

DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING PROCEDURES MANUAL		PROCEDURE NO.	4.10.00
		ISSUE DATE	01/08/96
SUBJECT	Field Approval	Section	Permitting
		Last Revised	

OBJECTIVE AND INTENT:

To facilitate the issuance of mining permits/licenses and revisions the following policy has been developed to allow enforcement staff to grant a "field approval."

PROCEDURES:

Permit Applications

Permit or repermit applications that meet the following criteria may be field approved:

1. All drainage is contained in the pit or only sediment traps with drainage areas less than 5 acres are utilized.
2. Maximum permit acreage is 50 acres or less.
3. No homes, not owned by the operator, are closer than 500 feet to the proposed mine pit area.
4. There are no requests for a public hearing.
5. The proposed mine is not within one mile of a public water supply (well or reservoir) in the same watershed.
6. There are no current or previous environmental problems associated with the mine.
7. No special permits (such as VMRC, Corps of Engineers, or DEQ-Waste permits) are required by other agencies.
8. No overburden or tailings disposal facilities will be constructed except that overburden may be used to create berms as long as the berms are constructed on slopes not exceeding 18 degrees or 33 percent (3:1).
9. There are no proposed underground workings.

Parts of Permit Applications which cannot be fully field approved (do not meet the 9 criteria above) may be field approved as follows (refer to ***DMM Application Checklist - DMM-148***):

- Part 1.1 ***Application Operation Plan (DMM-101)***
- Part 1.2 Permit Notifications
- Part 1.3 Permit Sign
- Part 1.4 Relinquishment
- Part 4.1 Post Mining Land Use
- Part 4.2 Backfilling and Regrading
- Part 4.3 Revegetation

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Amendments

- Temporary cessation
- Mine site disposal of on site generated wastes
- Requests to bring off site generated **inert** materials onto the mine site for use or recycling
- Changes to post mining land use
- License application/renewal updates, DMM contact person, changes in address, corporate officer changes not involving change in ownership
- Minor sediment control modifications not affecting drainage areas larger than 5 acres (sediment traps)
- Forestry management or other agricultural activities on the mine permit
- Bond release or reduction - Mine Inspector to check the approve or deny box on the Bond Release Inspection
- Amendments to add to permit or bonded acreage - only those that meet constraints for Permit Field Approval or for other permits as long as amendment acreage does not exceed 20% of the total permitted acreage.

The field approval procedures are as follows:

1. The operator or their engineer prepares the permit/license document and addresses all issues in accordance with the DMM Application Checklist and the *Mineral Mining Laws and Regulations*.
2. The Mine Inspector reviews the permit/license document to determine if it is complete and addresses all applicable standards. This review is conducted within 30 days after receipt by the Mine Inspector and tracked in the DMM application tracking system.

After the Mine Inspector determines that the documents are complete and satisfies the applicable standards, they will determine if the application is subject to field approval. If it is not, the operator will forward the document to the DMM office for review. When the document is subject to field approval, the Mine Inspector will conduct a field review and indicate written approval of the permit/license documents.

The Mine Inspector forwards the field approved documents to the appropriate DMM staff person as indicated in the attached *Field Approval Table*.

3. The DMM staff person receiving the field approved permit/license document will signify his final approval in writing or return the documents to the site Mine Inspector to collect additional information. Any returns to the operator will be in writing and specify deficiencies or additional information required.

When final approval is granted the permit becomes effective upon receipt of the final approval signature unless fees are to be collected. All field approved permit/license documents which require fees become effective upon receipt of appropriate fees and bond.

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4. On field approved items received by the Mine Inspector Supervisor when fees are not required, the Mine Inspector Supervisor may choose to distribute the approved documents. He will mail one copy to the Mine Inspector, a copy of the approval will also be mailed to the Program Support Technician for necessary data entry and filing in the permit record. The Program Support Technician copy will have a note to indicate that the materials have already been distributed. A copy of the approved Amendment form will be mailed to the operator to signify approval.
5. All aspects of field approval will be conducted according to guidelines in the Field Approval Table (see page 4.10-4).

The Mine Inspector will signify field approval for permits or parts thereof by using the DMM Application Checklist. For a full permit approval, the approval will be written in the comment area on the first page of the DMM Application Checklist.

For partial field approval of permits, the approval of the individual sections will be written into the comment block of the checklist form adjacent to the item being approved.

For amendments the Mine Inspector will note that he has granted field approval by making a statement to that effect in the comment areas of the Amendment form.

All field approvals will be signified by using the term "field approval" and will be signed or initialed and dated by the approver.

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FIELD APPROVAL TABLE

	Inspector	Mine Inspector Supervisor	Environmental Engineer Consultant	Program Support Technician
Permit or Repermit Applications	30 days	21 days	4 days	4 days
Parts of Permit Applications	30 days		21 days	8 days
Permit Transfer	15 days		10 days	5 days
Temporary Cessation	30 days	15 days		2 days
Mine site disposal of on site generated waste	30 days	15 days		2 days
Mine site use or recycling of off site generated <u>inert</u> wastes	30 days	15 days		2 days
Change of Post Mining Land Use	30 days	15 days		2 days
License Application/renewal updates, DMM contact person, change of address, corporate officer changes not involving change in ownership	30 days			8 days
Sediment control modification not affecting drainage areas larger than 5 acres	30 days	15 days	2 days	2 days
Forestry management or other agricultural activities at the mine	30 days	15 days		2 days
Bond Release or Reduction – Mine inspector to check the approve or deny box	60 days		15 days	2 days
Amendments to add permitted or bonded acreage (within guidelines)	30 days	15 days	2 days	6 days