

Postmining Hydrology Assessment (PHA)

In general, a permittee's request to be released from final reclamation liability requires the regulatory authority to determine whether all surface coal mining and reclamation activities have been successfully completed. Specifically, the PHA must consider whether pollution of surface and subsurface water is occurring or might occur in the future. This consideration might entail a quantitative comparison between baseline conditions and post-baseline conditions or a look at statistical trends in water characteristics.