Active and Abandoned Mining Operations Program

DEP's Office of Active and Abandoned Mining Operations is responsible for the policies and implementation of programs that regulate or minimize the impact from the extraction of coal and noncoal (industrial minerals). The office is organized into four Bureaus that have distinct roles and responsibilities for the safe extraction of mineral resources and the reclamation and protection of environmental resources. The Bureau of District Mining Operations is responsible for permitting and inspection of mining sites across Pennsylvania.

To control impacts to water, the six District Mining Offices issue NPDES discharge permits for active mining operations. In addition, the offices also issue the General Permit for Stormwater associated with mining activities requiring mining operators to implement best management practices for erosion and sediment control, stabilize all areas where earth disturbance is conducted, and manage post-construction stormwater rate and volume. An overview of the permits issued, inspections completed, and violation statistics through FFY17/18 are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Overview of the Active and Abandoned Mining Operations Statistics

	FFY15/16	FFY16/17	FFY17/18
NPDES Permits (New and Renewal) Issued:			
Government Financed Construction	4	1	3
Contract			
Preparation plant	5	4	13
Surface Coal	141	130	110
Underground Coal	19	17	33
Coal Refuse Reprocessing	7	4	10
Coal Refuse Disposal	5	9	17
Surface Industrial Mineral	83	153	148
Total	264	318	334
Erosion and Sediment Control Permits Issued			
General Permit for Stormwater			
Industrial Mineral	121	133	240
Coal Mining Operations	61	68	39
Total	182	201	279
Inspections	5,415	5,240	5,896
Violations	250	265	403
Penalties Collected	$115,900	$128,800	$110,537

DEP's current District Mining Operations Reports are available here. The reports include data related to DEP's Mining Operations permitting and inspection programs. Also highlighted in the reports are notable accomplishments achieved and a glimpse of what to expect from this program in the future.