

MINE MAP REPOSITORY MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Mine Map Repository (MMR) is to provide the most current abandoned coal mine maps to Office of Surface Mining employees and State regulatory agencies in performance of their duties relative to mine subsidence emergencies and other projects including research. This information is also provided to the general public regarding potential commercial developments as well as an aid in determining the need for personal mine subsidence insurance. The goals of the MMR are to obtain, film, and archive all maps of abandoned mines, and provide timely responses to requests for this information in a professional and courteous manner. These actions will also assure the preservation of these maps and the valuable information they contain.

Introduction

This report provides information and statistics on the mine map repository of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). This facility serves as a reference file for mine maps and related information for surface and underground mines throughout the United States. OSMRE, an agency of the US Department of the Interior, was established by Congress with passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (Public Law 95-87) in 1977. In that law, Congress sought to establish a nationwide program to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations, and assure that the coal supply essential to the Nation's energy requirements and to its economic and social well-being is provided.

Historical Background of the Repository

The mine repository was established by the US Department of the Interior's BOM in 1970. Repositories in Denver, Colorado, and Spokane, Washington, were responsible for collecting and archiving mine maps for States west of the Mississippi River, while mine maps for States east of the Mississippi River were archived at Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, for maps of the anthracite region.

BOM maintained the repository facilities for approximately 12 years until October 1983 when BOM's funding for this work was discontinued. Recognizing the need to maintain the Pittsburgh repository as a valuable resource base for current and future projects, OSMRE's Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center assumed the operation and maintenance of the Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre repositories. Under OSMRE's direction, the collection and archiving of mine maps has continued and expanded at the Pittsburgh repository.

Information Available from the Mine Map Repository

Information on past mining is available from maps of surface and underground mines. Some of the specific types of information normally contained on mine maps include:

- Mine and company names, main and secondary roads, haul roads, railroads, and tipples.
- Creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.
- Property ownership (mineral and/or surface), adjoining coal companies, towns, cities, and old railroad towns.
- Districts, townships, sections, ranges, counties, and municipalities.
- Latitudes and longitudes, elevation bench marks, surface elevations, north arrows, distance scales, and dates.
- Coal outcrop seam designation, seam thickness, coal elevations, and coal reserves.
- Man-ways, emergency exits, mine openings, barrier pillars, and ventilation facilities.
- Power and gas lines and gas and oil-wells.
- Preparation plants, storage areas, and water and power distribution facilities.

Uses and Users of Repository Information

Information and data contained on the mine maps can be used to solve a wide variety of engineering, environmental, and mining problems. In many cases, mine map information is needed for decisions on land use and development, the purchase of property, environmental protection, etc. Among the most frequent users of this information are various State and Federal agencies, mining companies, consultants, and engineering firms. Other users include research and planning organizations, real estate developers, highway engineers, pollution control boards, city and industrial planners, oil and gas companies, public organizations, special interest groups, and private citizens. Below are some examples of how mine map information has been or is being used for a variety of purposes.

- **Mining companies** use mine maps in preparing permit applications for new mines or for extensions of existing mines to identify and show the location and extent of any abandoned mines within the proposed permit and adjacent areas.
- **Local developers and real estate companies** are dependent on mine map information to assist them in making decisions relative to land use, property investigation, foundation design, etc.

- **Federal and State agencies** utilize mine map information to (a) conduct health and safety activities, such as mine rescue operations and mine sealing, and (b) mitigate adverse environmental impacts resulting from landslides, subsidence, acid mine drainage, mine fires, etc.
- **Consultants and engineering firms** use mine maps as a basic source of geological and engineering data to assist them with their clients' projects.
- **Energy interests** use mine maps to estimate energy reserves and locate and develop alternative energy supplies.
- **Private citizens** use mine maps to determine the potential for subsidence in residential areas.
- **Law-enforcement officials** used mine maps, in one case, to recover the body of a murder victim and subsequently to convict the murderer.

Under existing agreements with certain map donors, OSMRE keeps some maps confidential. Map donors who desire confidentiality for their maps may do so by simply indicating this desire to OSMRE at the time the maps are donated. All maps which are kept confidential are marked either "confidential" or "proprietary" prior to microfilming and the aperture cards and data entry sheets for these maps are also marked confidential. All maps so marked can only be examined and used at repository. No copied of these maps can be provided to users.

OSMRE Repository

The Pittsburgh repository serves as a national repository and actively collects and archives mine maps for all States. Table 1 lists by State the number of mine maps which were collected and archived and are included in OSMRE's computer data base at the Pittsburgh repository.

