

<b>DIVISION OF MINES</b>	<b>CHAPTER: IV Inspections</b>
<b>PROCEDURES MANUAL</b>	
	<b>PROCEDURE NO: 1.04.10</b>
	<b>ISSUE DATE: July 18, 2001</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Impoundment Inspections</b>	

## **I. OBJECTIVE AND INTENT**

To establish procedures for inspection of refuse piles and water and silt retaining dams to ensure that mining operations meet the criteria specified in Chapter 18 of the Mine Safety Act and the plans approved under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Division of Mines and Mined Land Reclamation.

## **II. GENERAL**

1. Active refuse piles and water or silt retaining dams will be inspected at a minimum semi-annually (one inspection between January 1 - June 30 and one inspection between July 1 - December 31).
2. Inactive water or silt retaining dams will be inspected at a minimum annually (one inspection between July 1 and June 30).
3. Refuse piles and water or silt retaining dams may be inspected more frequently if deemed necessary by the inspector. (e.g., after periods of heavy rainfall).
4. DM personnel who inspect impoundments must have completed the MSHA impoundment inspection training class and if required, annual refresher.
5. DM personnel will ensure that the refuse piles and water and silt retaining dams are consistent with DMME approved plans.

## **PROCEDURES**

1. Inspections should include a thorough examination of the refuse piles and water and silt retaining dam. All structures should be inspected to ensure that the structures meet DM requirements and are consistent with approved plans. The inspection should include:
  - a. Examination of pipes, spillways, diversion ditches, decant system, and trash racks for clogging;
  - b. Observation for physical conditions such as burning, cracks/scrapes on crest, sloughing/building on slopes, erosion problems, surface movement, sumps/sinkholes in slurry, the amount of embankment freeboard, and water level;

- c. Examination for signs of seepage in underdrains, embankment slopes, hillside, downstream foundation, and indications of seepage such as boils;
  - d. Checking for cracking/crushing in spillway pipes and decant systems; and
  - e. Observations of techniques and procedures utilized by the operations.
2. The approved Examination and Emergency Response Plan for Water and Silt Retaining Dams should be examined for adequacy. The impoundment inspector should examine record books for inspection frequency, notations regarding hazardous conditions, and corrective actions taken. The inspector should also determine if the list of persons that may be affected is posted and is complete with required information.
  3. The inspector should determine that the map included in the Emergency Response Plan is posted and accurate.
  4. Information gathered concerning the inspection should be input into the DM Enforcement System utilizing the impoundment inspection form.
  5. Inspections of impoundment structures by DM inspectors should ensure that the structure meets all requirements of Chapter 18 of Title 45.1 and of the approved plan. If the impoundment is found to be noncompliant with the approved plan, the inspector should forward notice to the Division of Mined Land Reclamation inspector responsible for the site identifying the noncompliance.