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Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Joel Brunsvold, Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

Memorandum No. 2005-02

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

From: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Re: Blasting Warning Signs

Date: April 20, 2005

It has come to our attention that blasting warning signs at some operations may not contain all of the information required in the regulations. Specifically, the information that has been lacking is the explanation of the marking of "charged holes awaiting firing within the permit area".

Please refer to operator memorandum No. 89-2 (copy attached) which addresses this issue. All blasting warning signs shall contain the required information. Please ensure that all signs contain the required language by May 20, 2005.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact Mike Falter, Blasting and Explosives Division, at (217)785-9019.

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS

Richard R. Shockley
Director

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LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION MEMORANDUM NO. 89-2

TO: All Surface and Underground Mine Operators

FROM: Douglas Downing

DATE: February 1, 1989

SUBJECT: Blasting Warning Signs

Section 1816.66(a) of the Department's rules requires operators to post blasting warning signs at those entrances to the permit area which provide access to the blasting area. See 62 Ill. Adm. code 1816.66(a). The blasting warning sign must include the following information:

1. The statement "Warning Explosives in Use".

2. An explanation of the audible blast warning and all clear signals.

3. An explanation of the marking of the blasting area.

4. An explanation of the marking of "charged holes awaiting firing within the permit area".

An example is attached for your reference.

The Department has interpreted the explanation for marking charged holes awaiting firing to be the method by which operators comply with 62 Ill. Adm. Code 220.130(i)(7) of the Department's rules governing surface installation health and safety, "[i]n blast areas where final preparations are being made and holes are waiting firing, the areas shall be guarded or barricaded and posted, or flagged against unauthorized entry". The operator shall indicate on the sign the method chosen to identify charged holes awaiting firing, pursuant to Section 220.130(i)(7).

Please ensure that the appropriate blasting signs are modified by including this new information on or before April 1, 1989.

Also, note, the Department's interpretation of 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1816.66(b), considers publication of the blasting schedule to fulfill the requirement to notify each person who resides or regularly works within one-half (1/2) mile of the permit area of the meaning of the signals in the blasting schedule.

If you should have any questions, please contact our blasting specialist, Mr. Robert Anderson.

EXAMPLE OF BLAST WARNING SIGNS AT PERMIT ENTRANCES

WARNING EXPLOSIVES IN USE

WARNING SIGNAL: 3 SERIES OF SHORT WHISTLES

ALL CLEAR: 1 LONG WHISTLE

BLASTING AREAS ARE MARKED: "BLASTING AREA"

CHARGED HOLES AWAITING FIRING ARE

MARKED: (WORDS CONSISTENT WITH 62 ILL. ADM. CODE 220.130(i)(7)