



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Bureau of Mining Programs

Importing material to mine sites

(Coal Mining)

MRAB Meeting

April 25, 2024

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary

Summary

- Mine sites are extractive
- Reasons why materials may be imported
- All permitted mine areas are covered by mining regulations, which have requirements regarding pollution prevention
- Importing material must be authorized by the mining permit

Imported material

- Material imported onsite for storage, fill, processing, recycling, or reclamation purposes
- Reflected in operations and reclamation plans and maps, etc.
- May need permit revision, authorization, permit conditions

Imported material

TGDs – coal ash, biosolids, waste GP materials, reclamation fill (noncoal)

- Beneficial Use of General Permit (GP) Materials at Active Coal Mines
563-2112-001, 2016
- Use of Reclamation Fill at Active Noncoal Sites
563-2000-301, 2015

Waste GP materials

- GP materials may be subject to additional testing and/or characterization to ensure they are physically and chemically stable in the mine site environment, that they have the mechanical attributes to serve the intended use, and that they serve to enhance mine site reclamation.

Non-mining activity

Example: Composting or processing

- Temporary use, usually no permanent placement of material on the site
- Documented in permit, and covered by NPDES permit.

▶ Application and permit requirements

- Mining plans regarding operation and reclamation
- Due diligence with sources and records
- Suitable volumes
- Bonding for removal
- Pollution potential and NPDES permits

➤ Application and permit requirements

Possible additional requirements

- Chemical constituents, testing, physical characteristics
- Accounting for fate of unused material
- Revised E & S plan specific to the stockpile and use areas.
- Revised air pollution and noise control plan if stockpiles and similar operations are not already covered in the plan.

Current Status

- Inspection and permitting staff will be reminded of these requirements
- Requests for importing materials onto a mine site that is not suitable for mine sites will be rejected



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QUESTIONS?

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