



## Operator Memorandum 2025-01

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

Date: September 23, 2025

From: Daniel W. Barkley, Supervisor  
Land Reclamation Division

Re: Reporting of Affected Acreage, FY25

At this time the Department is extending the deadline for FY25 affected acreage reporting until Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

The current Affected Acreage form (SCML-3) can be found on the Department's Applications/Memoranda/Forms web page:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/mines/LRD/Documents/Affected%20Acreage%20Form.pdf>

All operations having acres permitted but not yet reported as affected must complete and submit an Affected Acreage Form. Maps with the Affected Acreage Form are ONLY required for those operations reporting newly affected acres. Maps must comply with 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1816/1817.190. Affected Acreage Forms must be submitted to the [dnr.mmldr@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.mmldr@illinois.gov) email address. Any submittal with map(s) must be followed up with a physical paper copy of the Map for each county where the mine operates in, and a CAD file that complies with the CAD file requirements outlined in Operator Memorandum 2018-02 (Revised), issued April 26, 2018. **DO NOT** forward copies to the county Clerk's office.

Operations to be reported are: **surface affected** areas for support facilities/infrastructures and **mined overburden** for overburden placement and auger mining areas. Areas re-affected during the reporting period should be included in these totals and on page two (2) under the Re-affected Acreage section of the form.

Operator Memorandum 2015-05, issued November 18, 2015, addressed the fact that the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has determined that "timber removal, or any type of land clearing...could be considered a surface coal mining activity...". In light of this determination, the memorandum stated that "the Department is now obligated to consider 'timber removal, or any type of land clearing' as surface coal mining activity." It is at the Department's discretion to establish what type of "surface coal mining activity" must be reported on the annual affected acreage map. It has been determined that tree removal areas will be addressed in the same manner as areas affected only by surface soil removal.

## Affected Acreage Memorandum

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Surface soil removal and timber removal only acres are NOT to be shown on the Affected Acres Map or indicated on the SCML-3 Affected Acreage form until these areas qualify as **surface affected** or **mined overburden** as defined above. However, if upon completion of mining these areas have not been subsequently affected by operations and reported as such in an SCML-3 Affected Acreage form, then they shall be reported on the following year's Affected Acreage report as Surface Affected.

Physical copies of the Affected Acreage Maps and report must be submitted to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division.  
One Natural Resources Way.  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

If you have any questions or issues reporting affected areas for your sites, please contact your field inspector or Jim Schafer, 217-785-5191, at our Springfield office.