

SHALL INCLUDE: (1) TWO COPIES OF AN ACCUPATE MAP OR PLAN AS REQUIRED BY §7-401(A) OF THIS TITLE; (2) A DETAILED MINE OPENING SEALING PLAN AND GENERAL RECLAMATION PLAN FOR THE AFFECTED AREA; (3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY; AND (4) AN APPLICATION FOR EACH OTHER PERMIT REQUIRED FOR THE OPERATION BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE.

(C) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL CONDUCT A HEARING WITH THE OPERATOR. THE HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER THAT FULFILLS THE REQUIREMENTS OF ALL OTHER PERMIT PROVISIONS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE. PRIOR TO THE HEARING, THE SECRETARY SHALL SEEK THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAND RECLAMATION COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE GENERAL RECLAMATION PLAN FOR THE AFFECTED AREA.

(D) AFTER THE HEARING, THE SECRETARY SHALL APPROVE, REJECT, OR MODIFY THE PROPOSED DEEP MINING PLANS. IF THE SECRETARY MODIFIES OR REJECTS A DEEP MINING PLAN, THE OPERATOR SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF THE REASONS FOR REJECTION OR THE MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED. THE OPERATOR MAY RESUBMIT THE PLAN WITH THE REQUESTED CORRECTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE SECRETARY.

(E) A PERMIT ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS VALID FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO FIVE YEARS FROM ITS ISSUANCE OR UNTIL THE OPERATION IS COMPLETED OR ABANDONED, UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT SUSPENDS OR REVOKES THE PERMIT OR UNLESS THE PERMITTEE REQUESTS A CHANGE IN OPERATIONS.

(F) A PERMIT IS RENEWABLE ON APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF A \$200 FEE.

(G) A PERMIT MAY NOT BE ISSUED TO ANY OPERATOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF MINING ANY ABANDONED MINE OR PART OF IT THAT HAS BEEN SEALED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE, UNLESS A DETAILED PROJECTED MINING PLAN IN THE FORM OF A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS IS SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY. THE SECRETARY MAY NOT APPROVE A PLAN UNLESS THE PLAN SHOWS THAT A CONTINUATION OF MINING WOULD NOT AFFECT ADVERSELY THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE OF THE AREA AND WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE MORE COMPLETE RECOVERY AND UTILIZATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES.

7-5A06.

(A) WHEN, BY SALE, LEASE, ASSIGNMENT, OR OTHERWISE, ONE OPERATOR SUCCEEDS TO THE INTEREST OF ANOTHER IN ANY UNCOMPLETED MINING OPERATION, THE DEPARTMENT MAY RELEASE THE FIRST OPERATOR FROM ALL LIABILITIES IMPOSED ON HIM BY THIS SUBTITLE WITH REFERENCE TO THE OPERATION AND TRANSFER THE PERMIT TO THE SUCCESSOR OPERATOR, IF BOTH OPERATORS HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE SUCCESSOR OPERATOR ASSUMES THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST OPERATOR WITH REFERENCE TO RECLAMATION OF THE LAND