

SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1968

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10 a.m., in room 3110, New Senate Office Building, Senator Lee Metcalf presiding.

Present: Senators Nelson, Metcalf, Allott, Jordan of Idaho, Bible, Fannin, and Hansen.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; Stewart French, chief counsel; Porter Ward, professional staff member, and E. Lewis Reid, minority counsel.

Senator METCALF. The committee will be in order.

This is an open, public hearing by the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs on proposed legislation for the protection and reclamation of lands and waters from the effects of surface mining operations.

There are three bills for this purpose now before the committee. They are S. 3132, which was drafted and submitted by the Department of the Interior and which Senator Jackson introduced for himself and Senators Nelson, Lausche, and Anderson; S. 3126, which is sponsored by Senator Nelson, and S. 217, sponsored by Senator Lausche, with Senators Bartlett, Fulbright, Metcalf, Nelson, Scott, Tydings, Young of Ohio, and Kuchel as cosponsors.

Without objection, I will direct that the text of all three of these measures appear at the conclusion of these brief opening remarks, together with the text of the executive communication by which the draft of S. 3132 was submitted and any departmental reports we may have.

All of these measures are similar in purpose, and I am happy to be able to point out that the chief sponsors of S. 3126 and S. 217 have joined Senator Jackson, the chairman of this committee, in sponsoring the administration bill.

Thus, it can be anticipated that S. 3132 will be the measure on which the committee will act, with, of course, such amendments as are adopted.

The administration bill, S. 3132, is based on a study undertaken by the Department of the Interior with the active cooperation and assistance of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Health, Education, and Welfare, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the Appalachian Regional Commission. This study was authorized and directed by section 205 of the 1965 Appalachian Regional Development Act, Public Law 89-4, on a nationwide scale.