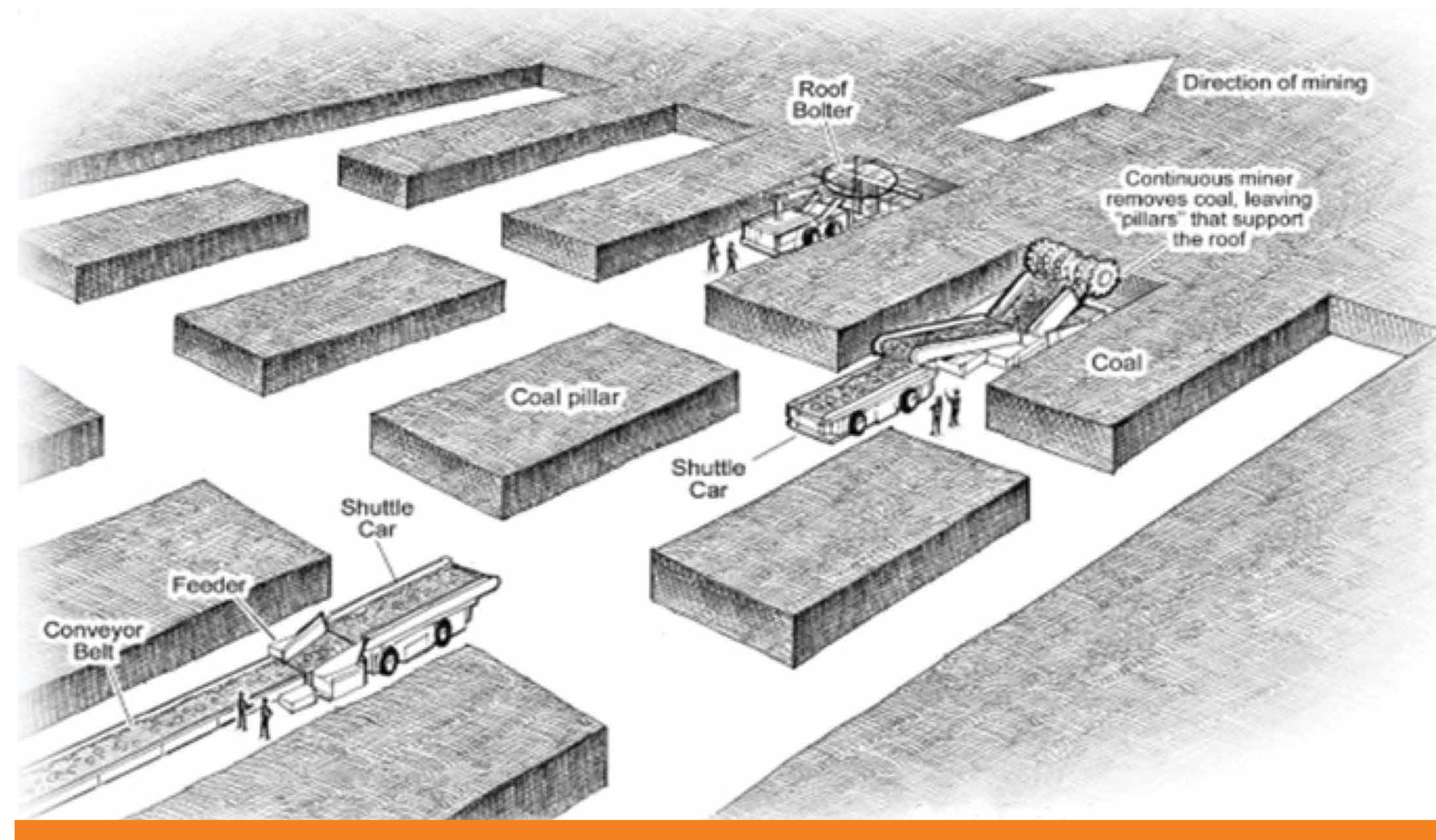


The Mine Process

New Elk Coal is an underground mine using the room and pillar system, which is the predominant coal mining method in the United States. Coal deposits are mined by cutting a network of rooms into the coal, while leaving coal pillars to support the roof of the mine.



The coal seam and surrounding rock is excavated then transported by shuttle cars and a conveyor to the surface. Once it reaches our processing plant the coal is separated from the surrounding rock and washed with water before being stored in our stockpiles or loaded into trucks or in the future trains for transport to export markets.

The Equipment We Use

14/15 Continuous Miner

The 14/15 Continuous Miner machine excavates the road ways in 18-foot sections, and, in the process, creates 'rooms'. The machine weighs 42 tonnes and has the ability to cut 32 tonnes of material per minute.



Roof Bolters

To support the roof, Roof Bolters are used to install six-foot rebar bolts in a five foot by five foot pattern into the roof of each room.



Shuttle Cars

Shuttle Cars, which are capable of hauling eight tonnes of ore, transfer the coal from the continuous miner machine to the conveyor system to deliver the coal to the surface.



Workhorse Scoops

Workhorse Scoops are used to clean the loose material and transport supplies to the active mining sections. The Scoops are equipped with a bucket that has a ram inside to push out material and supplies. Uniquely, the scoops operate with battery power, with the battery weighing eight tonnes.

