STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION MEMORANDUM NO. 85-3

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TO: All Coal Operators

FROM: Douglas Downing, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

DATE: June 20, 1985

RE: Logging and Timbering/Endangered Species

The Department is requiring coal mine operators give advance notice (at least six months) to the Department prior to conducting logging and timbering activities in anticipation of mining. This information is requested for areas under permit and for areas where future mining activity is anticipated (areas in advance of currently permitted areas, adjacent blocks acquired near currently permitted areas, and new fields).

The purpose of this requirement is to allow a case-by-case evaluation of the areas for presence of habitats of unusually high value for fish and wildlife and to facilitate a check for the presence of any threatened or endangered species.

The authority for this requirement is Section 508(a)(1) of the federal act; Sections 1786.19(o), 1779.24(c) and 1783.24(c) of the state regulations.

Of main concern is the potential for affecting a species listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. In Illinois this would normally involve the Indiana Bat and the Bald Eagle.

The literature indicates a close relationship between Indiana Bat nursery colonies and stream corridors containing trees with rough (exfoliating) bark and cavities. Timbering activities in these and related areas between April 1 and September 30 <u>may</u> result in affecting Indiana Bats.

Early contact with the Department of Mines and Minerals will facilitate evaluation of and consultation regarding such areas and a determination if a period of prohibition of activity during the "critical period" (April 1 through September 30) needs to be implemented.

The potential for affecting the Bald Eagle would be of concern if timbering activities were conducted adjacent to a major river system.

If you have questions concerning this memorandum, please contact me or Johnny Reising of my staff.

DD:lw