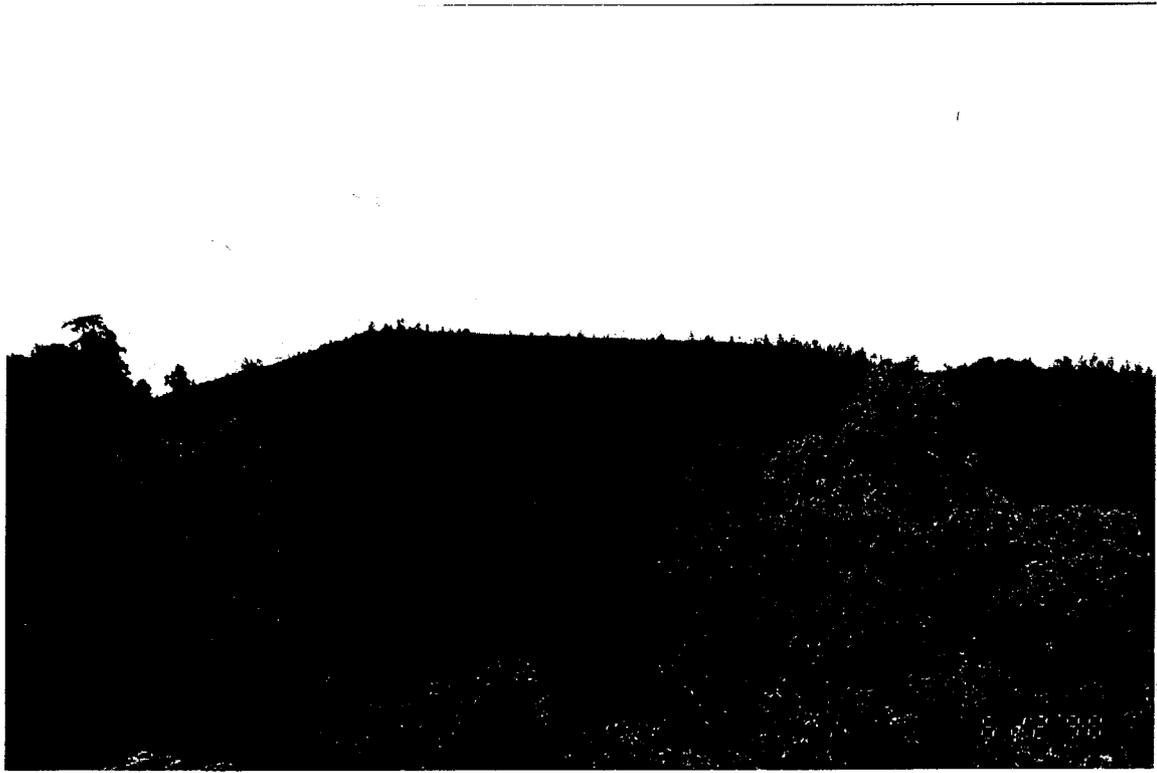
28+00

30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND
REGRADE

Scale: 0 200	War Eagle Construction Company
Quad: Man	Permit S-5046-88
County: Logan	Regrade Cross Section





10. Cyprus Kanawha Corporation

Permit S-6020-89

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area and Auger Operation with Both a Mountaintop-Removal and Steep-Slope AOC Variance

Cyprus Kanawha Corporation, Permit S-6020-89; Permit Issued December 13, 1989

Location: Lat.: 38° 03' 11", Long.: 81° 20' 53", in Fayette and Kanawha Counties.

Field Inspection Date: June 2, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, and auger mining operation with both a mountaintop-removal and a steep-slope AOC variance. The permit application narrative and drawings show that as much as 495 feet of overburden would be removed to mine the lowest coal seam. The company proposed to backfill 240 to 250 feet of spoil on the mined areas and create an inward draining area at this level. There are nine coal seams permitted to be mined on this permit area. Page "B-48" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ slightly from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: The permit area is 657.4 acres. An estimated 590 acres have been disturbed. Coal removal has been completed and the company is reclaiming the area. The mined area between Sycamore Fill No. 1 and Laurel Fill No. 2 has been backfilled and reclaimed to create an inward draining plateau with three controlled drainage outlets. The area between Sycamore Fill No. 1 and Laurel Fill No. 1 (a long, narrow point) has been backfilled and reclaimed without creating a level area. Sycamore Fill No. 1 and Laurel Fill No. 1 have been completed. Laurel Fill No. 2 has to be graded. Laurel Fill No. 3 has not been constructed.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with a postmining land use of "agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat." The approved program does allow "agriculture" for an operation with a mountaintop-removal variance if the permittee demonstrates that the reclaimed land will support the postmining land use and submits plans and assurances to show that the land use is needed and will be achieved. The permittee has not satisfied all of these requirements for this permit. Most of the documentation in the application indicates that the primary postmining land use will be "wildlife habitat." Pages "B-49" and "B-50" contain pictures of current site conditions. The premining land use was "forestland."

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area, with the possible exception of the area between the Sycamore and Laurel No. 1 fills, was not returned to AOC. The original surface elevation was lowered as much as 245 feet by mining. Spoil volume and disposal information was not provided in the permit application. Field observations did not identify any major changes from the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: Sycamore Fill is approximately 3,600 feet long. Laurel Fill No. 1 is approximately 3,200 feet long. Laurel Fill No. 2 will be approximately 3,800 feet long after it is graded. These lengths are taken from maps and drawings in the permit file.

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28+00

30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

B-48

Scale:



Quad:

Powellton

County:

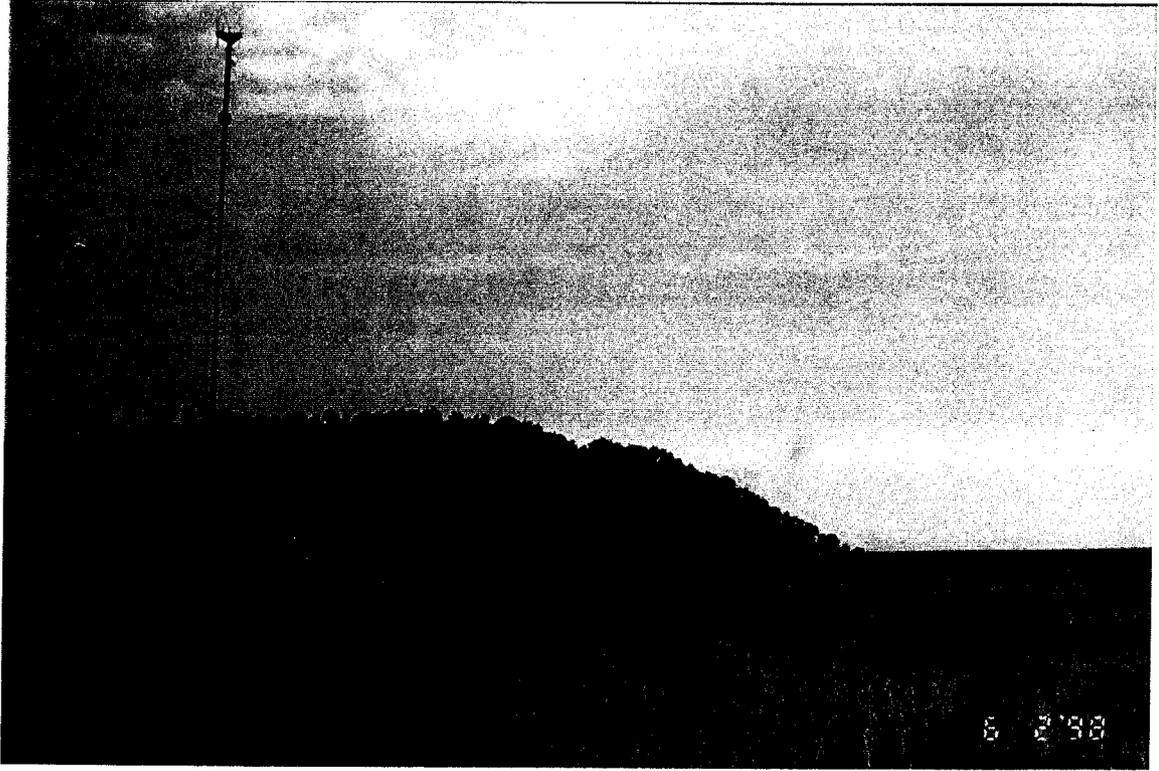
Fayette

Cyprus Kanawha Corporation

Permit S-6020-89

Regrade Cross Section





11. Appalachian Mining

Permit S-3006-91

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area/Contour and Auger Operation with Steep-Slope AOC Variance

Appalachian Mining, Permit S-3006-91; Permit Issued February 25, 1992

Location: Lat.: 38° 10' 25", Long.: 81° 14' 13", in Fayette County.

Field Inspection Date: May 6, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, contour, and auger mining operation with a steep-slope AOC variance. The permit application does not contain a specific narrative about how much the mined areas will be backfilled after coal removal is completed. While there are nine coal seams permitted to be mined, sections "D-D," "E-E," "F-F," and "G-G," from a portion of the November 23, 1990, permit application, entitled "Regraded X-Sections," show that only the upper six seams will be area mined. Based on these cross sections, as much as 380 feet of overburden will be removed to reach the lowest coal seam. The mined parts of the permit area will be backfilled with as much as 150 feet of spoil. After mining, elevations will be generally 50 to 200 feet lower than the original ground level. Page "B-53" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ slightly from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: Coal was not being mined at the time of this inspection. There was reclamation work being done. The permit area is 803.44 acres. An estimated 634 acres have been disturbed, and 275 acres of this site have been reclaimed. Mining at the north and south ends of the permit area has been nearly completed.

Postmining Land Use: This permit was approved by WVDEP with a postmining land use of "forestland and wildlife habitat." The narrative in the application indicates that wildlife habitat will be the primary postmining land use. No commercial or native forest species are listed in the revegetation plan. The premining land use was "forestland."

Approximate Original Contour: This permit area has an AOC variance. The premining overburden is estimated at 134.4 million cubic yards. If the entire permit area is mined as proposed, 168 million cubic yards of spoil will be generated by the mining. The permit applicant used a 25 percent swell factor to calculate spoil yardage. Total spoil fill capacity was reduced by Incidental Boundary Revision No. 4 from 29.2 million cubic yards of spoil to 12.8 million cubic yards for the five permitted fills. Fill capacity for Fill No. 1 is now 6.8 million cubic yards of spoil. Fill No. 2 is now 5.1 million cubic yards. Fill No. 3 is now 887,407 cubic yards. Fill Nos. 4 and 5 have not been used. It is unknown how much spoil has been generated by the current mining or how much spoil has been placed in Fill Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Excess Spoil Fills: The proposed fill lengths in the permit file are: Fill No. 1 will be 2,690 feet long; Fill No. 2 will be 2,290 feet long; Fill No. 3 will be 1,750 feet long; Fill No. 4 will be 1,110 feet long; and Fill No. 5 will be 1,230 feet long.

