

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

Memorandum No. 04-01

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

Date:

From: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Re: Auger Mining Revisions

While auger mining is done as part of a surface mining permit, it requires a subsidence control plan and an identified shadow area as part of the permit application. The shadow area for auger mining can extend outside the actual permit boundary with the potential for off-site impacts, due to subsidence, not normally contemplated in a surface mining permit.

In light of this, it is the Department's opinion that neighboring land owners, and the public at large, must be provided the opportunity to comment on such activities during the review process. Therefore, a request to revise a permit to add auger mining with shadow area extending outside the current permit area will be considered a significant revision.

A request to add auger mining where the shadow area would be contained within the current permit area will be considered an insignificant permit revision. If auger mining within the permit area is approved via an insignificant permit revision, and later the permittee proposes to expand the shadow area outside the approved permit boundary, a significant revision will be required.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please feel free to contact this office.