

<b>DIVISION OF MINES</b>	<b>CHAPTER: VIII Customer Assistance</b>
<b>PROCEDURES MANUAL</b>	
	<b>PROCEDURE NO: 1.08.02</b>
	<b>ISSUE DATE: January 1, 1997</b>
<b>SUBJECT: Licensing Through Initial</b>	<b>LAST REVISED: 10/03</b>
<b>Reclamation Of Mine Sites</b>	

## **OBJECTIVE AND INTENT**

To ensure that DM in coordination with DMLR maintains required licensing of abandoned coal mine sites in accordance with the Mine Safety Act through completion of initial reclamation in order that required health and safety standards are met.

## **GENERAL**

The Mine Safety Act provides that a licensed coal mining operation is classified as abandoned and shall cease to be a coal mine for purposes of the Act upon completion of the “initial reclamation” activity. The Division of Mines is responsible for enforcement of applicable provisions of the Mine Safety Act at any licensed operation until completion of “initial reclamation”. This procedure is for the purpose of tracking and monitoring coal mining operations through completion of active mining, and until the operation ceases to be a mine as defined under the Mine Safety Act.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **1. REQUEST TO ABANDON**

- Refer to License Procedure 1.08.01, Abandonment. A mine is considered *abandoned* when the operator has notified the Division of Mines in writing, that all activity has ceased, including removing of equipment, buildings, supplies, or any initial reclamation. This notification includes a written request to abandon, Coal Mining Schedule (DM-CM-2 Form), and final map. Once this information is received, DM will consider this mine to be abandoned and removed from the DM active system. “Initial reclamation” as applied in this procedure means the disturbance has been backfilled and seeded. This does not include further work waiting to be released by DMLR; such as repair of slides, re-seeding, cleaning out ponds, and maintenance of roads.

### **2. DM COORDINATION**

- At the time a mine is considered abandoned within the DM system, a computer note will be forwarded to the area supervisor, inspector, and DMLR Reclamation Manager informing them this mine is “unlicensed”. The DM inspector will reply to the computer note stating whether or not the initial reclamation has been completed at the mine site. If the initial reclamation has not been completed and will be initially reclaimed in the future, a copy of the computer note will be placed in the “pending initial reclamation” mine file. This file will be maintained to track unlicensed mine sites, which have not completed initial reclamation. The file will be reviewed periodically in staff meetings in order to update the status of the sites.

### 3. COORDINATION WITH DMLR

- DMLR regulates reclamation activities through “final” reclamation. Therefore, they are regularly visiting sites. The DM inspector will be responsible for notifying the appropriate DMLR inspector that a site has been abandoned and is no longer licensed by DM. If the DMLR inspector becomes aware of activity on the unlicensed site, they will notify DM of such. Once the site has been re-licensed, it will be released from the “pending initial reclamation” file.