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B-53

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6+00

8+00

10+00

12+00

14+00

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18+00

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26+00

28+00

30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

Scale:



Quad:

Gauley Bridge

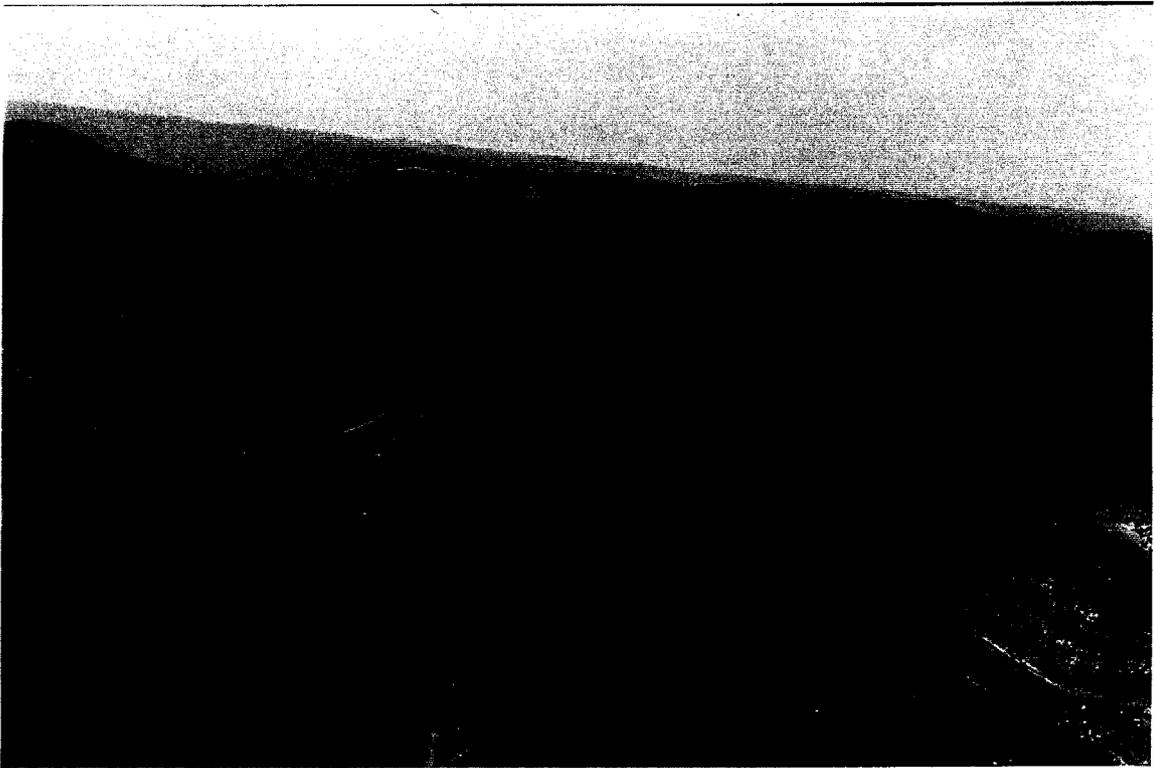
County:

Fayette

Appalachian Mining

Permit S-3006-91

Regrade Cross Section



Appalachian Mining
Permit S-3006-91



B-55

12. High Power Energy

Permit S-3013-91

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area and Contour Operation with Steep-Slope AOC Variance

High Power Energy, Permit S-3013-91; Permit Issued January 7, 1992

Location: Lat.: 38° 18' 41", Long.: 80° 59' 03", in Nicholas County.

Field Inspection Date: May 7, 1998

Mining Type: This was a mountaintop, contour, and area mining operation with a steep-slope AOC Variance. The permit application did not contain a specific narrative about how much the mined areas will be backfilled after coal removal is completed. Sections "H-H," "I-I," and "J-J," from a portion of the March 1996 permit application, entitled "Regrading Cross Sections," show that the original ground elevations will be changed from a plus 30 feet to a minus 150 feet. Most of the mined area will be lower in elevation after reclamation is completed. There are seven coal seams permitted to be mined. Page "B-58" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ slightly from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: Coal removal and reclamation have been completed. The permittee has not applied for any bond releases. The current permit area is 511 acres. The entire area was disturbed. Except for a water treatment facility located on site, the entire area has been reclaimed. All three spoil fills that were planned were used.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved by WVDEP with a postmining land use of "commercial woodland" and "fish and wildlife habitat." The premining land use was listed in the application as "forestland" and "fish and wildlife habitat." The permit application contained only part of the required information to justify the steep-slope AOC variance and to support the proposed postmining land use. Pages "B-59" and "B-60" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the mined area was not returned to AOC. The premining overburden is estimated at 87.4 million cubic yards. The permit applicant used a 30 percent swell factor to calculate that 113.6 million cubic yards of spoil would be generated by the mining and that 45.9 million cubic yards, or 40 percent, would go into the three durable rock fills. However, none of the constructed fills were filled to capacity, and it is not known how much excess spoil was actually placed in them. Field observations did not find any major changes to the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: As noted, three durable rock fills were constructed. The certification for the "Wildcat Hollow" Fill shows that it is 2,875 feet long. Based on measurements of maps and drawings in the application, Fill "A", which was co-permitted with Permit No. S-3005-86, is estimated to be 2,500 feet long and Fill "A West" is estimated to be 2,100 feet long.

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B-58

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

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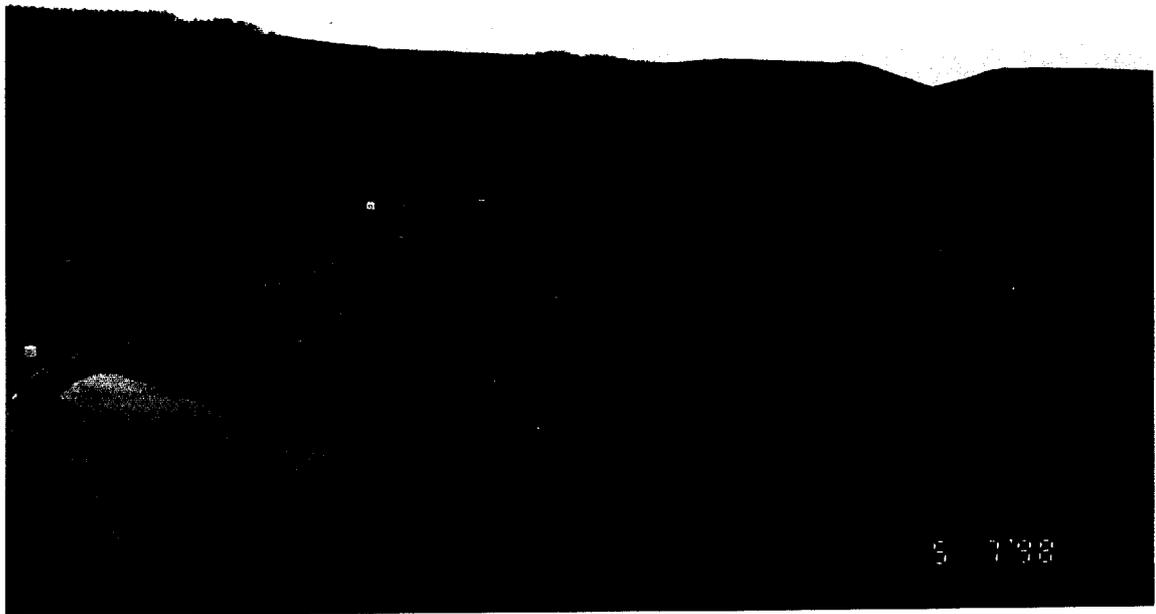
Quad: Gilboa, Lockwood

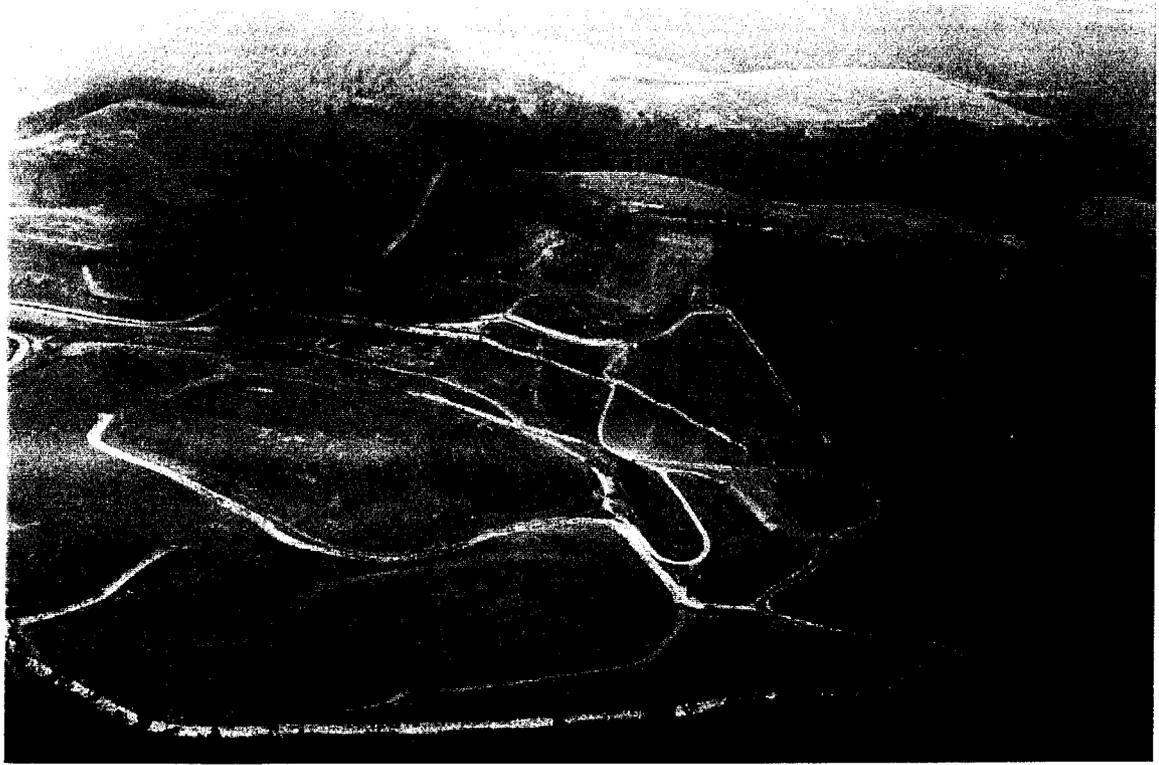
County: Nicholas

High Power Energy

Permit S-3013-91

Regrade Cross Section





B-60

13. Apogee Coal Company

Permit S-5006-91

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area Operation with Steep-Slope AOC Variance

Apogee Coal Company, Permit S-5006-91; Permit Issued November 30, 1992

Location: Lat.: 37° 46' 25", Long.: 81° 48' 31", in Logan County.

