Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

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Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

Memorandum No.2014-03

To: All Coal Mine Operators/Consultants

Date: July 25, 2014

From: Scott K. Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Re: Indiana bat - timber disturbance dates

This memo will update and supersede Memorandum No. 2006-04

Illinois is restricted to issuing coal mining permits only when a Finding of Review can be made that activities described in the application will not affect the continued existence of federally listed endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitats, as determined under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. After permit issuance, the operator is required, to the extent possible using the best technology currently available, to minimize disturbances and adverse impacts on fish and wildlife and shall achieve enhancement of such resources where practicable (federal SMCRA Section 515; and federal regulations at 30 CFR 816.97 and 817.97; and Illinois SCMLRA Section 3.18; and state regulations at 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1816.97(a) and 1817.97(a)).

Operators are reminded that the "Protection and Enhancement Plans" approved for their permits contain restrictions for tree cutting. The current guidelines, which may be found at http://www.osmre.gov/lrg/docs/INBatPEPGuidelines.pdf, allow cutting of trees only between the period of October 15 through March 31. Any active permits issued prior to that date are subject to the permit renewal process. Therefore the above dates are the time periods to be enforced for **all** existing permits under our program.