

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

Memorandum 01-01

TO: All Operators

FROM: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

DATE: January 31, 2001

Subject: Indiana bat - timber disturbance dates

Due to potential for disturbance of federally endangered Indiana bats, the Department has restricted timber disturbance to the time period when this species is not present. These bats hibernate in caves during the winter making timber disturbance during this period non-threatening. Timber disturbance outside this period may only be done with specific authorization from the Department.

The timber disturbance period specified in most permits is September 1 to April 30. This period has been consistent with that used by the Department of Natural Resources (formerly the Department of Conservation) for their own timber disturbance projects. Recently, however, the Department in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has reduced the timber disturbance period to September 30 to April 1. Likewise, coal mining permits will be subject to this same restriction. Future coal mining permits will be conditioned to limit timber disturbance to the time period September 30 to April 1.