

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COAL INDUSTRY

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### Abstract

There are environmental hazards to be overcome in using coal as a source of energy right from the opening of a mine to the end of use of coal. But, with the help of existing technology these hazards could be substantially reduced. It is suggested that while opening new mines there should be in-built provision in the budget for growing vegetation (Social Forestry) in and around the mines. Abandoned mining areas should not be left as desolate spots but should be restored to their original condition. Efficient appliances and technology for coal combustion should be adopted. Sulphur in coal is to be controlled with greater care and high sulphur coals to be desulphurized. The fly ash can be regulated installing effective electrostatic separators. The disposal of waste materials should be undertaken judiciously taking into consideration the distribution of trace elements present in them. With existing technology there is not much of a problem in reducing dust, noise, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> and controlling effluents associated with mining and end use of coal. In future, more and more coal is going to be used, therefore greater emphasis should be given to R and D activities aimed at mitigating environmental damage.

**Keywords:** Coal, Environment, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, Social Forestry, Flyash, Pneumonia