

# New Mexico

## Location of some of the earliest coal mining in the country

Coal mining in New Mexico dates from the time of Spanish settlement. Significant coal production began in the 1860's with use by the Army and the railroads. Around 20 percent of the state is underlain by coal deposits; however, few coal fields had been significantly developed prior to enactment of the Surface Mining Law. The majority of coal-bearing regions lie under Indian lands located within the state borders (See Navajo and Hopi section on pages 76 and 78.) New Mexico's coal reserves are estimated to be 4.6 billion tons, about one percent of the national reserve.

The New Mexico regulatory program was conditionally approved December 31, 1980. Its Abandoned Mine Lands Program was approved July 17, 1981.

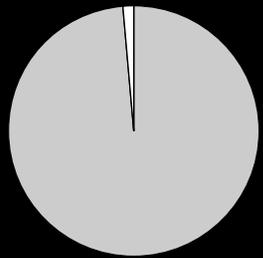
New Mexico has spent approximately \$8.5 million on high-priority Abandoned Mine Land reclamation projects, largely on portal and vertical opening closures, subsidence stabilization, and extinguishing coal waste fires. About \$2.8 million of this amount has been expended on non-coal projects (vertical openings and portals). In total, this work has safeguarded over 1,000 hazardous mine openings and reclaimed more than 1,000 acres of land, mostly for grazing use.

The Office of Surface Mining has responsibility for abating Abandoned Mine Land emergencies in New Mexico, and has completed 15 projects involving the elimination of vertical openings and stabilization of subsidence.

More than 25,000 acres of land that have been significantly impacted by mining remain to be reclaimed in New Mexico, including more than 20,000 abandoned mine hazards. New Mexico estimates the cost of safeguarding and reclaiming these hazards to be over \$3 million. No comprehensive inventory of abandoned mines (either coal or non-coal) has been completed in New Mexico; however, identified Abandoned Mine Land hazards still requiring reclamation include over \$2 million of high priority coal-related projects (largely coal waste fires and portal closures) and \$1.5 million of environmental (Priority 3) projects (largely gob areas). There is also about \$400 thousand in high-priority non-coal projects identified (portals and vertical openings). New Mexico has a relatively small Abandoned Mine Land reclamation program and receives about \$2 million annually for reclamation.

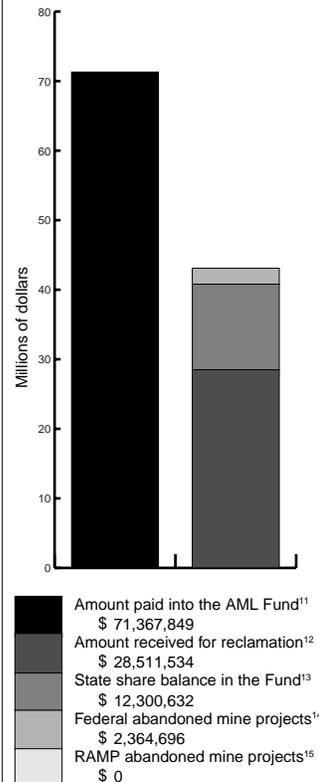
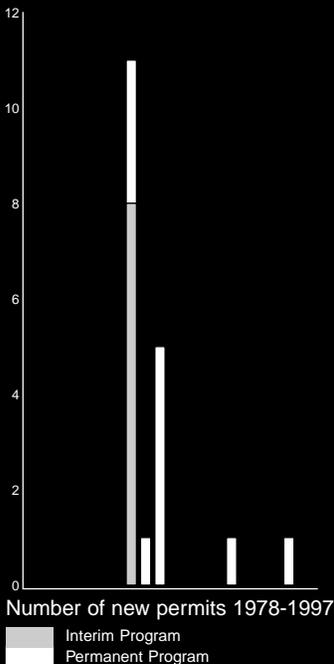
## coal production<sup>10</sup>

