

Land Reclamation Division  
Memorandum No. 99-03

To: All Underground Coal Mine Operators

From: Kim Underwood, Supervisor, Land Reclamation Division  
Scott Schmitz, Supervisor, Blasting and Explosives Division

Date: May 5, 1999

Re: Development of Shaft Facilities at Underground Mines

There has been some confusion in the past regarding requirements for developing shaft facilities at underground mines, particularly as related to blasting and explosives regulations. Many of these requirements are in addition to the approvals required through the State Mining Board. This memorandum is intended to provide clarification as to the proper procedures necessary to gain approval from the Land Reclamation Division (LRD) and the Blasting and Explosives Division (BED).

Where the shaft development involves 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 surveys, blasting notices, blasting signs, performance standards for ground vibration, air blast and flyrock and seismograph monitoring. Some of these requirements may not apply depending on site specific circumstances.

In addition to the LRD regulations, the Illinois Explosives Act, and regulations promulgated thereunder, contain other important requirements. If an explosive's magazine is to be brought on site, its location must be approved by the 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 keeper or license holder must undergo a criminal history background check, which takes between forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days. However, an out-

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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 the 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  
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