

## ADEQ's Mission

To protect, enhance and restore the natural environment for the well-being of all Arkansans



## Other Contacts

- **US Department of Interior  
Office of Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement**  
1951 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20240
- **Mine Safety and  
Health Administration**  
700 W. Capitol, Room 2420  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-324-5281
- **Water Division**  
Arkansas Dept. of  
Environmental Quality  
501-682-0656

## ADEQ: What We Do

The Department of Environmental Quality is an agency of the state of Arkansas. We are headquartered in North Little Rock and have offices and inspectors throughout the state.



Our regulatory programs for air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste, regulated storage tanks and mining help protect the environment. We issue operating permits for businesses and farms and monitor for compliance.

We also manage many proactive programs to assist businesses, educators and the public with regulatory, recycling and other issues.

**Helpline: (501) 682-0923**

**E-mail: [info@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:info@adeq.state.ar.us)**

Arkansas Department of  
Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72218

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## Coal Mining and Reclamation



*The Arkansas Surface Coal  
Mining and Reclamation Act  
The Arkansas Surface Coal  
Mining and Reclamation Code*

**ADEQ**  
A R K A N S A S  
Department of Environmental Quality

# Introduction

In 1977, Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This law established performance standards for coal mining operations for protecting society and the environment from the adverse effects of coal mining operations.

In 1979, the state legislature passed the Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act of 1979. This act authorized the state to develop, adopt, issue and amend rules and regulations pertaining to surface coal mining and reclamation operations. These regulations must be consistent with, but no more restrictive than, the federal regulations. The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission in 1980 adopted Regulation No. 20, the Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Code.

The ADEQ Surface Mining and Reclamation Division handles the reclamation of abandoned coal mines that existed prior to regulations. A trust fund is contributed to by a fee assessed on every ton of coal mined in the country. A portion of this money is used for the reclamation of pre-law abandoned coal mine sites.



*Reclaimed Mining Site*

## Key Elements of the Act

- The surface coal mining permit is active for up to five years.
- Work cannot begin until all permitting requirements are met, public notice periods are completed and the permit is issued.
- Regulation No. 20 sets performance and reclamation standards.
- Operators must complete reclamation upon expiration of the permit.
- A bond is posted to cover reclamation costs if an operator fails to reclaim the site to standards set in Reg. No. 20.
- A fee is assessed on coal mined in the United States and is placed in a trust fund that is used for reclamation of pre-law abandoned mine sites.
- The federal Mine Safety and Health Administration regulates safety and health issues for coal mine employees.
- The ADEQ's Water Division regulates discharge of stormwater and process water.



*Coal Mine in Scott County*

## Mining Contacts

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### Wayne Van Buren, Geologist Supervisor

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1220 West Second Street  
Russellville, AR  
telephone 479-968-7339

The **ADEQ Helpline** can serve as a helpful first contact with the agency. Call 501-682-0923.