

Timeline of Coal Mining Legislation

1977 - The United States Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-87). The law established performance standards for coal mining operations for the express purpose of protecting society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations.

1979 - The Arkansas General Assembly passed the Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act of 1979 (Act 134 of 1979, as amended by Act 647 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 regulations issued by the secretary of the interior pursuant to Public Law 95-87.

1980 - The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission adopted Regulation 20, the Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Regulation.