

## MEMORANDUM

To: All Underground Coal Mine Operators  
From: Scott Schmitz, Supervisor, Blasting and Explosives Division  
Date: April 16, 1999  
Re: Development of Shaft Facilities at Underground Mines

There has been some confusion in the past regarding the use of explosives for the development of shaft facilities at underground mines. This memorandum is intended to provide clarification as to what requirements must be followed if explosives are utilized in shaft development. Many of these requirements are in addition to the approvals required through the State Mining Board.

Where shaft development will involve blasting and the use of explosives there are several important requirements to keep in mind. The regulations pertinent to shaft development blasting are found at 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1817.61 through 1817.68 and apply to all blasting within fifty (50) vertical feet of the original ground surface regardless of the amount of explosives used. Included in these regulations are requirements for a certified blaster, submittal of a blast design, completion of pre-blast flyrock and seismograph monitoring. Some of these requirements may not apply depending on site specific circumstances.

Additionally, the Illinois Explosives Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder, contain other important requirements. If an explosives magazine is to be brought on site, its location must be approved by the Blasting and Explosives Division (BED) and a certificate issued prior to explosives being stored. If the company does not have a magazine, each individual handling explosives must have an individual explosives license. Either the magazine kipper or license holder must undergo a criminal history background check, which takes between forty five (45) to sixty (60) days. However, an out of state resident can obtain a temporary license if they have an existing Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms license. Other requirements also apply and should be discussed with your BED inspector during the initial site inspection.

The development of a shaft may entail other permitting requirements through OMM's Land Reclamation Division (LRD), such as engineering designs and site plans, so it is imperative that you discuss any such proposal with your LRD inspector well in advance of construction.

cc: D.McBride  
D. Mottershaw  
T. Paterson  
L. Underwood  
S. Vancil