

(4) Any ~~joint~~ hearing shall be at least 15 but not more than 60 days after the Department provides public notice of the hearing. Members of the public shall be provided an opportunity to comment on the application in writing until the date of any hearing and copies of the application shall be available for public inspection at the Department 15 days before any hearing. ~~A RECORD OF THE HEARING SHALL BE MADE AND BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.~~

~~(5) The Committee shall approve, reject, or modify the proposed plan. If a hearing is requested, the Committee shall approve, reject, or modify the proposed plan after the hearing. If the plan is rejected or modified, the operator shall be notified in writing of the reason for rejection or the suggested modification. The operator may resubmit the plan to the Department with the Committee's requested corrections or modifications. If the changes are made and the application fully complies with all provisions of this subtitle and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, the Department may issue the permit. If the Committee rejects the plan, the Department may not approve the permit or permit revision.~~

~~(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE, CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY THE PERMIT APPLICATION, IF A HEARING IS REQUESTED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE, CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY THE PERMIT APPLICATION AFTER THE HEARING, IF THE APPLICATION IS DENIED, THE APPLICANT SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF THE REASON FOR DENIAL, THE APPLICANT MAY RESUBMIT THE APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH REQUIRED MODIFICATIONS, IF THE MODIFICATIONS ARE MADE AND THE APPLICATION FULLY COMPLIES WITH ALL PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE AND RULES AND REGULATIONS ISSUED PURSUANT TO IT, THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE THE PERMIT.~~

~~(6) The Department shall review all other aspects of the application, including information pertaining to any other permit required from the Department for the proposed strip mining operation.~~

(7) The Department shall immediately notify the operator, local governments, and any participants to a joint hearing of the decisions by the Committee and the Department.

~~(6) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE APPLICANT, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND ANY PARTICIPANTS TO A HEARING OF ITS DECISION. Within 30 days of notification, any person adversely affected by the decision may request an adjudicatory hearing. The Department shall hold a hearing in accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article within 30 days of the request and render a decision within 30 days thereafter.~~

~~(8)~~ (7) Any applicant, or any person with an interest which is or may be adversely affected, who has