

MINING AND RECLAMATION AT HOBET MINING, INC. IN WEST VIRGINIA.  
L. Emerson, Hobet Mining, Inc., Madison, WV.

Hobet Mining, Inc. is one of the largest surface mining operations in West Virginia and the first to utilize a large walking dragline for overburden removal. The No. 21 mine located 28 miles southwest of Charleston employs the area mining method to remove up to four coal seams. A 27-cubic yard electric shovel and front-end loader remove overburden from the mountaintop down to the 5-Block coal seam. The material is transported by 170-ton rock trucks and placed into durable rock fills. After coal recovery, the remaining overburden is excavated by a 72-cubic yard dragline to expose the Upper and Middle Stockton-Lewiston coal seams. This mine has reclaimed over 1500 acres using this method and has been awarded three state awards for excellence in reclamation. Other features include successful use of a substitute topsoil, innovative on-bench sediment control techniques, durable rock fills, a wildlife stocking program, and a 3.3 mile overland belt conveyor for raw coal transport.