	1978		1997		1978-1997 Rank
	Amount	Percent U.S. Total	Amount	Percent U.S. Total	
<b>Tons Produced</b>					
Surface	2,053,932	0.8%	15,648,688	2.6%	11
Underground	356,840	0.2%	0	0%	14
Lignite	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,410,772</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>15,648,688</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Number of Producing Mines</b>					
Surface (bituminous coal)	5	0.1%	6	0.2%	17
Underground	2	0.07%	0	0%	14
Lignite (surface)	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Mine Production</b>					
Average	344,396	484.6%	2,608,114	991.0%	
>1,000,000 tons	1	2.0%	5	2.4%	
300,000-1,000,000 tons	2	0.9%	1	0.2%	
<300,000 tons	4	0.07%	0	0%	



Production tonnage 1978-1997

■ U.S. Total  
 □ New Mexico Coal Production



# Active mining and reclamation<sup>16</sup>

	1978	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	Total
<b>Number of New Permits</b>																					
Surface Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	18
Underground Mining	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Acreage Permitted</b>																					
Surface Mining	0 43,158	8,480	9,331	11,772	0	8,040	6,740	24,570	5	0	0	0	0	7,202	0	0	0	17,702	0	137,000	
Underground Mining	0 4,361	0	0	0	0	0	5,114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,475	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Acreage of Bond Release</b>																					
Interim Prog. (final)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phase 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	49	193	13	1,120	0	0	0	0	0	1,375	
Phase 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	331	0	0	344	
Phase 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	331	0	0	344	
<b>Inspections</b>																					
Complete	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	63	52	51	54	53	59	56	56	57	55	64	64	60	50	60	854
Partial	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	120	97	108	95	113	138	97	108	118	114	143	149	59	80	123	1,662
Oversight	0	0	0	0	NA	20	18	24	NA	15	12	7	7	9	9	7	7	8	12	2	157
<b>Citations Issued</b>																					
NOV's	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14	31	35	33	22	26	17	12	30	16	14	27	12	3	9	301
CO's	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	8	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	19

# Abandoned coal mine reclamation 1977-1997<sup>17</sup>

	Reclaimed Problems			Remaining Problems	
	OSM Emergency	State Emergency	Non-Emergency	Number	Estimated Cost
<b>Priority 1 &amp; 2 (Protection of Public Health, Safety, and General Welfare) and Emergency Projects</b>					
Clogged Streams (miles)	0	0	0	0	\$ 0
Clogged Stream Lands (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Highwalls (feet)	0	0	0	0	0
Impoundments (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Piles & Embankments (acres)	0	0	7.5	6.0	121,000
Slides (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Gases (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment & Facilities (count)	0	0	21.0	11.0	108,000
Water Bodies (count)	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial Waste (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Portals (count)	3.0	0	494.0	50.0	525,716
Polluted Water: Agriculture & Industrial (count)	0	0	4.0	2.0	106,500
Polluted Water: Human Consumption (count)	0	0	1.0	0	0
Subsidence (acres)	7.5	0	37.4	2.0	140,000
Surface Burning (acres)	0.4	0	35.0	1.0	700,000
Underground Mine Fires (acres)	0.2	0	32.0	0	0
Vertical Openings (count)	2	0	715.0	132.0	525,700
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$ 2,226,916</b>
<b>Priority 3 (Environmental Restoration)</b>					
Bench (acres)	0	0	3.0	10.0	\$ 53,485
Industrial Waste (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment & Facilities (count)	0	0	11.0	2.0	1,000
Gob (acres)	0	0	121.4	170.0	1,251,357
Highwall (feet)	0	0	0	0	0
Haul Road (acres)	0	0	6.0	8.0	28,604
Mine Opening (count)	0	0	4.0	15.0	22,000
Pit (acres)	0	0	2.0	0	0
Spoil Area (acres)	0	0	2.0	39.5	58,366
Slurry (acres)	0	0	2.0	0	0
Slump (acres)	0	0	0	0	0
Water (gallons/minute)	0	0	0	3.0	25,000
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$ 1,439,812</b>