

Illinois Department of Natural Resources


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Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

Operator Memorandum 2018-01

To: All Coal Mining Operators/Consultants

Date: February 2, 2018

From: Tom Benner, Director 
Office of Mines and Minerals

Re: Land Reclamation Division Supervisor

It is my pleasure to announce and welcome the new supervisor of the Land Reclamation Division, Nick San Diego.

Nick is a licensed attorney and has been with IDNR since 2010. Nick holds a Master's degree in Biology from St. Louis University, and has been a licensed attorney since 2007. Beginning in 2014, Nick has worked as legal counsel for divisions within the Office of Mines and Minerals (Aggregate and Explosives Division, Land Reclamation Division, Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation Division and Mine Safety and Training Division) and for the Office of Oil and Gas Resource Management. Nick has worked closely with IDNR Director's office, the Governor's office, and the Illinois Attorney General's office on varying issues surrounding coal mining and reclamation. He also oversaw permitting appeals and enforcement hearings, and worked with other IDNR and State and Federal agencies' counsel, and the Illinois Mining Compact Commission.

Nick has been involved in all aspects of our operations, including rulemaking, compliance and enforcement actions and proceedings, along with working with Federal oversight programs, the Illinois Mining Compact Commission, and Illinois Coal Association.

With his education and experience, Nick brings extensive knowledge and strong leadership skills to the position. Nick has assumed his new responsibilities February 1, 2018. Please welcome Nick in his new role as Supervisor of the IDNR Land Reclamation Division.