



Illinois  
Department of  
**Natural  
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director  
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

## Operator Memorandum 2026-1

To: All Coal Mining Operators/Consultants

From: Ronnie Huff, Director  
Office of Mines and Minerals

*RJH*

Date: January 6, 2026

Re: Dan Barkley's Retirement

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Dan Barkley from his role as Supervisor of the Land Reclamation Division, effective December 31, 2025. While we wish Dan the very best in his retirement, the leadership, professionalism, and character he demonstrated throughout his tenure will be greatly missed.

As the Department begins the process of identifying a permanent replacement, Dan Wheeler will serve as Acting Supervisor of the Land Reclamation Division. Dan brings a wealth of experience from his long-standing service within the regulatory program and possesses a strong understanding of Illinois mining. His willingness to step into this role during this transitional period is sincerely appreciated.

Until the Department permanently fills the Land Reclamation Division Supervisor position, please direct all Department correspondence to:

Dan Wheeler, Acting Supervisor  
IDNR – Office of Mines and Minerals  
Land Reclamation Division  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

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