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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

Permit Decision Guarantee Webinar for Active and Abandoned Mining Operations

Department of Environmental Protection

Nov. 20, 2012

Dial-in number for audio is: 1-877-668-4493

Access code: 645 609 642

Today's Speakers



Hayley Book

Director Office of Program Integration



John Stefanko

Deputy Secretary for Active and Abandoned Mine Operations



Tom Callaghan

Director, Bureau of Mining Programs

Agenda

- 1. Permit Decision Guarantee**
- 2. Clearing the Queue**
- 3. Questions & Comments**

Note: WebEx Technical Support is available at
866-229-3239

Permit Decision Guarantee

- The goal is to provide predictability to applicants
- Emphasis on pre-applications
- Correction Letters void the guarantee
- “Go-live” date was November 14

Permit Decision Guarantee

- Programmatic SOPs have been developed
- 3 major components
 - Pre-application
 - Completeness
 - Technical review

Pre-application

- Strongly recommended for new projects
- DEP review letter
- Field Meeting
- DEP summary letter
- 1-year shelf life

Completeness Review

- 10 to 45 day process time
- Fee included with application
- Applicant is notified of PGD timeline if accepted

Technical Review

- PDG timeline applies to this review
- Applicant can track progress via “eFACTS on the Web”
- Complex projects may receive multiple deficiency letters

Resources

- SOPs and Checklists are posted at these two locations:
- http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/bureau_of_district_mining_operations/20764
- http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/bureau_of_mining_programs/20865

Clearing the Queue

- The Mining Program has about 2,000 applications that were pending as of November 14, 2012
- The goal is to dispose of these by July 2013

Clearing the Queue

Office	Number of Pending Applications
California	352
Knox	162
Cambria	299
Greensburg	211
Moshannon	218
Pottsville	803

Program Evaluation

- The PDG program will be evaluated and modified, if needed, on an ongoing basis during the first year
- An evaluation is planned for February 2013

Common Questions

- What are the consequences of the PGD being voided?
 - The application will continue to be reviewed, but the final decision time frame is not guaranteed
 - How will the elevated review process work in the mining program?
 - Generally, the pre-denial process will serve as the elevated review process.

Common Questions

- How will a minor application deficiency be addressed?
 - A minor deficiency (one that can be resolved in a few days) may be handled informally, with a phone call rather than a correction letter.
 - Is processing of the bond part of the permit review time frame?
 - Bond submittal and review is identified as a processing delay. However ample time is available in the time frames to process a bond if it is submitted promptly.

Common Questions

- Why can't DEP hold "resource agencies" to the time frames?
 - We expect prompt replies from the PFBC and PGC. However, if they provide information during the review process, DEP must assure that the permit meets the regulatory requirements prior to approval.

What's Next

- Finalization of Checklists and SOP
- Revisions to Guidance Documents
- Forms Revisions
- “LEAN” Process
- Large Noncoal process
- Lessons will be useful for all applications
- On-going Training
- Flow Charts

Website Information



For more information, visit
www.dep.state.pa.us

Click on the Permit Decision Guarantee button.



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Questions?