Field Inspection Date: June 16, 1998

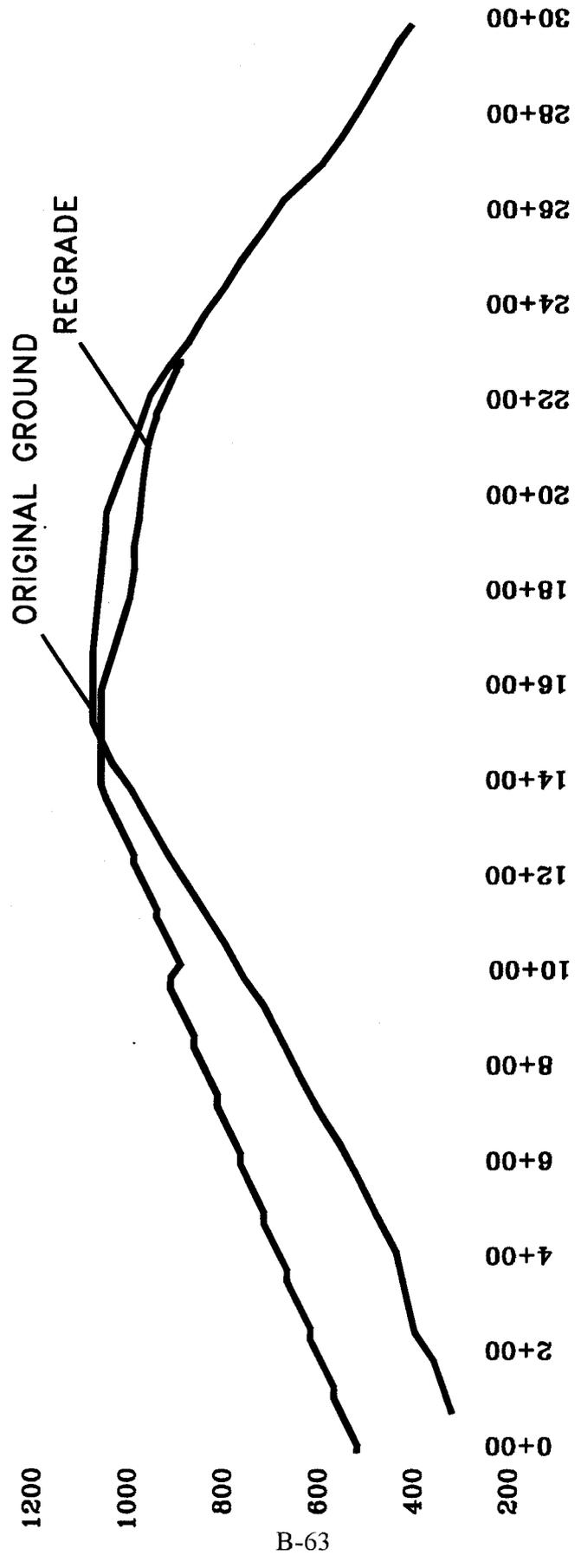
Mining Type: This is a mountaintop and area mining operation with a steep-slope AOC variance. WVDEP's ERIN database identifies this permit as an area mine without an AOC variance. However, the permit application, the sample newspaper advertisement, and seven attachments make reference to the request for an AOC variance. In addition, Form "DMM-4 Page C-2" shows WVDEP approved it with an "AOC variance—steep-slope mining." Drawings in a portion of the June 1997 permit application, entitled "Regraded Section/IBR #8," show that 50 to 230 feet of overburden will be removed to mine the lowest coal seam and that zero to 90 feet of spoil will be backfilled on the mined areas. The original surface elevations will be changed from a plus 10 feet to a minus 170 feet. There are three seams permitted to be mined on this permit area. Page "B-63" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ slightly from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: This is an active mine site moving coal. The permit area is 852.44 acres. An estimated 600 acres have been disturbed with 300 acres reclaimed. Active coal removal is taking place around Valley Fill No. 2 in Perry Branch and spoil was being placed in this fill. Spoil was no longer being placed in Valley Fill No. 4 in Robinette Branch, and this fill was being reclaimed. Valley Fill Nos. 1 and 3 have been deleted from the permit area and will not be constructed.

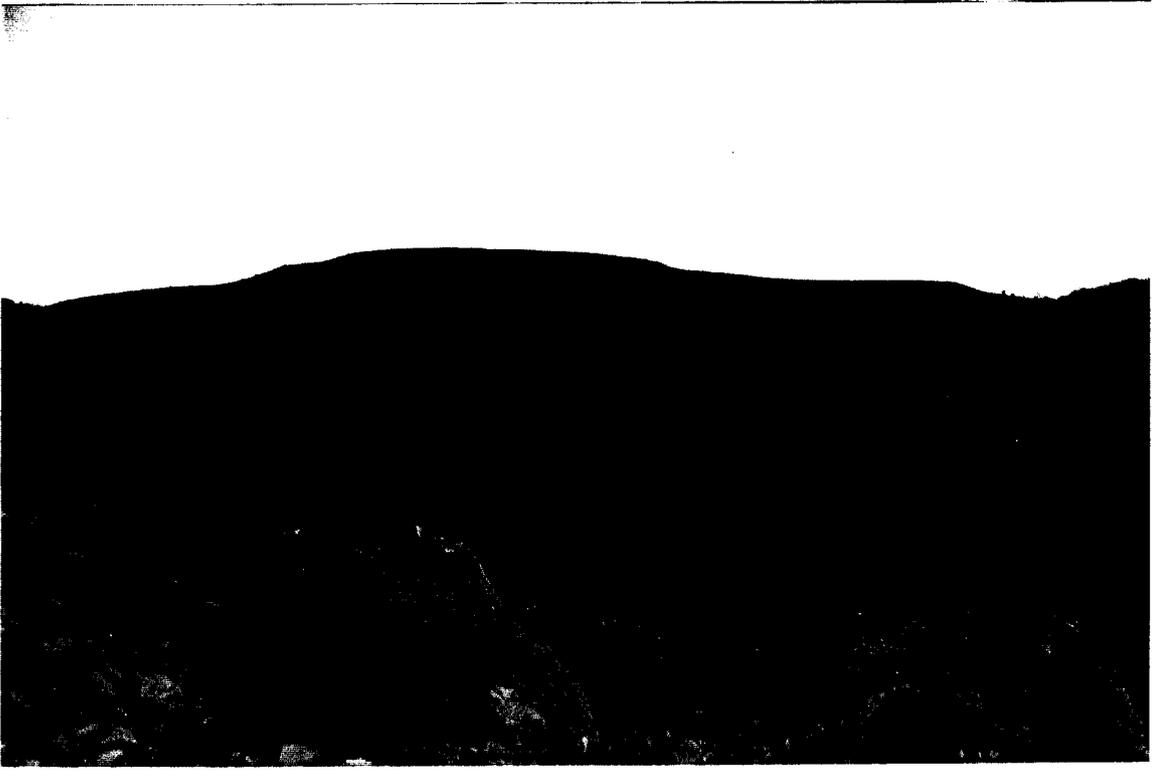
Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved by WVDEP with a postmining land use of "fish and wildlife habitat." The premining land use was listed as "forestland." The application does contain some of the required documentation for an alternate land use, but not information pertaining to the steep-slope variance. Pages "B-64" and "B-65" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area will not be returned to AOC. The premining overburden is estimated at 81.8 million cubic yards. If the permit area is mined as permitted, 98.1 million cubic yards of spoil will be generated by the mining. The valley fills will receive 59.5 million cubic yards, or 61 percent of the spoil. The permit applicant used a 20 percent swell factor to calculate the spoil. Field observations did not identify any major changes from the original drainage pattern.

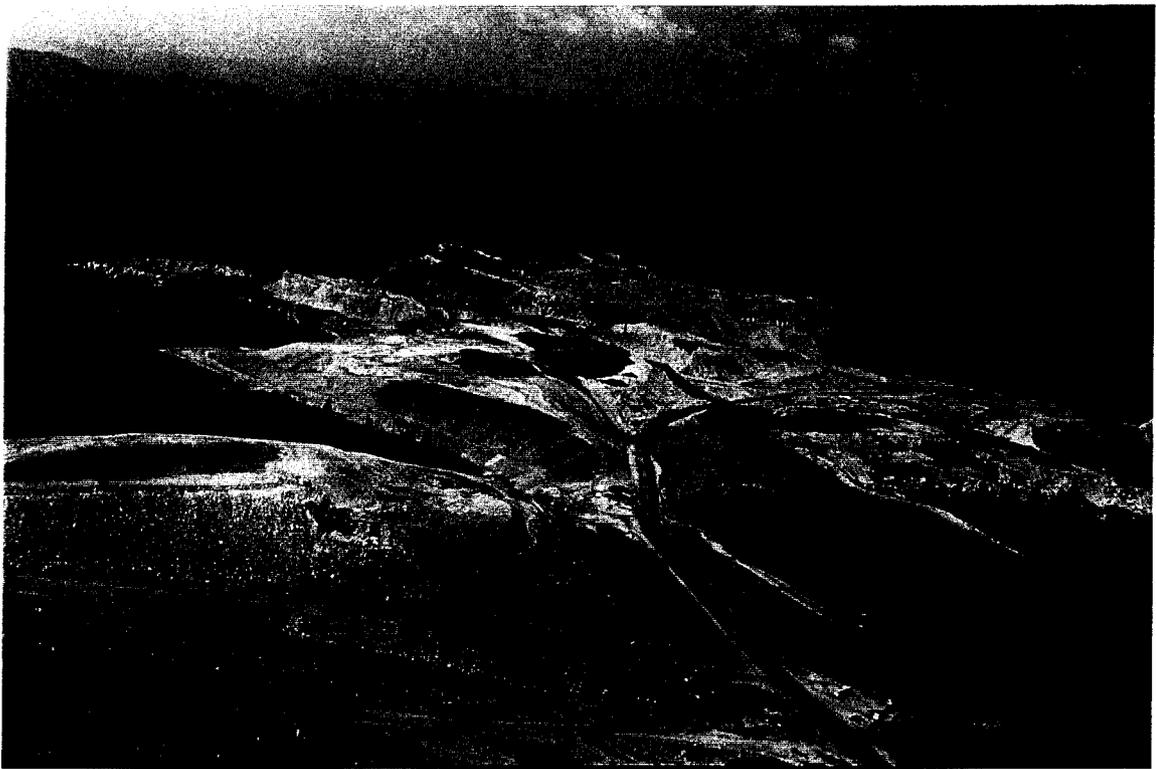
Excess Spoil Fills: Based on measurements of maps and drawings in the application the Perry Branch Fill will be approximately 5,000 feet long with an additional branch of 1,800 feet, and the Robinette Branch Fill will be approximately 4,250 feet long.



<p>Scale: </p> <p>Quad: Amherstdale</p> <p>County: Logan</p>	<p>Apogee Coal Company</p> <p>Permit S-5006-91</p> <p>Regrade Cross Section</p>
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B-64



14. Heartland Coal Company

Permit S-5055-92

State Designation: Contour/Area and Auger Operation to be Returned to AOC

Heartland Coal Company, Permit S-5055-92; Permit Issued April 15, 1993

Location: Lat.: 37° 59' 40", Long.: 82° 12' 30", in Lincoln County.

Field Inspection Date: June 24, 1998

Mining Type: This was a contour and auger mining operation with area mining of the points. There is no AOC variance for this permit area. The permittee used a highwall miner throughout the permit area. The permit application did not have any information about the premining and postmining surface configuration of the mined area. Page "B-68" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study.

