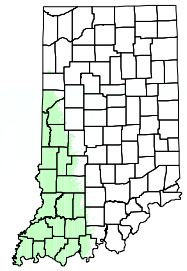




# Indiana Coal Mine Regulatory Program



The Division of Reclamation administers Indiana's Surface Coal Mine Reclamation Act following the grant of primacy to the state by the United States Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining, in 1982. Coal mining contributes \$5-6 billion annually to the Indiana economy - \$116 million alone from the employment of approximately 2500 mine workers. Indiana coal production places it consistently within the top ten coal producing states. The burning of coal accounts for 95% of the electricity produced in Indiana. The effectiveness of the Indiana program in balancing the national need for affordable energy while minimizing the environmental effects of mining is witnessed by relatively low cost of electricity within the state and national recognition for high quality mine reclamation in the state by the Office of Surface Mining and other national organizations.



Columbia Mine



Deer Ridge Mine



Ayshire Mine - Blue Grass Creek Area

The Regulatory Program is responsible for permitting and compliance verification, enforcement and financial assurance of comprehensive environmental protection performance standards related to surface and underground coal mining operations. Half of the 3.2 million cost of the regulatory program is provided through Title V federal grants through the Office of Surface Mining on a matching basis. The other half is provided through fees levied on coal production. Maintaining adequate fees to support the mandated activities of the agency has been a constant concern in recent years. The Division meets its statutory mandates through an annual work effort that includes:

- Permits approximately **4,400** acres for coal mining each year;
- Permits, inspects, and monitors compliance on **77,615** acres of active coal mines in 14 counties;
- Approves the return of over **7,800** acres of land to the landowner following reclamation each year;
- A repository for **\$325.5 million** of performance bond ensuring proper reclamation of mined lands;
- Conducts **2100** field inspections annually;
- Oversees the timely reclamation of over **5000** disturbed acres/year of mined ground;
- Monitors over **8,000** blasts with potential impact to more than **1,500** homes within ½ mile of a mine;



Sky-Point Mine 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gold Award Winner

