STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

BRAD EVILSIZER
Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION MEMORANDUM NO. 83-2

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RECEIVED
MARION DISTRICT OFFICE
JAN 12 1983
DEPT. OF MINES AND MINERALS
LAND RECLAMATION DIV.

TO: All Surface Coal Mine Operators

FROM: Douglas Downing, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

DATE: January 11, 1983

RE: Backfilling and grading timing under Permanent Program.

On February 1, 1983, the Permanent Program Performance Standards become effective. The purpose of this memo is to clarify the timing requirements for backfilling and grading under Rule 1816.101(a)(3-4).

This rule as amended states:

1816.101(a) (3) (i) Area strip mining. Rough backfilling and grading shall be completed within 180 days following coal removal and shall not be more than four spoil ridges behind the pit being worked, the spoil from the active pit being considered the first ridge. The Department may grant additional time for rough backfilling and grading if the permittee can demonstrate, through a detailed written analysis under 1780.18(b)(3), that additional time is necessary.

(ii) Final grading (root medium placement, topsoil/substitute material placement, erosion control system installation) shall be completed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan prior to the expiration of 15 months after June 30th of the fiscal year in which coal removal occurred.

This rule applies to those areas in which coal removal occurs on or after February 1, 1983. For those areas in which coal removal occurs prior to February 1, 1983, Rule 1101 of the Surface-Mined Land Conservation and Reclamation Act Rules and Regulations applies.

For those areas mined between July 1, 1982 and January 31, 1983, <u>all</u> grading requirements shall be completed by May 31, 1984, under Rule 1101.

Under Rule 1816.101(a)(3) a differentiation between rough backfilling and grading and final grading is made. For areas in which coal is removed

on or after February 1, 1983, rough backfilling and grading shall be completed within 180 days and shall not be more than four spoil ridges behind the pit being worked, the spoil from the active pit being considered the first ridge.

For areas in which coal is removed between February 1, 1983 and June 30, 1983, final grading shall be completed by October 1, 1984, (i.e., 15 months after June 30th of the fiscal year in which coal removal occurs).

In order to facilitate monitoring of these and other regulations an accurate delineation of the February 1, 1983, coal face is essential. Operators should accurately document the February 1, 1983, coal face and compare this with the Department's documentation of the coal face.

Rule 1816.101(a)(4) describes the timing of backfilling and grading on disturbed areas other than those from which coal is removed.

1816.101(a) (4) Other Disturbed Areas

> All backfilling, rough grading and final grading of all other disturbed areas shall be completed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan not later than 12 months after cessation of active use as determined by the Department.

If you should have any questions regarding this memo, please feel free to contact this office.