Mining Status: Coal removal has been completed, and all mined areas have been reclaimed. The permit area was 613.05 acres. Approximately 355.14 acres were disturbed. The use of the highwall miner resulted in the creation of wide contour benches. A lot of the initial spoil generated by mining was placed in the valley fills. This may have left insufficient spoil to eliminate the highwalls. To complete reclamation of the highwalls, the permittee went above the highwall and pushed material over the top of the highwall. The mined points were left nearly level with minimal backfilling. Two of these points are over 1,000 feet long. There is one cut-through area that was left approximately 50 feet lower than the original ground elevation. Four of the six permitted valley fills were used for spoil storage. The permit received a Phase I bond release on October 10, 1995.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved by WVDEP with a postmining land use of "fish and wildlife habitat and recreation land." The permittee also lists the premining land use as "wildlife habitat and forestland." Pages "B-69" and "B-70" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: There is no information in the permit application about how much the original surface elevations of the point removal areas were changed by mining. The application also does not show how much spoil was to be generated by the mining.

Excess Spoil Fills: Fill Nos. 1, 2, 4, and 6 were constructed by the permittee. All of the fills have "As Built" drawings. Fill No. 1 is 1,100 feet long. Fill No. 2 is 950 feet long. Fill No. 4 is 1,400 feet long. Fill No. 6 is 1,075 feet long.

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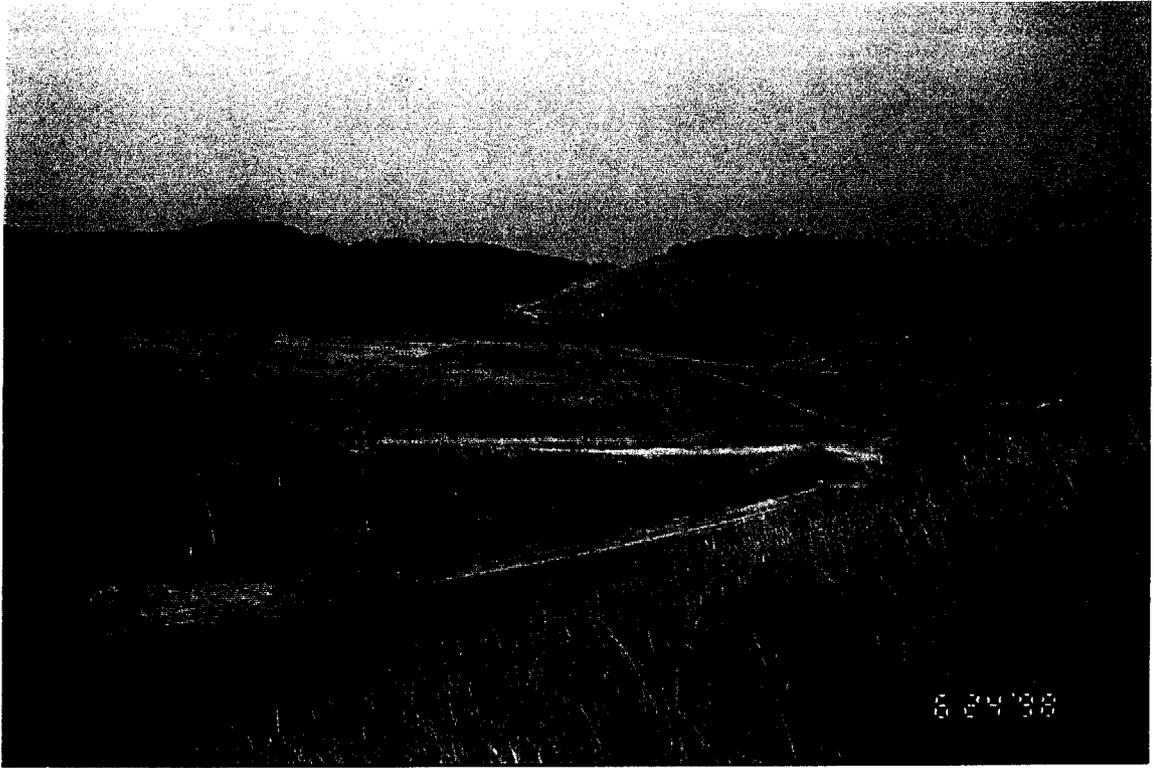
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ORIGINAL GROUND REGRADE



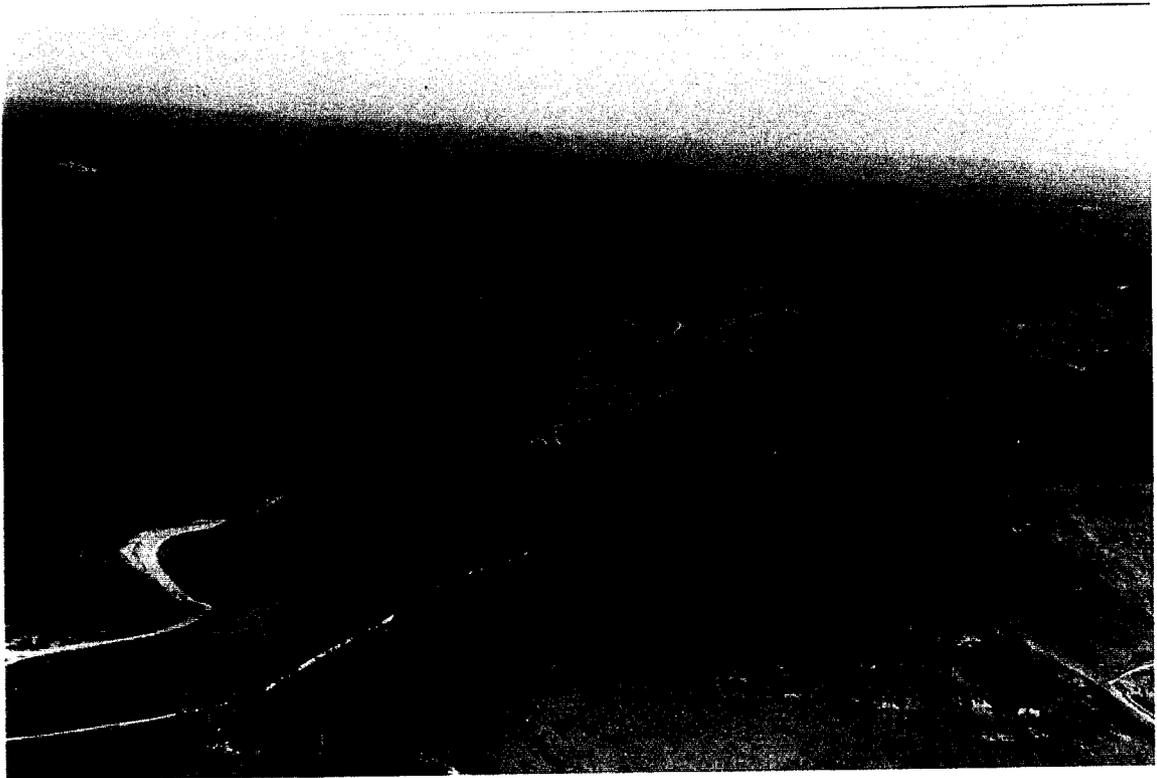
Scale: 0 200	Heartland Coal Company Permit S-5055-92 Regrade Cross Section
Quad: Trace, Ranger	
County: Lincoln	

Heartland Coal Company
Permit S-5055-92



B-69

Heartland Coal Company
Permit S-5055-92



B-70

15. Peerless Eagle Coal Company

Permit S-3021-93

B-71

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area and Contour Operation to be Returned to AOC

Peerless Eagle Coal Company, Permit S-3021-93; Permit Issued May 12, 1995

Location: Lat.: 38° 22' 18", Long.: 80° 56' 40", in Nicholas and Clay Counties.

Field Inspection Date: June 8, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, and contour mining operation. However, there is confusion about whether the mined area will be returned to AOC. Form "DMM-4 Page C-2" does not specifically grant an AOC variance. However, the permit application at pages "H-4" and "H-6" discusses a variance from AOC, and page "O-6" states that "the ridgetops will be relatively flat" after mining. The March 3, 1995, "Proposed Regraded Cross Sections..." for sections A-A, B-B, D-D, E-E, and F-F show that much, if not most, of the mined area will be backfilled to a higher elevation than the original ground level. From 70 to 160 feet will be removed to mine the lowest coal seam, and 100 to 160 feet of spoil will be backfilled. Page "B-73" contains cross sections obtained for this study.

Mining Status: This is an active mining site of 1,339.5 acres. An estimated 300 acres, including 120 reclaimed acres, had been disturbed. The reclaimed acreage is in the area of Valley Fill Nos. 8 and 22. The reclaimed area is relatively flat.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved with a postmining land use of "rangeland." The premining land use was "forestland." The permit application does contain some supporting documentation for the land use change. Most of the documentation supported the company's request for an AOC variance. Pages "B-74" and "B-75" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: It is unclear if this permit will be returned to AOC. There are 14 valley fills planned for the permit. If the permit is mined as proposed, it will generate 103.6 million cubic yards of spoil with 46.7 million cubic yards, or 45 percent, placed into fills.

Excess Spoil Fills: Based on map measurements, the following lengths will apply: Fill No. 1 will be a total of 5,100 feet long with two branches; Fill No. 3 will be 925 feet long; Fill No. 4 will be 1,000 feet long; Fill No. 6 will be 1,500 feet long; Fill No. 7 will be 2,600 feet long; Fill Nos. 8 and 22, which overlap, will be a total of 2,900 feet long; Fill No. 9 will be 5,100 feet long; Fill No. 10 will be 1,150 feet long; Fill No. 11 will be 1,100 feet long; Fill No. 12 will be 1,350 feet long; Fill No. 13 will be 2,000 feet long; Fill No. 18 will be 750 feet long; and Fill No. 19 will be 950 feet long.

