



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

Operator Memorandum 2018-03

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

Date: May 30, 2018

From: Nick San Diego, Supervisor *NSD*
Land Reclamation Division

Re: Applications for Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations Permits

On September 11, 2017, the Department issued Operator Memorandum 2017-08 announcing a new permit application for coal mining and reclamation operations for new permits, significant revisions, insignificant revisions and incidental boundary revisions to existing permits, renewal of existing permits, and the transfer of existing permits. In the months that followed, the Department solicited feedback internally and from the industry regarding use of the September 2017 application. In response to this feedback, the Department conducted an exhaustive internal review to further update and refine the application with the goal of further enhancing and improving the permitting process and to address unanticipated issues which surfaced after the September 2017 application was launched. This June 2018 version was created as a result and will also serve as the structure and template for the Department's electronic application currently under development.

Whether in paper or electronic format, the application is evergreen and ever-evolving. Therefore, please continue to submit feedback to the Department.

Please be advised that, effective June 1, 2018, all permit applications submitted to the Department shall require use of the revised application. Prior to applying, the applicant must ensure that the latest version of the application is being used by checking the Mines and Minerals website at (<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/mines/LRD/Pages/Applications.aspx>). Additionally, the Department will not accept application forms that have been modified or changed in any way, except as provided below.

With this newest version, the Department will allow applicants to submit subparts of the application rather than submit the entire Part (e.g. for IPR's and IBR's). A revised Cover Sheet provides space for the applicant to describe the proposed operations. Also, the Cover Sheet has an Application Part Inventory checkbox to quickly let reviewers know what parts of the application are being submitted.

Any applications already in the process of being prepared using the September 2017 version will be accepted on a case-by-case basis. However, the Department encourages applicants to switch to the newest version if it is not unduly burdensome, as the questions have been refined to provide a more efficient review process.

Should you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department.