

Auger Mining, Knott County



Auger mining in the Pikeville Formation in Knott County. Auger mining is usually associated with contour strip mining. The coal is removed by drilling auger holes from the last contour cut and extracting it in the same manner that shavings are produced by a carpenter's bit. Coal recovery rates approach 60 percent. The cutting heads of some augers are as large as 8 feet. Augers can penetrate up to 1000 feet into the mountainside. Photo by Dan Carey, Kentucky Geological Survey.