**Listing of States and the Corresponding Number of Mine Maps
As of June 26, 1997**

Alabama	353	Kentucky	4,587	North Dakota	5
Alaska	2	Louisiana	0	Ohio	7,703
Arizona	927	Maine	541	Oklahoma	731
Arkansas	360	Maryland	558	Oregon	333
California	232	Massachusetts	60	Pennsylvania	11,293
Colorado	7,036	Michigan	10,795	Rhode Island	0
Connecticut	475	Minnesota	3,066	South Carolina	54
Delaware	4	Mississippi	84	South Dakota	751
District of Columbia	0	Missouri	8,456	Tennessee	1,155
Florida	0	Montana	727	Texas	1
Georgia	743	Nebraska	0	Utah	647
Hawaii	0	Nevada	940	Vermont	114
Idaho	577	New Hampshire	230	Virginia	8,283
Illinois	2,670	New Jersey	378	Washington	502
Indiana	2,625	New Mexico	121	West Virginia	45,458
Iowa	2	New York	1,184	Wisconsin	504
Kansas	537	North Carolina	1,598	Wyoming	550

TOTAL MAPS: 127,149

Currently, the Pittsburgh repository has a collection of over 100,000 mine maps. While the majority of these maps are for underground bituminous coal mines, the repository also contains maps of anthracite coal mines, surface coal mines, and surface and underground metal and nonmetal mines.

Operation of the Pittsburgh Mine Map Repository Facility

Maintaining an adequate and orderly flow of mine maps into the repository is a primary prerequisite for building and maintaining a comprehensive and up-to-date mine map file. Mine maps contained in OSMRE's Pittsburgh repository have been obtained primarily from mineral-oriented Federal and State agencies and individuals interested in the preservation of mine maps and the establishment of a quick reference file of coal mine map information. Sources of mine maps include the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration district offices, State Geological Surveys, State Departments of Mines, State Environmental Departments, mining companies, consultants, and the general public.

Historically, the Pittsburgh repository has had a reciprocal agreement with those who donate mine maps to the repository for processing and archiving. Under this agreement, all maps donated to the repository are returned to the donor, unless other arrangements are made, along with courtesy copies of the aperture cards produced from the maps and a courtesy copy of the updated mine map index for the donor's State. State donor agencies use this information to develop their own State repositories.

When requested to do so by the donor, the repository staff disposes of the mine map after filming and production of the aperture cards. However, the donor is nonetheless provided courtesy copies of the pertinent aperture cards and appropriate, updated State index.

The major steps followed by OSMRE's repository staff in the processing and archiving of mine maps include:

- Assigning the maps document numbers and checking them for completeness and damage.
- Locating and plotting mine maps on topographic maps.
- Preparing the data entry sheets.
- Microfilming mine maps and producing the aperture card.
- Assuring quality control in the microfilming process.
- Stamping aperture cards with the document number.
- Entering data sheets into the data base and index preparation.
- Filing aperture cards in the repository system.
- Returning the map originals and one copy of the aperture card to the map donor.

While the majority of the repository staff's time is spent in processing and archiving new mine maps, the staff's most important task is that of responding to requests for service or mine map information by users. The repository's most important service is that of providing information to home buyers, land developers, government planners, mining companies, and consultants regarding the extent and status of mining in specific land areas. The Pittsburgh repository currently responds to an average of 250 requests for information per month.

How to Access Repository Information

Requests for map-related information and data from the repository may be made in writing, by telephone, or by appointment. However, it is suggested that prospective users requesting map-related data visit the repository, whenever possible, to ensure that the most accurate information available is provided. To facilitate the use of the mine map-related information, the repository offers three products for sale at cost to the general public: photographic prints of mine maps, microfilm copies of coal mine maps mounted in

aperture cards, and copies of coal mine maps indices listing the repository's inventory. It is OSMRE's policy to provide mine map information at no charge to other Federal, State, and local organizations, providing they can demonstrate that the information provided will be used solely for the public's good, with no charges being made for the information. Viewing of the mine maps at the repository is free of charge.

Further information about the repository can be acquired by writing, telephoning, or visiting the facility. The mailing address along with the phone and fax numbers are provided below.

U.S. Department of the Interior
OSMRE
Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center
Mine Map Repository
Three Parkway Center
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Telephone number: (412) 937-3001
Fax number: (412) 937-2888

References

Listed below are the resource materials used in the preparation of this pamphlet.

Article "Mine Maps: Their Importance and Their Many Uses" provided by:

OSMRE

Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Administrative Services Division

Information Provided by:

OSMRE

Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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