Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

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Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION
Memorandum No. 2015-02

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

From: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Date: April 15, 2015

Re: Borehole and Well Plugging Confirmation

The regulations at 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1816/1817.15 require the following: "When no longer needed for monitoring or other use approved by the Department upon a finding of no adverse environmental or health and safety effect, or unless approved for transfer as a water well under Section 1816.41, each exploration hole, other drilled hole or borehole, well, and other exposed underground opening shall be capped, sealed, backfilled, or otherwise properly managed, as required by the Department, under Section [1816/1817.13] and consistent with 30 CFR 75.1711. Permanent closure measures shall be designed to prevent access to the mine workings by people, livestock, fish and wildlife, and machinery, and to keep acid or other toxic drainage from entering ground or surface waters."

In order to accurately track if and when such openings are sealed the department is hereby requiring that within sixty (60) days of when approval is granted to drop a well from a mine's groundwater monitoring program or when an exploration hole, other drilled hole or borehole, or well becomes inactive, as determined by the department, such exploration hole, other drilled hole or borehole, or well shall be capped, sealed or backfilled and a plugging affidavit, copy attached, submitted to the department.

Section 1816/1817.41(g) provides for the transfer of a well to another party as follows: "With prior approval of the Department, wells may be transferred to another party for further use. At a minimum, the conditions of such transfer shall comply with State and local law and the permittee shall remain responsible for the proper management of the well until bond release in accordance with Sections 1816.13 through 1816.15."

Transfer of a well may be requested via an applicant for insignificant permit revision containing a letter of agreement from the party receiving the well.

Enclosure

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