



Kentucky

Department for Surface Mining  
Reclamation and Enforcement

# Reclamation Advisory Memorandum

From: *Burl Scott for C.C.*  
Carl Campbell, Commissioner

Date: July 9, 1996

Subject: Electronic Submittal of Water Data

## RAM # 121

Coal industry representatives and environmental monitoring laboratories have requested that DSMRE develop the ability to receive water monitoring data by electronic means, in order to replace the cumbersome and costly paper submittal process. DSMRE recognizes that addressing this industry need will allow DSMRE to simultaneously streamline its own cumbersome process of reviewing and storing the data. Additionally, DSMRE will gain the ability to retrieve the data in a way that makes it available to both DSMRE and outside users, including the coal industry.

DSMRE has created a computer program that will allow us to accept water monitoring data submitted on 3.5-inch diskettes, and import that data directly into a database. The data files on the diskettes must use standard ASCII comma-delimited text and must be structured according to DSMRE file specifications. Most word processing and other software that is currently used by laboratories and coal companies to manage data and produce documents, is capable of creating water monitoring reports that meet these DSMRE file specifications.

Please note that for KPDES discharge monitoring, only reports for KPDES general permits will be accepted on diskette at this time, along with in-stream monitoring and ground water monitoring for DSMRE.

Electronic submittal is optional. Continuation of hard-copy reporting is acceptable.

DSMRE encourages industry to explore and use this option. It will be necessary to implement this option on a limited basis at first, since it will take some time for us to gear up. We will not be able to accept diskette submittals from all labs at the outset, but will need to establish and refine the procedure with one or two labs before adding others. Please bear with us as we work through the inevitable bugs and glitches together. If this option proves successful, we will explore the additional option of laboratories and companies reporting directly "online" to the regional offices, rather than submitting diskettes.

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If your company is interested, please contact Fred A. Craig in the Division of Field Services in Frankfort, for the technical and procedural details. Tel. (502) 564-2340.

Please understand that this option currently is available only for water monitoring pursuant to 405 KAR 16:110 and 18:110 for issued permits. It is not available for baseline surface and ground water data submitted in permit applications. However, we anticipate that experience gained in developing and using this option will be very helpful as we develop electronic submittal procedures for permit applications.