STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

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TO: All Surface and Underground Coal Mine Operators

FROM: Douglas Downing
Supervisor

RECEIVED
MARION DISTRICT OFFICE
MAR 16 1987
DEPT. OF MINES AND MINERALS
LAND RECLAMATION DIV.

DATE: March 13, 1987

RE: Blaster Certification Program: Effective Date

The Department reminds all coal operators conducting surface blasting operations that the requirement that all persons directly responsible for blasting operations at surface coal mines and for surface blasting operations incident to underground mining must comply with 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1850.12, 1816.61(b) and 1817.61(c) as of the effective date, Monday, March 16, 1987.

These regulations require, respectively, that all persons directly responsible for blasting operations be blasters as defined at 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1850.5, and that all persons responsible for blasting operations at surface mines and surface blasting operations for underground mines be certified by the Department.

The Department interprets this to mean drilling and blasting foremen or anyone also who has direct, immediate supervision over the blasting crews must be blasters as outlined above. In the case of small operations, if the mine owner or manager, or superintendent, also conducts the drilling and blasting operation he or she must be certified. Further, direct responsibility requires that the person having direct responsibility be at the mine site while blasting operations are being conducted. Blasting operations include drilling and loading of blast holes. Direct responsibility can be transferred from one blaster to another so long as each blaster holds a valid certificate issued by the Department.