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B-73

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

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Scale: 0 200

Quad: Gilboa, Swandale

County: Nicholas

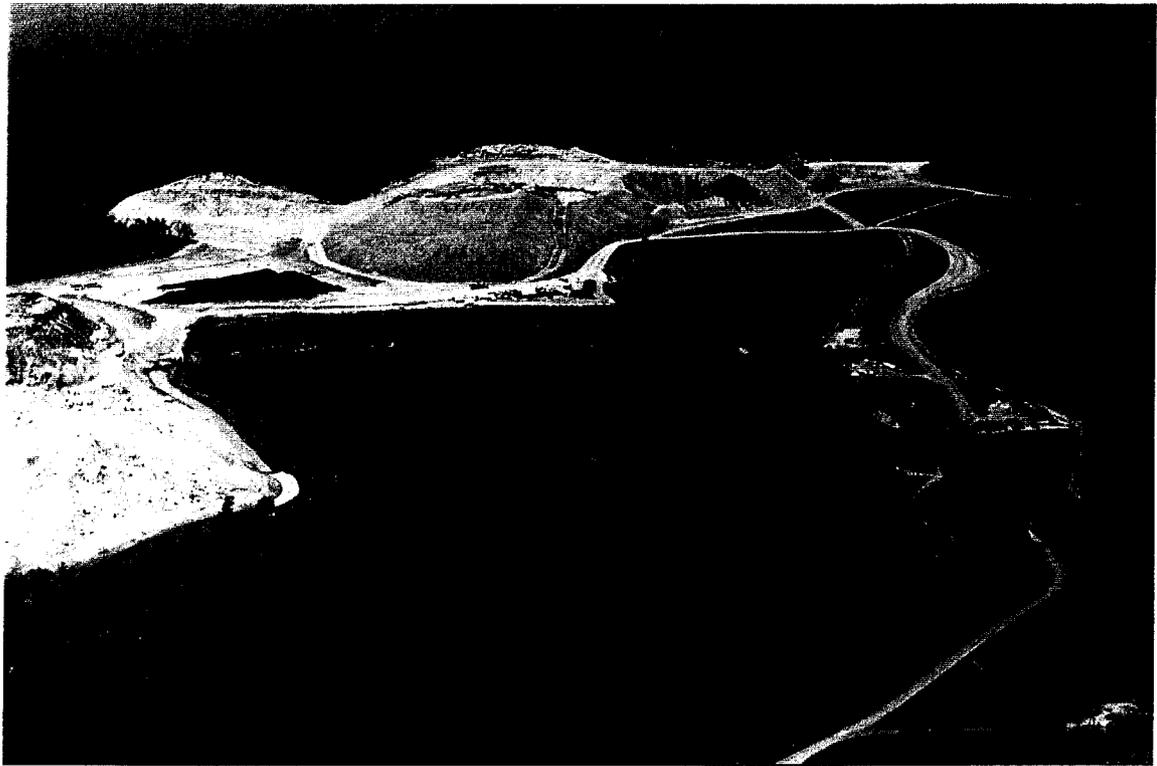
Peerless Eagle Coal Company

Permit S-3021-93

Regrade Cross Section



B-74



16. Catenary Coal Company

Permit S-3035-93

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area and Contour Operation to be Returned to AOC

Catenary Coal Company, Permit S-3035-93; Permit Issuance May 11, 1998

Location: Lat.: 37° 59' 41", Long.: 81° 33' 20", in Boone, Kanawha, and Raleigh Counties.

Field Inspection Date: June 3, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, and contour mining operation to be returned to AOC. The permit application does not explain what AOC will be. The revised February 1998, revised "After Mining Sections" show that the original elevations will change from plus 20 feet to minus 160 feet. Most of the area will be lowered after reclamation. As much as 310 feet of overburden will be removed to reach the lowest coal seam to be mined. There are areas of pre-SMCRA mining within the permit area. Nine coal seams are permitted to be mined. Page "B-78" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: This is an active mine site moving coal. The company is using a 110 cubic yard dragline to move the spoil. The permit area is 1,036 acres. Approximately 550 acres have been disturbed by the mining. Active coal removal is taking place around Valley Fill "SH-1" and spoil is being placed in this durable rock fill. Excess spoil is no longer being placed in Valley Fill "SH-3" and this fill is being reclaimed. Valley Fills "SH-2" and "SH-4" have not been constructed.

Postmining Land Use: The approved postmining land uses for this operation are "fish and wildlife habitat and recreation lands" and "forestland." The permit lists the premining land use as "forestland" and "fish and wildlife and recreation lands." The permit narrative clarifies that the primary postmining land use will be "forestland," with an emphasis on "wildlife habitat." The permit contains supporting documentation for the postmining land use. Pages "B-79" and "B-80" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area will be returned to AOC, which according to its application, the company presents to be within 160 feet of the original surface elevations. The cross section on page "B-78," which is different from the one in the application and represents another location within the permitted area, shows the elevation reduction for that area to be about 90 feet. The premining overburden is estimated at 98.4 million cubic yards. If the entire permit area is mined as planned, 123.0 million cubic yards of spoil will be generated by the mining. The valley fills will receive 42.0 million cubic yards, or 34 percent of the spoil. The permit applicant used a 25 percent swell factor to calculate the spoil data. Field observations did not identify any significant changes from the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: If the fills are completed as proposed in the application, Fill No. SH-1 will be approximately 5,750 feet long with an additional branch of 2,000 feet; Fill No. SH-2 will be approximately 2,750 feet long with an additional branch of 1,000 feet; Fill No. SH-3 is a three branched fill with branches of 3,000 feet, 1,500 feet, and 750 feet; and Fill No. SH-4 is approximately 2,800 feet long with an additional branch of 750 feet.

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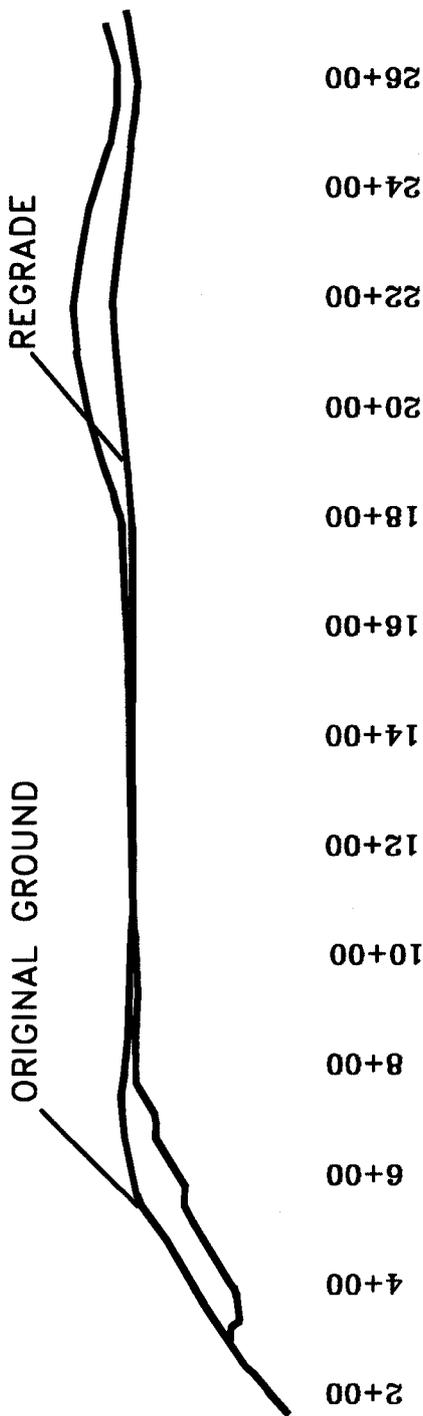
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ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE



Scale:



Quad: Eskdale, Dorothy

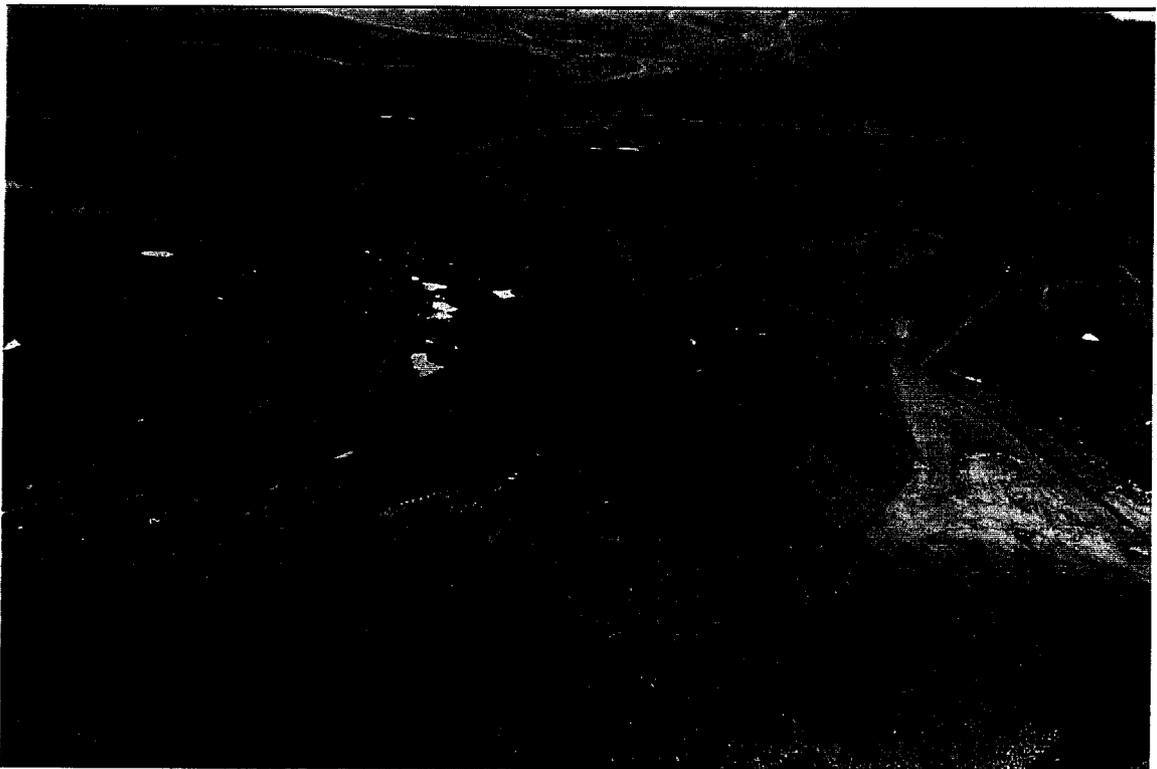
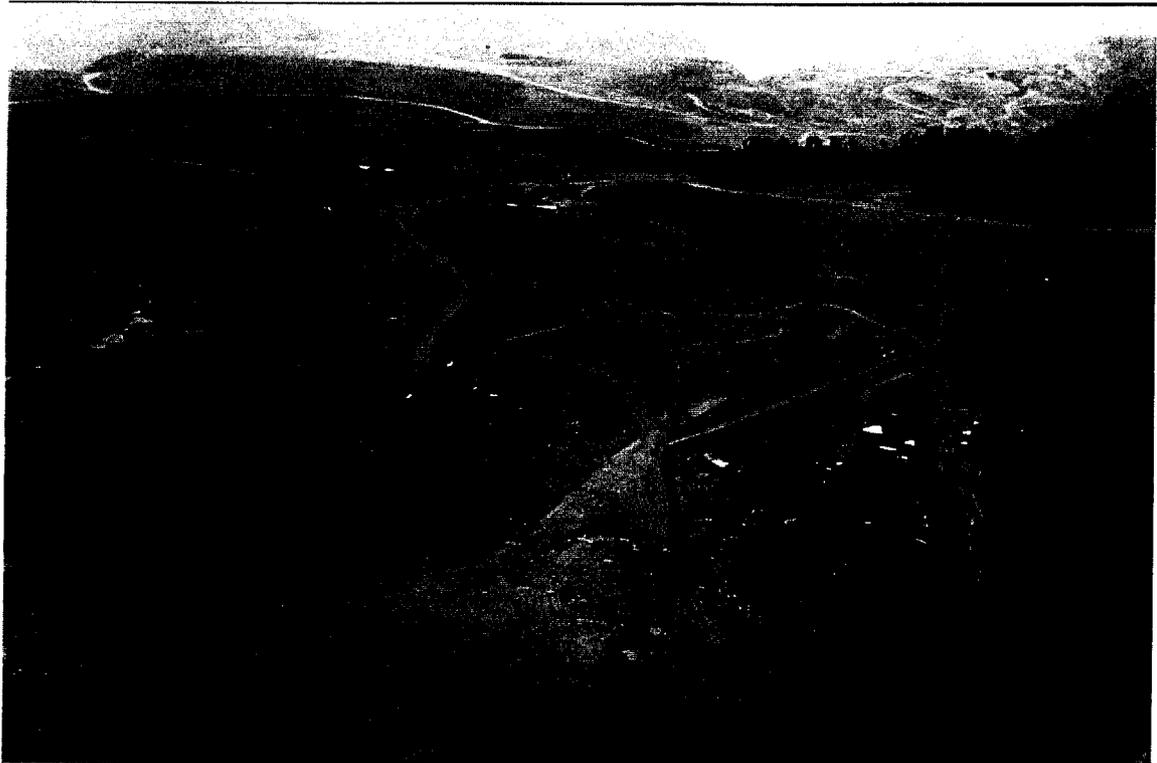
County: Kanawha

