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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**DEPARTMENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

BUREAU OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

ELMORE C. GRIM  
COMMISSIONER  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

AMENDMENT TO RECLAMATION ADVISORY MEMORANDUM No. 81-05

#30

TO: Coal Operators and Company Engineers  
Coal Operator Associations  
Consulting Engineers  
BSMRE Division Directors and Regional Administrators

FROM: Elmore C. Grim, Commissioner *E.C.G.*  
Bureau of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

DATE: December 15, 1981

SUBJECT: Remining  
Auger Mining

This amendment modifies and clarifies previous memorandum No. 81-05, dated 23 July 1981, and is effective immediately.

The "procedures" section on page 3 of memorandum 81-05 states that the department will make site-specific determinations of actual or potential adverse physical impact after mining is completed. It further states that permits for remining will contain conditions as necessary to implement the current policy.

The department will make postmining determinations as described in Memorandum 81-05. However, premining determinations of potential adverse physical impact on highwalls are also necessary so the department can impose appropriate conditions on new permits or revisions.

The department will make a premining determination based upon information in the application and upon field inspection. If the department finds the proposed mining can reasonably be expected to have an adverse impact upon the highwall to be remined, the permit or revision will not be issued unless the applicant either:

- (a) revises the application to include specific plans for complete highwall elimination or for other remedial actions which will prevent or correct the adverse impacts, or

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(b) submits geotechnical information which demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department that adverse impact cannot reasonably be expected to result from the remining.

In every case the permit or revision will require the permittee to correct any adverse impact which actually occurs as a result of the remining.

Auger Mining. Each application for a permit or revision for auger mining on a previously mined area must contain, at a minimum, the following information. This information is required to describe the area to be affected and the proposed method of operations, and will assist the department in making an initial determination as to whether adverse impact can reasonably be expected to occur as a result of the augering.

- (1) Good quality color photographs, representative of the existing highwall to be remined, must be referenced to specific locations on the enlarged map and must be taken at intervals not to exceed 500 feet and at any locations where significant differences exist in the geology or physical condition of the highwall. One set of color prints or slides must be submitted in the "red" original permit application.
- (2) Cross-sections of the bench and highwall to be remined must be taken at intervals not to exceed 500 feet and at any locations where significant differences occur in the geology or the physical condition of the highwall. The cross-sections must show natural ground above the highwall to the horizontal extent of the depth of the proposed auger holes.
- (3) The strike and dip of the overlying strata must be shown, if different from that shown on the USGS 7-1/2 minute Geologic Quadrangle maps (especially applicable to operations in the Pine Mountain area).
- (4) A description of the proposed augering machine to be used, i.e. triple, double, or single head or thin seam miner.
- (5) The auger diameter, the center-to-center spacing of the auger holes, the dimensions of the remaining coal rib or web, and the proposed depth of the auger holes.

If the department initially determines that the augering can reasonably be expected to cause an adverse impact on the highwall, the permit or revision will not be issued unless the application is revised to provide for complete highwall elimination or other remedial measures to prevent or correct the adverse impact, or the applicant demonstrates to the department through engineering analysis that the proposed augering will not cause adverse impact on the highwall.