

Mining Regulatory Timeline

1922 – Maryland General Assembly passes first deep coal mining laws on miner's safety and establishes the Bureau of Mines.

1929 – First regulations approved to supplement new coal mining laws.

1955 - Maryland General Assembly passes first surface mining legislation for coal.

1967 - The General Assembly passed a comprehensive law requiring that mined area be backfilled and all disturbed areas vegetated, establishes the Maryland Land Reclamation Committee and requires mine operators to get licenses, and set out permit application requirements.

1974 – The General Assembly passed an amendment to the Law prohibiting coal mining on state-owned land.

1977 – The federal government passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) establishing a nationwide program to regulate surface coal mining activities. Under the law, each state that establishes federally approved enforcement programs has the primary responsibility for enforcing mining regulations in the state. If a state lacks these programs, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in the U.S. Department of Interior implements the federal law.

1977 – First statewide comprehensive mining law for non-coal mining became effective

1980 - Maryland receives federal approval to implement State regulatory program on coal mining.

1989 – Regulations were developed to clarify the law and establish procedures for non-coal mining

1990 – Provision added to regulatory process for non-coal mining to allow for public participation

1991 – Law changed to provide for a zone of influence around limestone quarries in central Maryland for repair of sinkholes and replacement of water supplies impacted by non-coal mining operations