Catenary Coal Company

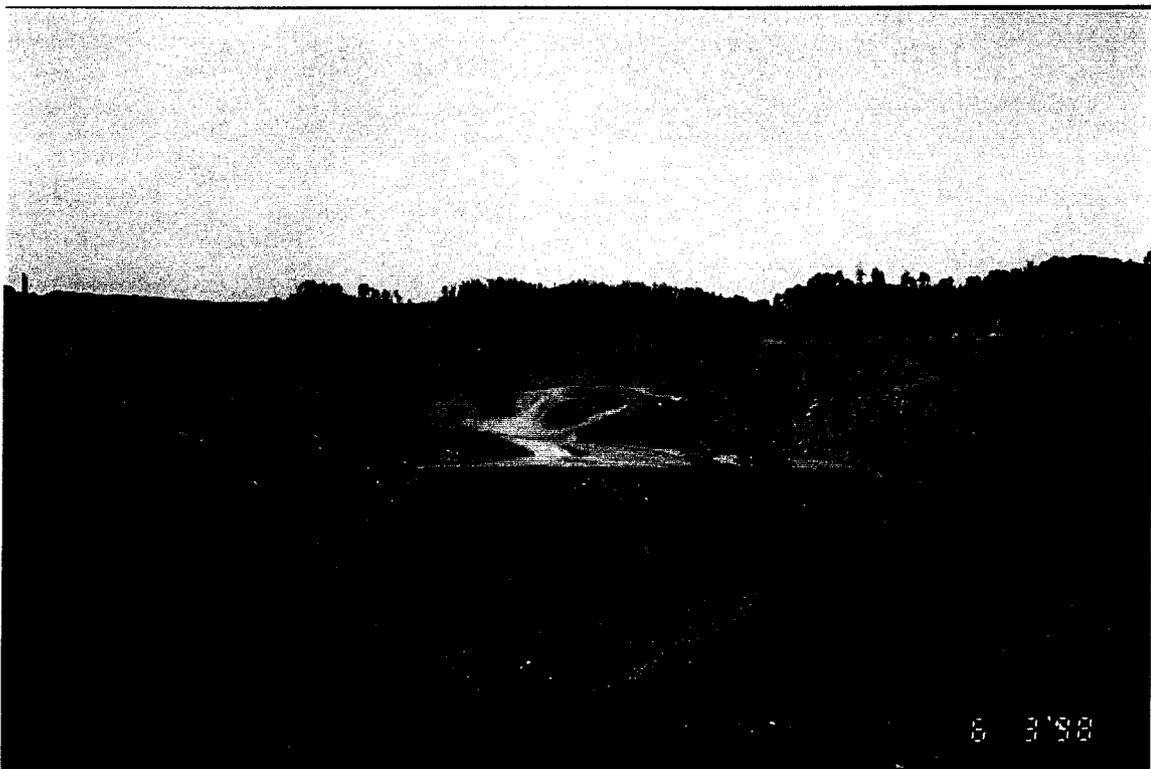
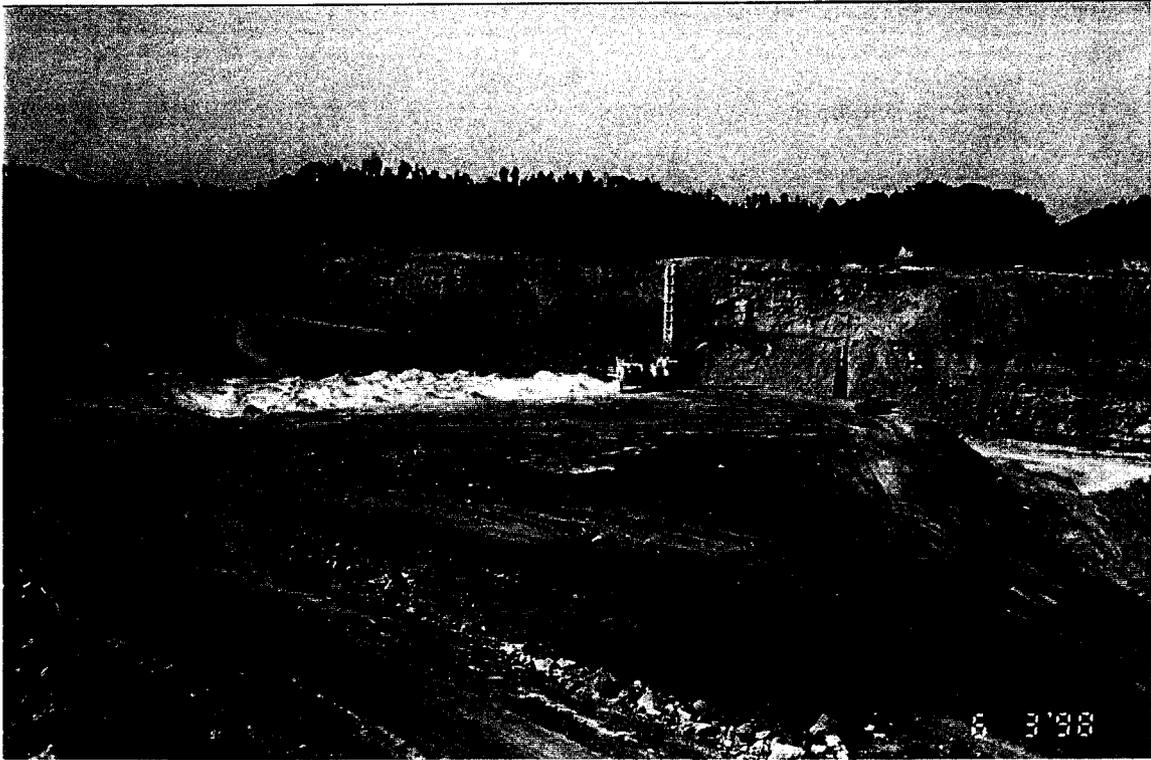
Permit S-3035-93

Regrade Cross Section

B-78



Catenary Coal Company
Permit S-3035-93



B-80

17. Mid Vol Leasing, Inc.

Permit S-4010-96

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area and Contour Operation to be Returned to AOC

Mid Vol Leasing, Inc., Permit S-4010-96; Permit Issued August 14, 1996

Location: Lat.: 37° 43' 06", Long.: 81° 39' 28", in McDowell County.

Field Inspection Date: June 29, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, and contour mining operation that will be returned to AOC. The permit application does not have a narrative explanation of what the company considers AOC to be. The revised "Regrading Cross-Sections R1-R6" and "Regrading Cross-Sections R7-R13" dated June 12, 1996, show that as much as 450 feet of overburden will be removed to mine the lowest coal seam and that as much as 410 feet of spoil will be backfilled on the mined areas. Regrading Cross-Section "R3" shows an area where the original surface elevation will be lowered 100 feet after mining. The other cross-sections show backfilling to within 50 feet of the original elevations. There are eight coal seams permitted to be mined. Page "B-83" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this report. These may differ slightly from information in the permit application.

Mining Status: This is an active mine site that is removing coal. The permit area is 545.67 acres and an estimated 80 acres had been disturbed at the time of this inspection. Mining was taking place in the area of Valley Fill No. 2 and spoil was being placed in this fill. Valley Fill Nos. 3 and 5 had not been constructed. The field investigation found that poor coal quality may prevent the permittee from mining the area as planned.

Postmining Land Use: The permit was approved by WVDEP with a postmining land use of "forestland." However, the narrative in the application also mentions "wildlife use." The premining land use was "forestland." This permit did not require any alternative land use findings. Pages "B-84" and "B-85" contain pictures of the current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area is to be returned to AOC. The premining overburden is estimated at 37.6 million cubic yards. The permit applicant used a 40 percent swell factor to calculate that 52.7 million cubic yards of spoil will be generated if the entire permit area is mined as proposed. Of this, 17.6 million cubic yards, or 33 percent, will be placed in the valley fills.

Excess Spoil Fills: The proposed lengths for the three valley fills are: Fill No. 2 will be 1,500 feet long with an additional branch of 950 feet; Fill No. 3 will be 2,150 feet long; and Fill No. 5 will be 2,150 feet long with an additional branch of 2,100 feet.

