

Land Reclamation Division
Memorandum 00-01

To: Illinois Coal Operators

From: Alfred L. Clayborne
Acting Supervisor

Date: February 18, 2000

Re: Reclamation of Shafts and Underground Mine Openings

Department regulations at 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1817.15 require that all openings to the surface from underground mines shall be capped, sealed, backfilled, or otherwise properly managed to prevent access to the mine workings. The Department has determined that a combination of backfilling and sealing is the only way to ensure that access to the mine workings is prevented.

The following provisions shall apply:

1. Back fill material shall consist of concrete, rip-rap, aggregates, and/or soil material only. The use of any other material as backfill is prohibited unless approval is first granted by the Department.
2. The concrete seal shall be left exposed on the surface and a permanent monument shall be affixed to the seal to allow for future identification of the site.

The Department highly recommends that the fill material be allowed to settle for an extended period of time prior to topping off the fill and constructing the seal. It is also recommended that the location of all sealed shafts or slopes be recorded with the appropriate recorder of deeds.

Please be aware that nearly all permits were approved with the provision that final slope and shaft reclamation plans would be submitted for approval prior to implementation. So, unless your permit contains specific language concerning the reclamation of slopes and shafts, a plan must be submitted and approved by the Department prior to reclamation of slopes or shafts.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact your field representative or this

office.