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Natural Resources
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Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Joel Brunsvold, Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION
Memorandum No. 2004-04

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

Date August 26, 2004

From: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Re: Copperbelly Water Snake

In 1996 the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, along with a number of other stakeholders in issues surrounding the copperbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*), entered into a conservation agreement for that species. As part of that agreement, the State of Illinois agreed to amend Illinois Administrative Code, Title 17, Chapter I, Subchapter B, Part 880 to prohibit a taking of this species.

Although the conservation agreement was for a five year period and has now expired, Section 880.70 is still in place which prohibits taking or possessing copperbelly water snakes in Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Lawrence, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White counties.

This memorandum is being sent to remind Illinois coal mine operators that the above prohibition is still in place and that taking or possessing copperbelly water snakes while conducting coal mining activities would be a violation of State regulations.

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