ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Office of Mines and Minerals
524 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1787 Jim Edgar, Governor ● Brent Manning, Director

LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION
MEMORANDUM NO. 97-7

TO: All Coal Mine Operators

DATE: November 3, 1997

FROM: Donald J. Pflederer, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

RE: Wildlife and Wetlands

The Department's regulations at 62 Ill. Adm. Code Section 1780.16(a) and 1784.21(a) require each application to include fish and wildlife resource information for the permit area and adjacent area. The scope and level of detail of the information is to be determined by the Department in order to design any required protection and enhancement plans.

Site-specific resource information is required whenever the permit area or adjacent area is likely to include threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, streams, wetlands, riparian areas, cliffs supporting raptors, reproduction areas, wintering areas, or other habitats of unusually high value for fish and wildlife.

Section 1780.16(a)(1)(A) and 1784.21(a)(1)(A) requires applicants to contact the Department prior to initiating such studies to determine what fish and wildlife resource information will be required. Applicants should contact the Department as early in the planning process as possible in order to allow for field studies, should they be necessary, and for consultation with other State and Federal agencies that may be involved.

The Department has on file data from the National Wetlands Inventory which show locations of wetlands which may be considered jurisdictional by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Department can advise prospective permittees of National Wetland Inventory sites located within or adjacent to prospective permit areas. Requests for this information should be made well in advance of permit application submittal so that permittees can prepare an application to the Corps of Engineers for a Section 404 permit, should it be necessary. These requirements will be reviewed as part of the completeness review when applications are submitted.

Dale Nolan and Bill O'Leary will be available to assist you in these inquiries. They can be reached at (618) 439-9111, in our Benton office.

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Effective July 1, 1995, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was created through the consolidation of the Illinois Department of Conservation, Department of Mines and Minerals, Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council, the Department of Transportation's Division of Water Resources, and the Illinois State Museum and Scientific Surveys from the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources.

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