
APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY OF COMMON MINING TERMS

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Adit:

A horizontal tunnel developed from the side of a mountain or cliff face.

Backfill:

Unclassified soil, till, overburden or rock, used to fill in an opening or depression.

Bedrock:

Competent, nondisturbed rock located below any till or overburden in which mine workings may be developed.

Bench:

A ledge, which in open pit mines and quarries forms a single level of mining from which ore or waste is extracted.

Bench Height:

The vertical height of a bench.

Borehole:

A hole drilled in rock.

Bulkhead:

A barricade or wall constructed across a horizontal or over a vertical mine opening.

Caving:

Collapse or infilling of an underground working by rock from the ceiling or sides of the opening, which can extend through to surface.

Collar:

The top opening or entrance of a vertical or near vertical shaft which can be natural bedrock or formed from concrete.

Crosscut:

See Level

Decline:

A tunnel developed from surface at a shallow angle which interconnects underground levels at various elevations.

Drift:

See Level

Grout:

A chemical or concrete mix which is used to anchor rebar or metal pins within a borehole.

Haul Road:

A road built to carry haulage trucks and other mobile equipment in and out of a open pit mine or quarry.

Headframe:

A structure, typically fabricated from wood or more recently steel or concrete, which is located over the collar of a vertical shaft.

Highwall:

The area of a rock or overburden and rock face remaining exposed after mining in an open pit mine or quarry.

Inclined Shaft:

A shaft developed at a shallow angle connecting levels to each other or and/or with the surface (Also known as a Slope).

Level:

Horizontal tunnel developed at any desired elevation within underground workings (Depending upon orientation and location within the underground workings can also be identified as a Drift or Crosscut).

Open Pit Mine:

A mine working or excavation open to the surface.

Ore:

Mineralized rock which can be mined and processed at a profit.

Overburden:

Nonmineralized soil and or till that is located over areas proposed for development as open pit mines or quarries and must be removed prior to mining.

Portal:

The opening or entrance into an adit or inclined shaft.

Quarry:

An open or surface working usually developed for the extraction of building stones, aggregate, limestone and other industrial minerals.

Raise:

A vertical or nearly vertical opening, developed upward which connects levels at different elevations and may extend through to surface.

Rockbolt:

A bolt of varying length, generally manufactured of steel, with an expansion shell anchor nut which can be affixed within a borehole located in rock.

Shaft:

A vertical or near vertical opening developed from surface which provides access to underground workings.

Slope:

An inclined opening developed from surface or underground which provides access to underground coal mine workings.

Stope:

Underground openings generally extending between levels, developed for the extraction of ore.

Subsidence:

The surface settlement of rock and overburden due to the caving of underground openings.

Till:

Nonsorted, nonstratified earth or rock materials carried and deposited by glaciers.

Winze:

A vertical or near vertical shaft developed within the underground workings which connect levels at various elevations.

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