

Land Reclamation Division Memorandum

MEMORANDUM NO. 99-07

To: Coal Operators

From: Kim Underwood

Date : September 7, 1999

Subject: Minor field modifications

In order to reduce paperwork and to expedite review to minor field modifications to an approved permit, the Department is implementing a method to allow additional circumstances where approvals can be given in the field and documented via the inspection report.

The initial criteria for consideration are as stated:

1. No additional bond is necessary.
2. No public notices are required.
3. It will not impact the approved reclamation plan.
4. It can be considered as minor, i.e., not requiring plans, after consultation with the staff engineer, hydrologist, wildlife biologist, or soils scientist.

The following is a list of minor field modifications that may potentially be approved by the field representative.

1. Soil stockpile locations or relocations,
2. deep tillage as non augmentation,
3. erosion repair activities and deadlines,
4. temporary support activities, e.g., portable coal crusher and coal stockpiles on areas approved to be disturbed,
5. minor access road modifications, e.g., increase in culvert size, after consultation with staff engineer,
6. equipment storage,
7. electrical substations,
8. power line corridors, waterlines,

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9. vegetation species additions after consultation with the staff wildlife specialist,
10. fencing,
11. wildlife structures, e.g., loafing structures, raptor perches, bird houses,
12. rip rap installation,
13. sediment pond clean out maintenance,
14. non mining related activities,
15. permit marker changes,
16. minor underground alteration - orientation, after consultation with the underground specialist,
17. installation of skimming devices on sediment ponds to assist water quality,
18. other activities considered minor on a case by case basis.

Activity approvals to be documented within the inspection report include:

1. who made the verbal request.
2. a thorough description of the activity (include a map if necessary.),
3. a thorough description of what was approved including anything discussed with the operator that is not to be approved, or any time frames which limit the activities,
4. a description of any discussions with technical staff,
5. a copy of the approval will be mailed to the operator.

Items going through this process will need to be reflected on the mining operations map for subsequent changes to the permit under IPRs or Significant revisions, as necessary, to keep the permit maps current.

If you have any questions concerning this new procedure, please don't hesitate to contact your field representative or this office.