1200

1000

800

B-83

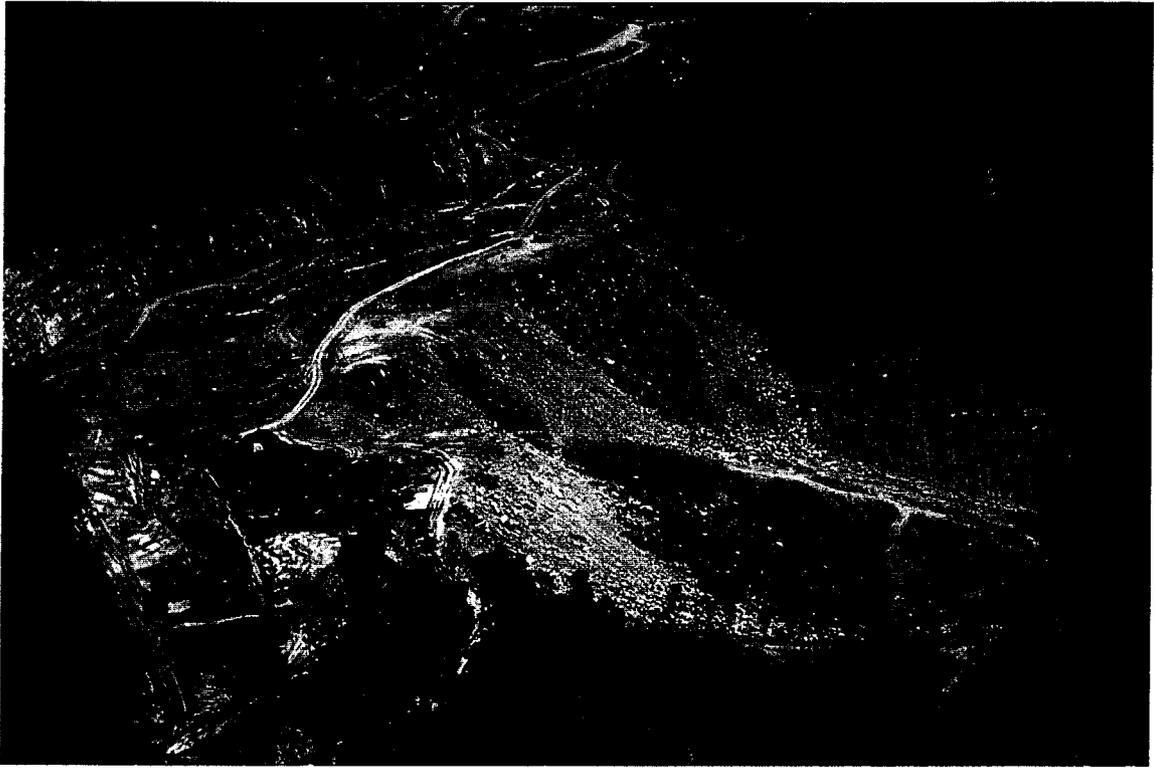
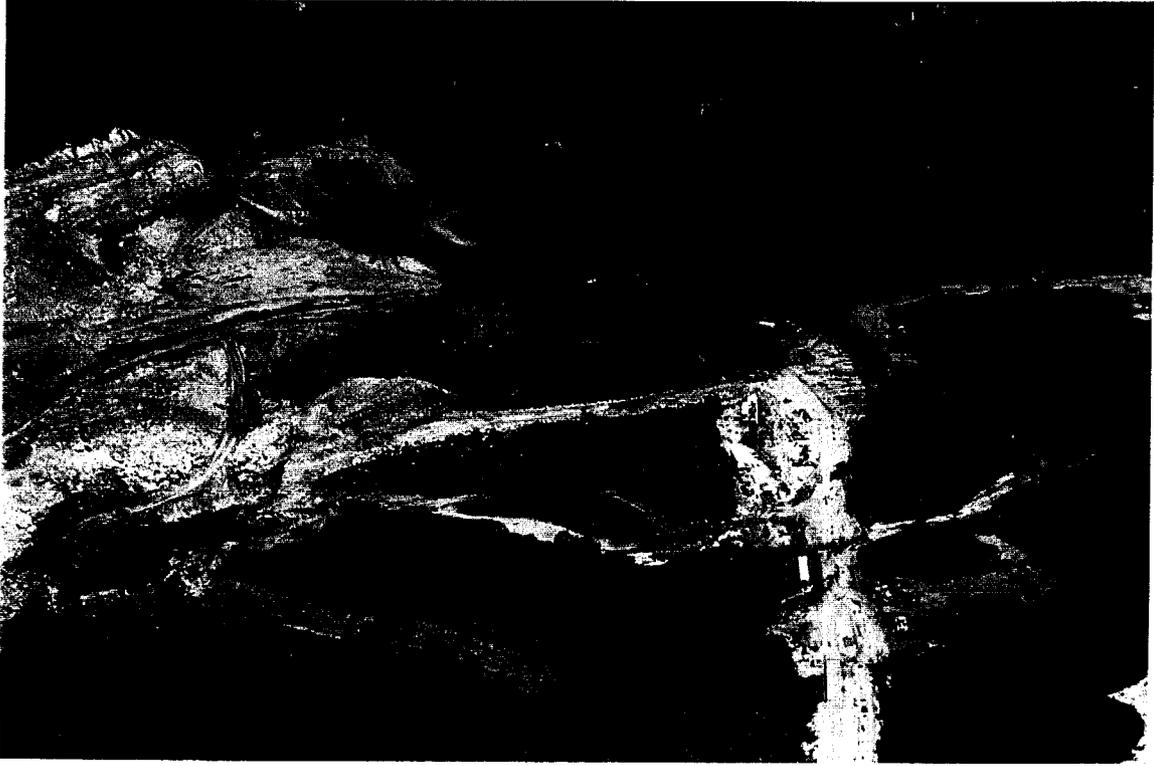
600

400

0+00
2+00
4+00
6+00
8+00
10+00
12+00
14+00
16+00
18+00
20+00
22+00
24+00
26+00
28+00
30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND
REGRADE

Scale: 0 200	Mid Vol Leasing, Inc.
Quad: McDowell	Permit S-4010-96
County: Keystone	Regrade Cross Section





18. Hobet Mining, Inc.

Permit S-5003-96

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area/Contour and Auger Operation to be Returned to AOC

Hobet Mining, Inc., Permit S-5003-96; Permit Issued September 4, 1996

Location: Lat.: 38° 04' 19", Long.: 81° 57' 55", in Boone and Lincoln Counties.

Field Inspection Date: June 9, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, contour, and auger mining operation that will be returned to AOC. The permit does not contain a specific narrative of what the permittee considers AOC. Lines 1 through 6 on the September 1995 "Regrade Cross Section" show that the postmining elevations will be changed from a plus 130 feet to a minus 210 feet from the original elevation. However, most of the mined area will be lowered. As much as 360 feet of overburden will be removed to reach the lowest coal seam. Page "B-88" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ slightly from the information in the application.

Mining Status: This is an active mining site using a 72 cubic yard dragline. The permit area is 2,088 acres with an estimated 200 acres disturbed at the time of inspection. None of the disturbed area has had final reclamation. Valley Fill Nos. 50, 51, 52, and 53 were under construction.

Postmining Land Use: This permit was approved with a postmining land use of "fish and wildlife habitat and recreation lands." This is an alternate land use from the premining land use of forestland. The permit contains some supporting documentation for the land use change.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved, the permit will be returned to AOC, which is identified as being within 210 feet of the original elevations. The premining overburden is estimated at 312.3 million cubic yards. If the permit area is mined as proposed, 384.1 million cubic yards of spoil will be generated. The valley fills will receive 168.3 million cubic yards, or 44 percent of the spoil. The permit applicant used a 23 percent swell factor to calculate the excess spoil. Field observations did not identify any major changes from the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: Fill No. 50 will be 13,500 feet long with 21 branches of 750 feet, 2,000 feet, 450 feet, 800 feet, 1,250 feet, 3,750 feet, 700 feet, 900 feet, 600 feet, 500 feet, 900 feet, 1,500 feet, 900 feet, 100 feet, 250 feet, 1,350 feet, 2,000 feet, 750 feet, 1,150 feet, 500 feet, and 350 feet. Fill No. 51 will be 2,800 feet long with two additional branches of 750 feet and 500 feet. Fill No. 52 will be 3,400 feet long with an additional branch of 600 feet. Fill No. 53 will be 5,600 feet long with four additional branches of 1,750 feet, 1,700 feet, 750 feet, and 500 feet. Fill No. 54 will be 1,500 feet long. Fill No. 55 will be 1,600 feet long. Fill No. 56 will be 3,700 feet long with two additional branches of 750 feet each. These lengths were taken from measurements of the November 1995 "Plan View of Underdrains."

1200

1000

800

600

400

200
0+00

2+00
4+00

6+00
8+00

10+00
12+00

14+00
16+00

18+00
20+00

22+00
24+00

26+00
28+00

30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

B-88

Scale:



Quad:

Mud

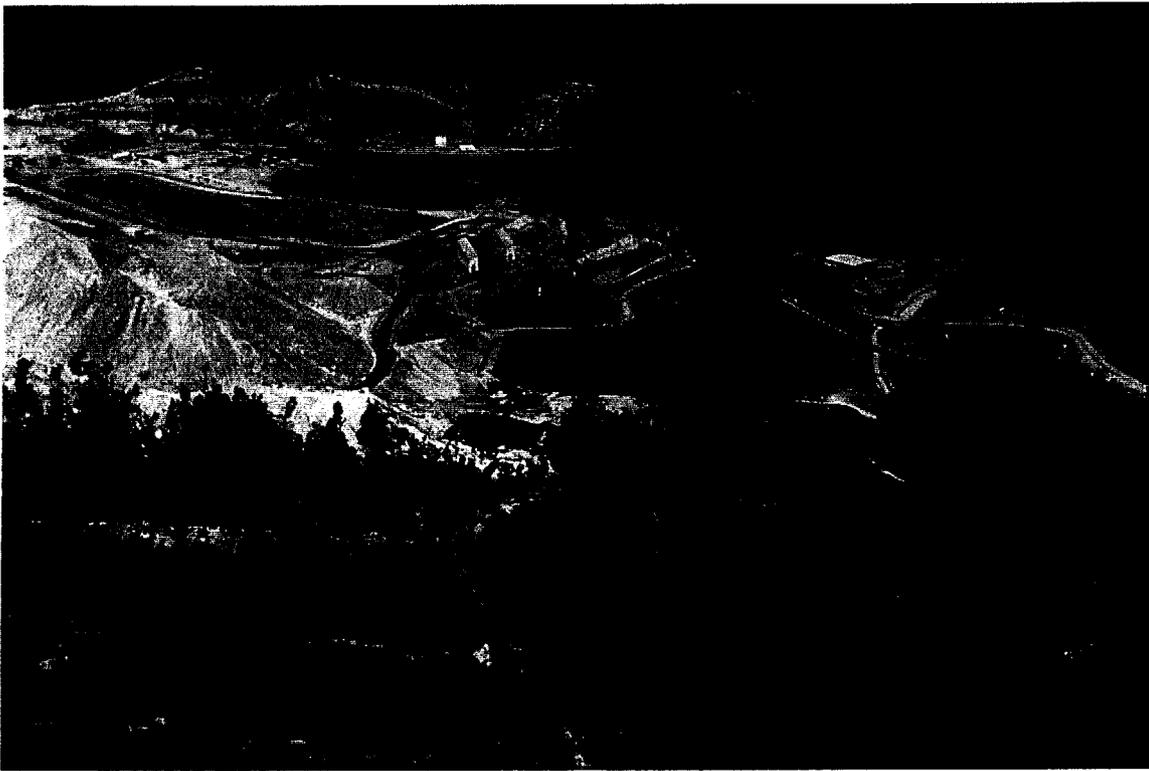
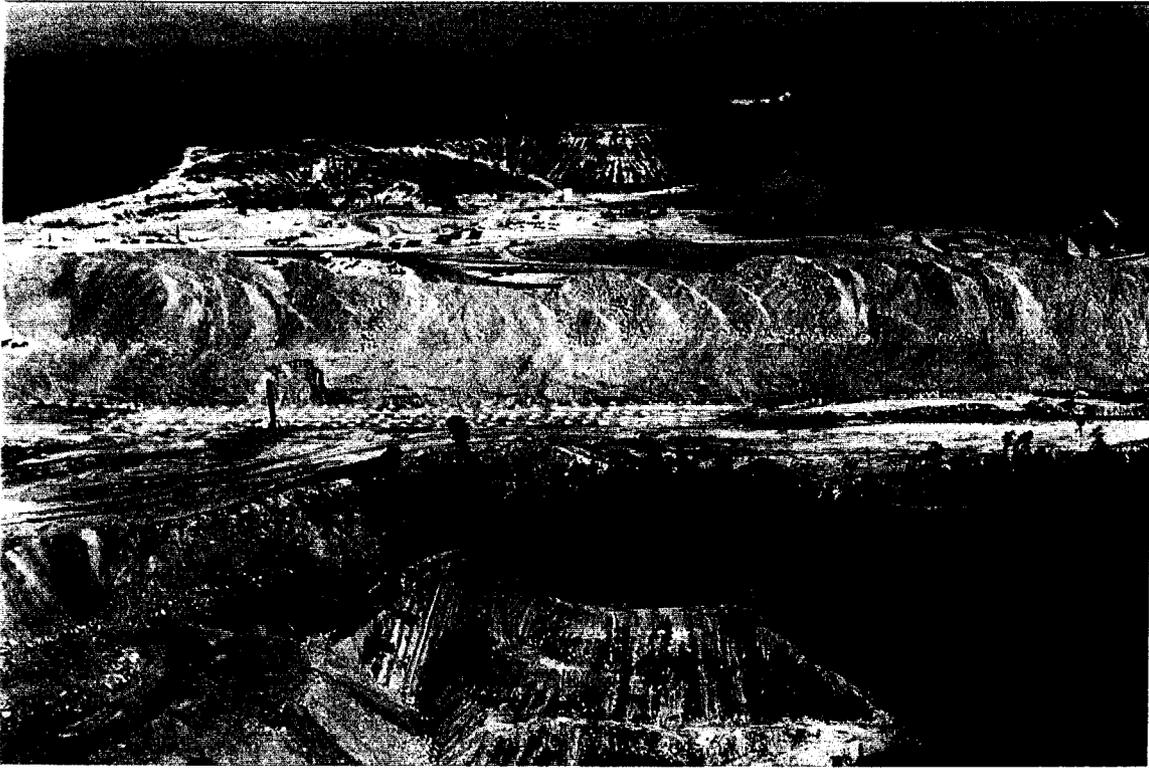
County:

