

SENATE BILL 82

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M3

2002 Regular Session  
2lr0133

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**(Departmental - Environment)**

Requested: November 14, 2001

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2002

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Surface Mining - Zones of Influence**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Department of the Environment to  
4 establish a certain margin of safety for the zone of influence associated with  
5 certain surface mining permits; and generally relating to surface mining.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article - Environment  
8 Section 15-813(a)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Environment  
13 Section 15-813(b)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1996 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Environment**

19 15-813.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) "Dewater" or "dewatering" means to pump water out of a pit.

22 (3) "Karst terrain" means an irregular topography that is:

23 (i) Caused by a solution of limestone and other carbonate rock; and

1 (ii) Characterized by closed depressions, sinkholes, caverns,  
2 solution cavities, and underground channels that, partially or completely, may  
3 capture surface streams.

4 (4) "Lineaments" means the surface manifestation of cracks, fissures,  
5 fractures, and zones of weakness that, generally, are observable on aerial  
6 photographs as straight or nearly straight lines.

7 (b) (1) If a permittee is issued a water appropriation permit under § 5-502  
8 of this article to dewater a pit located in karst terrain in Baltimore, Carroll,  
9 Frederick, and Washington Counties, the Department shall establish, as a condition  
10 of the permittee's surface mining permit under § 15-810 of this subtitle, a zone of  
11 dewatering influence around the surface mine.

12 (2) The areal extent of the zone of dewatering influence shall be based,  
13 as appropriate, on local topography, watersheds, aquifer limits, and other  
14 hydrogeologic factors, including the occurrence of natural fractures, cracks, crevices,  
15 lineaments, igneous dikes, changes in rock type, and variations in the water-bearing  
16 characteristics of formations.

17 (3) AFTER DETERMINING THE AREAL EXTENT OF THE ZONE OF  
18 DEWATERING INFLUENCE BASED ON THE FACTORS CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH (2)  
19 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY EXTEND THE ENTIRE OR ANY  
20 PORTION OF THE ZONE OF DEWATERING INFLUENCE TO ADD A MARGIN OF SAFETY,  
21 NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE ZONE.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
23 effect October 1, 2002.