

January 22, 2016

Dear Permit Applicant:

The Department of Environmental Protection is updating the application format requirements for all new coal and large non-coal permit applications, revisions, renewals, and transfers. Beginning March 1, 2016, applicants will need to submit a complete PDF file of permit applications for new mining operations, permit revisions, permit renewals, and/or permit transfers on a compact disc (CD). This electronic submittal will be in addition to the current number of hard copies required. Applicants will also have the option to submit spreadsheets in an Excel format and all maps, drawings, and cross-sections in an AutoCAD format.

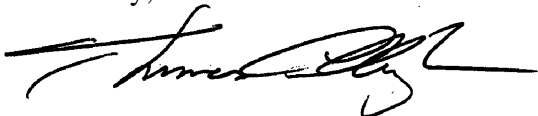
This requirement was implemented for applications for bituminous underground mines, coal preparation plants, and coal refuse disposal areas several years ago and has served to shorten application review timelines. Electronic files will also allow information to be exchanged during reviews via e-mail rather than conventional mailings.

This update will take effect on all new applications, revisions, renewals, and transfers submitted after March 1, 2016. Unless otherwise worked out with the reviewing district mining office, all applications must include an electronic copy of the application in order to be accepted for review after March 1.

Instructions regarding what should be included on the CD will be posted on the DEP webpage and will be available from the appropriate district mining office within the next two weeks.

I look forward to your continued cooperation for further improvements in the permitting process.

Sincerely,



Thomas Callaghan, P.G.
Director
Bureau of Mining Programs