

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 some cases, in lieu of an individual NPDES permit, the mine permittee may obtain coverage under the General Permit for Stormwater Associated with Mining Activities (BMP-GP-104) which requires implementation of best management practices for erosion and sediment control, to stabilize all areas where earth disturbance is conducted, and manage post-construction stormwater rate and volume.

NPDES permits are reviewed and issued in conjunction with new permits and coal permit renewals. The noncoal permits do not expire so the NPDES renewal is its own action. In some cases, an NPDES individual or GP is issued separate from a new permit due to site-specific circumstances. Modifications to the NPDES permits occur and are often in conjunction with other revisions (minor and major) to the mining permit and are reviewed and issued in that context.

Updates to program are managed by the [Bureau of Mining Programs](#)

- NPDES application is regularly updated as needed.
- BMP-003 [PASP-GP-5 Permit Submission \(PDF\)](#)
- BMP-004 [Enforcing NPDES Permit Requirements \(PDF\)](#)

The GP-104 is scheduled to be reissued in the next FFY with minor revisions.

See Table 1. for a summary of metrics.

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

	FFY16/17	FFY17/18	FFY18/19
NPDES Individual Permits			
New Coal	18	18	28
New Noncoal (Ind Minerals)	26	39	24
Renew Coal	101	118	111
Renew Noncoal	68	87	63
Total	213	262	226
Approximate Fees Collected	\$128,500	\$159,500	\$139,000
GP-104 Stormwater Only			
Coal	45	41	39
Noncoal	150	255	95
Total	195	296	134
Approximate Fees Collected	\$48,750	\$74,000	\$33,500
Enforcement			
Inspections	5,240	5,896	5,050
Violations	265	403	380
Penalties Collected	\$128,800	\$110,537	\$261,233