

erals in commerce. The Congress further finds that these results are detrimental to the economy of the Nation.

(b) It is therefore the purpose of this Act to provide for participation by the Federal Government with State and local governments, private, individuals, and other interested parties in a long-range, comprehensive program to reclaim lands and waters damaged by surface and strip-mining, to promote an effective continuing conservation land-use and management program, and to prevent further detriment to the Nation from such mining operations through—

(1) the establishment of criteria and standards for the reclamation, conservation, and protection of surface and strip mined areas;

(2) the encouragement of the States to enact, or revise, and enforce laws, rules, and regulations for the regulation of future surface and strip mining operations in accordance with criteria and standards at least equivalent to the criteria and standards established pursuant to this Act;

(3) financial aid to provide for research and development, and technical advisory assistance, and the installation of demonstration projects;

(4) cooperative programs with State and other governmental agencies to provide Federal assistance for the reclamation and conservation of publicly and privately owned surface and strip mined lands;

(5) the acquisition of surface and strip mined lands where necessary in the public interest to achieve their reclamation and conservation;

(6) the promotion of public recreation, flood control, and soil erosion control, water pollution control, forestry, agriculture, restoration and preservation of natural beauty, enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and other natural resource values, and the public health and safety; and

(7) the elimination of competitive disadvantages for firms operating in a given market area which interfere with the orderly and fair marketing of minerals in commerce.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this Act:

(a) The term "Secretaries" means the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture;

(b) The terms "surface mining" and "strip mining" are interchangeable, and mean the mining of minerals after complete removal of the surface or overburden above the deposit to be mined in a series or rows or strips, and include "auger mining" when conducted in conjunction with such mining;

(c) The term "overburden" means the earth, rock, and other materials which lie above a natural mineral deposit;

(d) The term "spoil" means all overburden material removed from over the mineral after it is either deposited into the area from which the mineral has been removed, or deposited on undisturbed land;

(e) The term "spoil bank" means the material of whatever nature removed and deposited on the surface so that the underlying mineral may be recovered;

(f) The term "stripping" means any trench, cut, hole, or pit formed by removal of the surface or mineral as a result of surface or strip mining;

(g) The terms "person" or "operator" are interchangeable and mean person, partnership, association, corporation, or subsidiary of a corporation which owns, leases, or otherwise controls the use of land on which surface or strip mining is conducted, which is engaged in the mining of minerals as a principal, and which is or becomes the owner of the minerals recovered as a result of such mining, and includes any agent thereof charged with the responsibility for the operation of such mine;

(h) The term "mine" means (1) an area of land from which minerals are extracted in nonliquid form, (2) private ways and roads appurtenant to such area, (3) land, excavations, and workings, structures, facilities, equipment, machines, tools, or other property, on the surface, used in the work of extracting such minerals from their natural deposits in nonliquid form, and (4) the area of land covered by spoil;

(i) The term "reclamation" means the reconditioning or restoration, when appropriate, of the area of land affected by surface or strip mining operations and such contiguous lands as may be necessary for an effective continuing use and management program, under a plan approved by the Secretaries;

(j) The term "commerce" means trade, traffic, commerce, transportation, or communication between any State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or any territory or possession of the United States and any other place outside the respective boundaries thereof, or wholly within the District of Columbia or any territory or possession of the United States, or between