

Engineering Manual for Surface Mining Operations

TGD # 563-0300-101

Why does mining have their own engineering manual?

1. Distinct industry
2. Integrated permitting process
3. Specific regulatory requirements

Distinct Industry

- Extractive process of mining
- Coal (two kinds) [25 Pa Code Ch 86-90], noncoal (minerals) [Ch 77]
- Unique concerns – long-term activity, acid-forming materials, highwalls, subsurface drainage, AMD treatment

Integrated permitting process

- Long history of permitting
- Comprehensive permitting
- One-stop shop through the District Mining Offices

Specific regulatory requirements

- Hydrologic balance, upslope diversions, sedimentation controls, dams and impoundments
- Remining protection for preexisting discharges
- Pond certifications
- 10 yr, 24 hr design and precipitation exemption
- BAT limits

What is in this revision?

- Last published 1999
- General updates that match the format of the previous version (more than just stormwater)
- Collaboration by DMO staff and industry consultants
- Notable addition – anti-degradation section

Status of this revision

- Years in the making
- Reviewed by water program via counsel
- Presented to MRAB and AAB
- Public comment period