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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA FOR DIVISION OF RECLAMATION

The State of Indiana accepted responsibility for regulating the coal mining industry and established the Division of Reclamation for that purpose in 1982. An archaeologist has been a part of the regulatory program since its inception, enabling the accumulation of five years of archaeological data. During those five years, a total of 319 mining permits was approved encompassing 144,499 acres. In total, 10,061 of these acres (7%) was covered by archaeological survey in advance of mining. The total number of known sites in the permit areas was 599; this figure yields an average site frequency of 0.6 sites per 10 acres surveyed. Test excavations were conducted at 18 sites, and a program of data recovery was initiated at 3 of these sites. An additional 17 sites should have been tested but were not examined. Twelve sites (all on a single permit) currently are protected by "no mining windows." In every instance of mitigation of effects, whether through data recovery or site windowing, the initiative for conservation has come from the archaeological community, not from the Division of Reclamation. Eighteen of the 599 known sites (3%) were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and one site listed on the National Register, the Cato Site, was destroyed by mining. Given the extent of the area surveyed (7%) and the number of known sites in permit areas (599), then one can predict that if 50% of permitted acres had been surveyed, 4,277 sites would have been located, and 128 (3%) of these would have been eligible for listing on National Register of Historic Places.