ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

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Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION
Memorandum No. 2015-05

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

From: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Date: November 18, 2015

Re: Tree removal and affected acreage reporting

On February 10, 2014, the Department issued Memorandum 2014-01 concerning the "Timing of Logging Operations." In that memorandum it was indicated that OSM has stated that "It is our position that timber removal, or any type of land clearing at proposed coal mine permit sites, which are in pre-application or application status, could be considered a surface coal mining activity conducted to facilitate the proposed mining operation."

Since the Department is now obligated to consider "timber removal, or any type of land clearing" as surface coal mining activity, if a permit is bonded incrementally these activities may not be conducted on the un-bonded increments. In addition, areas on which the aforementioned activities occur must be reported as affected area pursuant to 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1816/1817.190.

In the annual "Reporting of Affected Acreage" memo for reporting period 2016, which will be issued in late summer, more detailed instructions will be provided on how this type of disturbance is to be reported on the annual SCML-3 form.