

7-6A-11.

(a) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A surface mining permit shall be granted for such period as requested and deemed reasonable, but not exceeding 25 years. If the mining operation has been completed and the reclamation required under the approved mining and reclamation plan is completed prior to the expiration of the permit, the permit may terminate. Termination of a permit does not relieve the [operator] PERMITTEE of any obligations which he has incurred under his approved mining and reclamation plan or otherwise. If the [operator] PERMITTEE wishes to continue operation of his preparation plant, his permit may remain valid but shall be modified.

(b) A permit shall be void if surface mining has not commenced within two years of its issuance.

7-6A-12.

(a) Any [operator] PERMITTEE engaged in surface mining under a surface mining permit may apply at any time for modification of the permit. The application shall be in writing on forms furnished by the Department and fully state the information called for. In addition, the applicant may be required to furnish other information the Department reasonably deems necessary to enforce this subtitle. However, it is not necessary to resubmit information which has not changed since the original application, if the applicant so states in writing.

(b) A modification under this section may affect the land area covered by the permit, the approved mining and reclamation plan coupled with the permit, or other terms and conditions of the permit. A permit may be modified to include land contiguous to the existing affected land, but not other lands. The mining and reclamation plan may be modified in any manner, if the Department determines that the modified plan fully meets the standards set forth in § 7-6A-19 OF THIS SUBTITLE and that the modifications would be generally consistent with the bases for the issuance of the original permit. Other terms and conditions may be modified only if the Department determines that the permit as modified would meet the requirements of §§ 7-6A-07 and 7-6A-09 OF THIS SUBTITLE. No modification may extend the expiration date of any permit issued under this subtitle.

(c) [A] EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, A \$100 fee shall be charged for a permit modification.

~~(D) -- A -- FEE -- OF -- \$8 -- FOR EACH ACRE OF AFFECTED LAND FOR EACH YEAR OF OPERATION, BUT NOT EXCEEDING \$500 SHALL BE CHARGED FOR ANY MODIFICATION RELATING TO THE ADDITION OF AFFECTED LAND.~~