

Glossary

Anthracite (an-thra-cite) – hard coal which gives much heat but little flame and smoke

Bituminous (bi-tu-mi-nous) -- a type of coal that is between lignite and anthracite in hardness and heat value; the most common type of coal

Byproduct (by-prod-uct) – anything produced in the course of making another thing

Cap lamp – a battery-powered light that miners carry underground

Carbon (car·bon) – It is often called the “basis for life” because all living things contain four elements and, carbon is one of these. The other three are oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen.

Clean-coal technologies (tech·nol·o·gies) - processes that are designed to use coal in ways that will not harm the environment

Coal – a black or brownish-black rock that is made from plants that lived and died about 100 to 400 million years ago

Coal gasification (gas·i·fi·ca·tion) – a process that changes coal from a solid to a gas

Coal miners (min·ers) – men and women working in the coal mines

Coal seam – a bed or large deposit of coal

Continuous miner (con·tin·u·ous min·er) – a machine that cuts tunnels through the coal seam

Draglines (drag·line) – a large machine with a giant bucket used to remove layers of overburden from a coal seam in surface mining; the dragline is one of the largest land-based machines in the world.

Drift mine – a mine cut into the side of a hill or mountain

Environment (en·vi·ron·ment) – everything around a living thing

Fluidized bed combustion (flu·id·ized bed com·bus·tion) – a process that removes pollutants from coal while it is being burned

Fossil fuel (fos·sil fu·el) – a fuel that is made from the remains of plants and animals

Intake air shaft (in·take air shaft) – the opening where fresh air enters a mine

Lignite (lig·nite) – a soft, brownish-black coal in which the texture of the original wood can often still be seen

Longwall machine (long·wall ma·chine) – a machine used to cut panels of coal

Longwall mining (long·wall min·ing) – a method of mining in which a machine cuts the coal and the loosened coal falls onto a conveyor

Overburden (o·ver·bur·den) – layers of dirt and rock covering coal

Peat – a brown, crumbly, lightweight and spongy material; this is the first stage of coal formation.

Pollutant (pol·lu·tant) – a harmful chemical or waste material released into the water or atmosphere

Reclamation (rec·la·ma·tion) – restoring the land to the way it was or better

Room and pillar mining (pil·lar min·ing) – a method of underground mining in which about half of the coal is left in place to support the roof of the active mining area; large “pillars” are left while “rooms” of coal are extracted.

Return air shaft (re·turn air shaft) – the opening where used air leaves the mine

Self-rescuer (self res·cu·er) – a device for emergency use that changes carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide

Shaft mine – the mine opening is a deep hole with an elevator that carries miners and materials to the coal seam; a mine more than 125 feet deep

Shuttle car – (shut·tle car) a machine used for hauling coal underground

Slope Mine – a mine with an opening that slopes upward or downward to the coal seam

Surface mining (sur·face min·ing) – mining the coal that lies near the surface

Topsoil (top·soil) – the layer of soil where plants grow

Turbine (tur·bine) – a machine in which rotating blades are driven by a steam generator, producing electricity

Underground mining (un·der ground min·ing) -- mining the coal that is deep in the layers of Earth