

Organizational Structure

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Mining and Reclamation

Administration: The Administrative unit is responsible for the computer databases that track DMR's activities - Environmental Resources Information System (ERIS) and Applicant Violator System (AVS) the federal database. Bonding and insurance of all mining operations, fiscal issues, procurement, purchasing, headquarters file room, and human resources are included in this unit.

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Office of Explosives and Blasting: The Office of Explosives and Blasting (OEB) is responsible for regulating blasting on surface mine operations. OEB's responsibilities include: reviewing blast plans to insure the plans are adequate for the proposed blasting activity, reviewing pre-blast surveys for completeness, conducting inspections of blasting operations and taking any necessary enforcement actions, training pre-blast surveyors, training and certifying persons responsible for blasting procedures on mining operations, conducting and assisting with blasting research studies and projects. OEB is also responsible for administrating a, first of its kind, third party claims program. A competent claims administrator, contracted by OEB, will provide a resolution to any claims of blasting damage due to surface coal mining.

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OPERATIONS:

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Permitting Unit: The Permitting Unit is responsible for reviewing permit applications for surface and underground coal mines, preparation plants, coal loading facilities, haulage ways, and coal-related dams. This unit also reviews permit applications for non-coal quarry operations (sand, gravel, limestone, etc.) and for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for coal and non-coal mining operations. Permit review teams staffed with geologists, hydrologists, engineers and others are located in each regional office throughout the state and in the headquarters office.

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Inspection and Enforcement Unit: The Inspection and Enforcement unit is responsible for inspecting all coal mining and quarry operations in the state. It enforces compliance through regular inspections and Notices of Violation, and ensures site reclamation through final release of the operation. This unit is also responsible for civil penalty assessments, show cause proceedings, bond forfeiture and collection.

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PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:

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The Program Development unit is responsible for implementing a proactive approach to policy issues, legislation and training. This unit is designed to keep the Division staff current with technological advances and to provide clear direction through development of cogent policy and guidance to meet legal and regulatory requirements. This unit provides regulatory interpretation and support to field offices, develops and updates handbooks and forms, drafts legislation and initiates regulation changes. Other responsibilities of this unit include Small Operators Assistance Program (SOAP), public relations, including responses to FOIA requests, special projects, employee training and research of laws regulations and policy.

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