

TABLE I.—STATISTICAL RECLAMATION REPORT, LICENSES ISSUED, ACRES AFFECTED, ACRES RECLAIMED

Year ¹	Number licenses	Acres affected	Trees	Forage	Other ²	Acres reclaimed, 1967	Total reclaimed ³	Percent reclaimed
1948.....	273	6,882	3,432	2,933	526	-----	6,882	100.0
1949.....	267	8,539	3,805	3,919	815	-----	8,539	100.0
1950.....	356	10,087	4,375	4,596	1,116	-----	10,087	100.0
1951.....	358	9,781	4,537	4,357	887	-----	9,781	100.0
1952.....	338	9,981	5,675	3,604	702	-----	9,981	100.0
1953.....	367	10,057	5,790	3,611	656	-----	10,057	100.0
1954.....	322	9,469	5,703	3,356	410	-----	9,469	100.0
1955.....	309	10,817	6,766	3,679	372	1	10,817	100.0
1956.....	4 257	11,178	7,417	3,373	352	0	11,142	99.7
1957.....	250	10,599	6,887	3,464	230	19	10,581	99.9
1958.....	254	10,247	6,442	3,562	144	10	10,148	99.0
1959.....	272	11,023	7,251	3,465	154	48	10,870	98.5
1960.....	263	10,162	6,890	2,869	149	69	9,908	97.5
1961.....	247	9,414	6,445	2,169	306	397	8,920	94.7
1962.....	240	9,807	6,193	2,402	123	758	8,718	88.9
1963.....	237	9,858	5,604	2,167	43	773	7,814	79.1
1964.....	222	10,712	5,960	1,923	80	3,091	7,963	74.3
1965.....	242	10,938	2,122	585	4	2,194	2,711	24.5
1966.....	194	9,699	60	60	60	60	60	6.0
Total State licenses.....	5,268	189,250	101,285	56,034	7,069	7,360	164,388	86.9
Federal permits ⁷		4,236	3,426			149	3,426	80.9
Ohio total.....	5,268	193,486	104,711	56,034	7,069	7,509	167,814	86.7

¹ Calendar year during which the strip mine operator's licenses listed opposite were effective.

² Ponds, stockpiles, airstrips, area reaffected and reclaimed by a subsequent operator; or toxic (unplantable).

³ Grading of the area affected has not been included in these totals.

⁴ The strip mine law effective Oct. 13, 1955, permitting amendments of increases in amount of estimate of affected acreage and/or amendments of additional lands to be affected to an existing strip mine license, reduced the number of strip mine licenses issued during a year.

⁵ This figure is incomplete in that all of the actual acreage affected has not yet been reported. These acreages encompass abandoned operations, forfeitures, and findings to be made by the division.

⁶ Due to changes in the strip mine law, no completed reclamation has been reported for licenses issued in 1966.

⁷ Permits issued on Wayne National Forest lands. The totals reported by the Federal Service are compiled to June 30, 1967.

The declining percentage since 1955 can be explained by the natural lag in reclamation work. That is, land disturbed in any one year might not be reclaimed for a period of years because of physical and chemical conditions of the overburden—and because extensions of the time limit to complete reclamation have been granted in some instances where mining operations have been interrupted pending the introduction of new mining machines.

Ohio coal operators graded 10,464 acres, planted forest seedlings on 6,103 acres and seeded grasses and legumes on 97 acres in 1967.

In Kentucky, where the state strip mine reclamation law was overhauled in 1966, land reclamation kept pace with mining last year. Kentucky coal operators and the Kentucky Reclamation Association which they sponsor, graded more than 12,000 acres—as much as was mined—and planted some 14,000 acres—2,000 more than was mined. In doing so, they planted more than 1,400,000 trees.

Last year Illinois coal operators graded and planted 447 acres of strip mined land for forage and small grain crops, and 2,382 acres for permanent pasture. Three hundred seventeen acres were reforested, and 303 acres were developed for recreational use.

In Pennsylvania, which has over 39 percent of the strip mines in the United States, more than 8,000 acres of land was graded last year. Some 9,400,000 trees were planted on 7,856 acres, and 2,146 acres were seeded with mixtures of various grasses.

During 1967, West Virginia coal operators graded more than 21,000 acres and planted some 9,700 acres. Essentially all the remaining land graded last year is being planted this spring.

In sum, gentlemen, as a measure of what the coal industry is doing to reclaim strip-mined land, these six states—Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and West Virginia—last year started the reclamation process on 45,828 acres, by planting trees and grasses, making water impoundments and developing land for recreational uses. This figure is all the more significant when it is compared to the 45,576 acres of land affected in the six states by surface coal mining in the same period. (See Table II.)