

# ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT CABINET

**Matthew G. Bevin**  
Governor

**Department for Natural Resources**  
Division of Mine Safety  
300 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone (502) 573-0140  
Fax (502) 573-0152

**Charles G. Snaveley**  
Secretary

**John Small**  
Acting Commissioner

## **SAFETY ALERT** **(Alert – No. 3 – 2018)**

### Kentucky DMS – Berms and Highwalls - Safety Alert No.3

The following information has been provided in hopes of protecting our most valuable resource, the miner.

This alert is a safety initiative intended to address the potential hazards the changing season may bring. Rain in early spring will result in added weight to berms and walls that may cause sloughing, and allow them to be breached more easily. Erosion caused by run-off water can potentially result in removal of portions of berms and the washing away of grouting between rock seams of highwalls, creating unstable conditions.

- Berms – Need to be properly maintained along all haul roads and dump sites
- Highwalls – Should be properly scaled and built as designed in the ground control plan

### **Highwall and Berm Safety**



### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Highwalls should be examined often, especially during periods of changing weather conditions.
2. Stay a safe distance from roadway berms and always use dump berms as a visual reference only, stopping short while dumping.
3. Remain a safe distance from the toe of the highwall.
4. Remove loose rock from highwalls and berm off unsafe areas when necessary.