

Ohio's coal mining history



1800

Coal mining began in Ohio and for the first 150 years was an unregulated industry.

1939

By the World War II era, large excavating equipment, new drilling techniques and newly developed explosives helped make large earth-moving operations possible.

1949

A strengthened version of the Strip Coal Mining Act created the Division of Reclamation within the Department of Agriculture.

1972

Nearly 450,000 acres of land had been surface mined and 6,000 underground coal mines existed below 600,000 acres of land.

1982

Ohio's regulatory and Abandoned Mine Land programs were approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

1977

Aug. 3, Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). This Act established stringent national standards for coal mining and reclamation. SMCRA created the federal Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

Ohio continues to collect coal severance taxes through the State Abandoned Mine Land Program at a rate of 7 cents per ton. The Federal Abandoned Mine Land Program is funded by a surface mine fee of 35 cents per ton and 15 cents per ton for underground mined coal.

2011

1800

Ohio's first state law regulating coal mining, the Strip Coal Mining Act, became effective. This law required Ohio mine operators to have a state-issued license and, to ensure that reclamation would be performed, to pay a bond of \$100 for each acre of land mined.

1947

A far-reaching revision of the strip mine law took effect in Ohio. This law required regrading of the mine spoil to approximate pre-mining contour of the land, replacement of topsoil and the establishment of a successful vegetation cover by the mine operator prior to the state's release of reclamation bond. At the time, Ohio had the most comprehensive strip mine law in the nation.

1972

Ohio and other coal mining states continue to regulate mining in their own state, meeting or exceeding federal standards approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

1980

Reports were filed for 151 coal-mining operations. Coal production was reported from 79 of these operations. The total value of coal mined was nearly \$1.15 billion.

2012

2010