With the recent changes in ground water monitoring requirements for permanent program permits, the department has received several questions concerning ground water monitoring for interim operations. This RAM is intended to clarify the ground water monitoring requirements for interim permits.

Interim regulations 405 KAR 1:180 and 405 KAR 3:150 require that when an operation is conducted in a manner that may affect the ground water system, ground water levels and ground water quality must be monitored. If a waiver of ground water monitoring during and after mining has not been obtained, the permittee must sample all monitoring wells identified in the interim permit package at least once per three months. The parameters to be analyzed include water level, pH, acidity, alkalinity, total or dissolved iron, total or dissolved manganese, and total dissolved solids or specific conductance corrected to 25°C.

If an interim permittee is currently monitoring more frequently or for a different set of parameters, the above frequency and parameters may be implemented immediately. There is no need to revise the interim permit or to obtain special approval from the department to make this modification.

Permittees should continue to report ground water monitoring results quarterly to the appropriate Regional Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Adamson at (502) 564-2377.