

Mapping Requirements for Surface Coal Mines

Section 45.1-161.64 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia require mine maps to be submitted in an electronic format prior to commencing mining activity, at intervals not to exceed twelve (12) months and when a mine is abandoned. Annual maps must be up-to-date and certified by a registered engineer or registered surveyor. If there have been no changes since the last submittal, maps are not required, however, written notification that no changes have occurred should be forwarded to the Department.

Annual maps must include the following:

- Scale between 100 ft. and 500 ft. to 1 inch with the scale noted on the map.
- Map in Virginia State Plane Coordinate System.
- Posted date.
- Mine name, company name, Mine Index #, and DMLR Surface Mining Permit #.
- Legend and symbols used.
- Property lines, permit lines, and outcrop within 1,000 feet of the active areas of the mine.
- All auger and strip-mined areas of the coalbeds being mined.
- Delineate active and worked out areas of the mine.
- Mining projections, including the sequence of mining, for at least 12 months.
- Location of gas wells, gas lines, vertical ventilation holes and all known drill holes within the permit boundary and within 500 feet of the mine.
- Elevations of the coalbeds mined.
- The location of underground mine workings or workings from auger, thin seam, or highwall mining operations within 1,000 feet of the active areas of mine.
- Location of any body of water dammed or held back in any portion of the mine.
- Location of railroads, public highways, and primary access roads leading to the mine and permanent mine buildings.
- The location and description of at least two permanent baseline points and the location and description of at least two permanent elevation benchmarks.

The Chief may require other information to be shown on the surface mine maps.

- Location of "Red Zone" work areas as required by the surface mine operation's approved ground control plan.