

TABLE II.—COAL ACREAGE MINED, PLANTED AND RECLAIMED IN 6 STATES IN 1967

State	Acres affected	Acres planted	Acres reclaimed (released from bond) ¹
Illinois ²	7,145	3,449	3,450
Kentucky ³	11,711	14,000	8,165
Pennsylvania ⁴	9,712	10,002	12,384
Ohio ⁵	10,000	7,077	7,509
Indiana ⁶	3,011	1,600	2,948
West Virginia ⁷	4,997	9,700	7,393
Total	45,576	45,828	41,849

¹ All States require the successful establishment of vegetation 1 or more years after planting before release of performance bond.

² Source: Illinois Department of Conservation, Open Cut Land Reclamation Division.

³ Source: Kentucky Department of Natural Resources, Division of Strip Mining and Reclamation.

⁴ Source: Pennsylvania Department of Mines and Mineral Industries, Bureau of Conservation and Reclamation.

⁵ Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Reclamation.

⁶ Source: Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

⁷ Source: West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation.

I wish we could say that if you inspected this land today you wouldn't know that coal had been mined there. But that just isn't so. There is no such thing as instant reclamation—it takes time to establish a carpet of grass or a stand of trees. Given that time, though, the scars left by mining will be healed.

These six states, all of which have reclamation laws, contain 81 percent of the surface coal mines—strip and auger—in the nation and were responsible for 83 percent of the coal produced from surface mines in 1966.

Thirteen of the 23 states in which coal is now being surface mined have reclamation legislation on the books and an additional state has a voluntary reclamation agreement between state conservation authorities and strip mine operators. A total of 90 percent of the auger and strip mine coal produced in 1966 came from these 14 states; and 94 percent of the auger and strip mines in this country are located therein.

In addition, three states, Alabama, North Dakota and Missouri, are now considering reclamation laws. When these three states enact such laws, it will mean that 99 percent of the country's surface coal mines and over 96 percent of surface coal mine production are covered and regulated under state law. The bulk of the remaining production is on Public and Indian Lands in the West.

Statistics make dry testimony—and I don't want to be accused of playing a "numbers" game. A tabulation of the information we have just gone over is included in greater detail in Table III.