Boone, Lincoln

Hobet Mining, Inc.

Permit S-5003-96

Regrade Cross Section





19. Independence Coal Company, Inc.

Permit S-5023-96

State Designation: Mountaintop/Area/Contour and Auger Operation to be Returned to AOC

Independence Coal Company, Inc., Permit S-5023-96, Issued August 20, 1997

Location: Lat.: 37° 54' 20", Long.: 81° 35' 07", in Boone and Raleigh Counties.

Field Inspection Date: June 10, 1998

Mining Type: This is a mountaintop, area, contour, and auger mining operation that will be returned to AOC. The permit application does not contain a specific explanation of what the permittee considers AOC will be. A portion of the permit application dated April 16, 1997, entitled "Revised Cross Sections/Attachment 0-1," shows that the original surface elevation will be changed from a plus 30 feet to a minus 140 feet. The cross section shows that as much as 580 feet of overburden will be removed to reach the lowest coal seam. Page "B-93" contains premining and postmining cross sections obtained for this study. These may differ from information in the application.

Mining Status: This is an active mine site removing coal. The permit area is 1,676.23 acres, and an estimated 200 acres had been disturbed at the time of this inspection. None of the disturbed area has had final reclamation. Mining at the time of this inspection was in the general area of Third Left Fork and Bradley Fork. The permittee was using a highwall miner at the time, which has resulted in the creation of extra wide benches. The company was assembling a 55 cubic yard shovel for future mining of the area. Valley Fills No. 2 and 3 were under construction. Valley Fills No. 1, 4, and 5 had not been constructed.

Postmining Land Use: There is an apparent conflict about the approved postmining land use. Item "O-10" of the permit application lists "fish and wildlife habitat and recreation lands" as the proposed postmining land use; however, attachments "F-4" and "F-6" state that the postmining land use will be "forestland." The premining land use was "forestland." Pages "B-94" and "B-95" contain pictures of current site conditions.

Approximate Original Contour: As approved by WVDEP, the permit area is to be returned to AOC. The proposed mining will generate 472.4 million cubic yards of spoil, and 207.4 million cubic yards, or 44 percent will be placed in five valley fills. Valley Fills No. 1, 2, and 3, which are essentially one unit, will receive 200.2 million cubic yards of the spoil. Field observations did not identify any major changes from the original drainage pattern.

Excess Spoil Fills: If the fills are completed as proposed, the following approximate lengths will apply. Valley Fill No. 1 will be 15,250 feet long with two branches of 2,125 feet and 2,250 feet in length. Valley Fill No. 2 will be 4,750 feet long. Valley Fill No. 3 will be 4,625 feet long with one branch of 2,000 feet. It was noted that the lower 2,625 feet of Fill No. 2 and the lower 1,750 feet of Fill No. 3 were to be overlapped by Fill No. 1. These lengths were not included in the length of Fill No. 1. Valley Fill No. 4 will be 2,100 feet long. Valley Fill No. 5 will be 2,050 feet long with one branch of 700 feet.

1200

1000

800

600

400

200

0+00 2+00 4+00 6+00 8+00 10+00 12+00 14+00 16+00 18+00 20+00 22+00 24+00 26+00 28+00 30+00

ORIGINAL GROUND

REGRADE

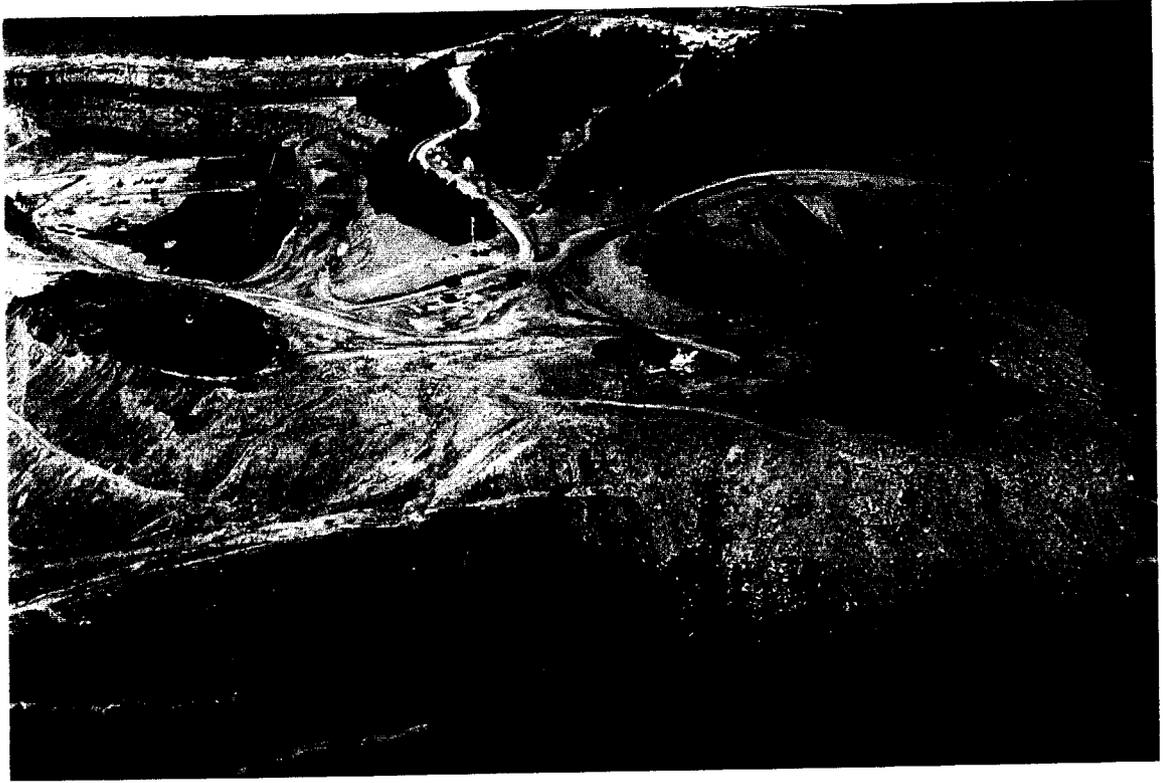
B-93

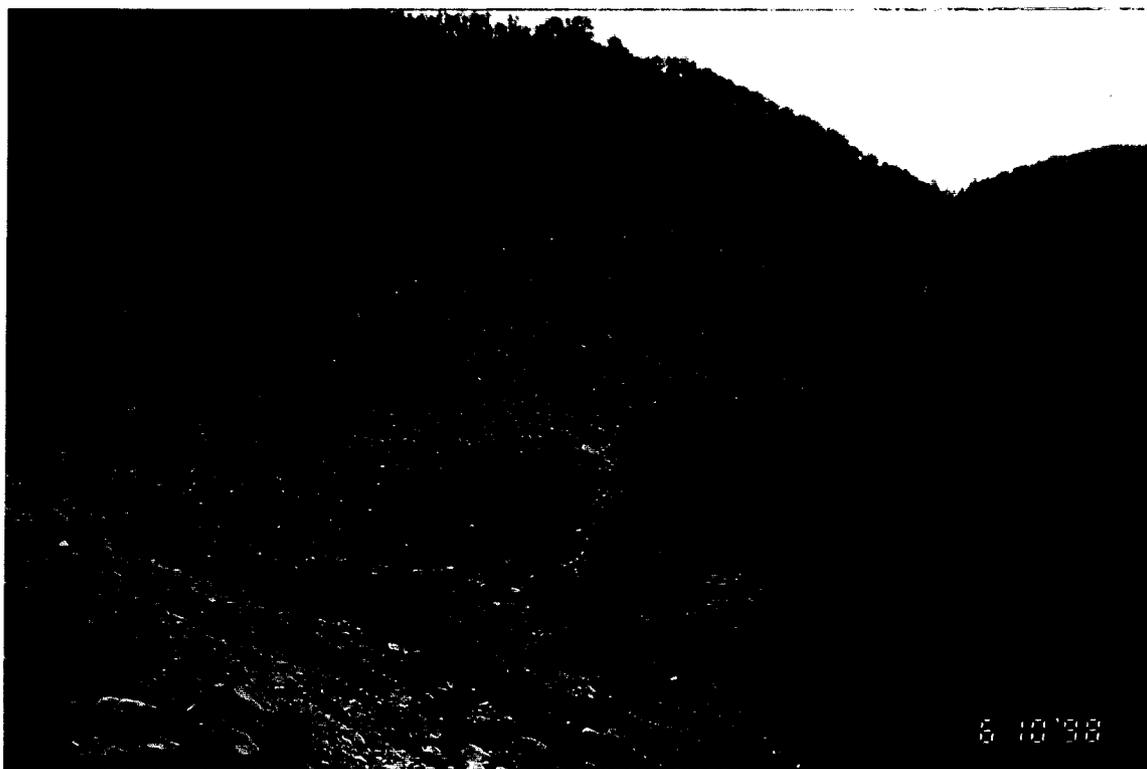
Scale: 0 200

Quad: Whitesville

County: Boone, Raleigh

Independence Coal Company, Inc.
Permit S-5023-96
Regrade Cross Section





B-95