OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF RECLAMATION

POLICY PROCEDURE DIRECTIVE
INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
92-01

Subject: Coal Exploration - Notices of Intent

Effective: December 1, 1992

Purpose: To establish the Division's policy on processing, filing, and inspecting Notices of Intent (N.O.I.).

The form, Notice of Intention to Conduct Coal Exploration Operations, is to be submitted by the explorer to the appropriate district office. The NOI should have an attached map showing the area to be explored and the access location to the exploration area from the public road. The scale of the map should be no greater than 1 inch = 1000 feet.

As NOI's are received in the district, they will be logged in sequence, assigning a number to the NOI. The numbering sequence consists of the year, district number, and a sequential three digit number. The three digit number will begin with 001 at the start of each calendar year eg. 92-IV-001.

The district office is responsible for ensuring that the NOI form is completed in accordance with the guidelines provided to the mining industry on December 8, 1989. A copy of the guidelines is attached. Upon completion of the review and a determination that the NOI, including the map, is complete and correct, the district supervisor is to sign and date the NOI. A copy of the signed NOI is retained by the district office with the remaining copies sent to the explorer and to the Permitting Section. OSM does not receive a copy.

If the explorer requests the NOI to be confidential, then the explorer needs to request in writing and indicate the basis for the confidentiality. A copy of the letter is to be attached to the Permitting copy of the NOI. Confidential NOI's are to be filed separately in a non-public file. A folder is to be filed with the other NOI's indicating the NOI number, the name of explorer, and identifying the NOI as confidential. This filing method is to be used in the district office and the Columbus office.

Any requests to view a confidential NOI, the Chief and the Permitting Manager will determine what information, if any, may be viewed by the person.

The district offices will be responsible for inspecting every fifth NOI that is filed. These NOI's will be included on the district monthly reports as new inspectable units. The explorer is required to notify the district office prior to commencing exploration, but the district office shall <u>not</u> wait for the notification to begin inspections.

The first inspection of the NOI should occur within ten working days of the date the NOI is signed by the district supervisor. Subsequent inspections are to occur as necessary, no less than quarterly, until the reclamation of the exploration is successfully completed, or if no disturbance of the site, then until the NOI expires.

An inspection report is to be completed and distributed after each inspection. A final inspection report is to be completed and distributed after the area is successfully reclaimed, or when the NOI expires if there is no disturbance.

In addition to the scheduled inspections, the district office will also inspect NOI's when the Division receives a complaint or becomes aware of a problem. In these situations, the NOI's should be inspected as frequently as necessary to investigate the complaint and/or correct the problem. These NOI's will <u>not</u> be identified as inspectable units on the monthly report.

The inspections addressed in this directive are the required minimums. The district office may conduct inspections on additional NOI's. If the district so elects, then those NOI's do not need to be identified on the monthly reports, but inspection reports do need to be completed and distributed.

Please begin using the attached log for any NOI's received after the effective date of this policy directive.

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