

(IV) INDICATE THE LOCATION WHERE A COPY OF THE APPLICATION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION; AND

(V) INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT WRITTEN COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR AT--LEAST 30 DAYS AFTER THE LAST NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION.

[[ii]] (3) The Department shall provide written notice of applications for permits to any person who requests written notice.

[(2) If a hearing is requested, 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.]

~~[(3) (4) 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) (1) IF A HEARING IS REQUESTED WITHIN THE COMMENT PERIOD SET FORTH IN THE PUBLIC NOTICE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY THE APPLICANT AND ANY PERSON WHO REQUESTS THE HEARING OF THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THE HEARING. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PUBLISH THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THE HEARING IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY OF THE PROPOSED OPERATION.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOLD THE HEARING 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 THE HEARING AND COPIES OF THE APPLICATION SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AT THE DEPARTMENT AND AT THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE COUNTY OF THE PROPOSED MINE SITE 15 DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING.

(3) A RECORD OF THE HEARING SHALL BE MADE AND BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

[(d)] (E) (1) The Secretary shall approve, reject, or modify the proposed deep mining plans. If a hearing is requested, after the hearing, the Secretary shall approve, reject, or modify the proposed deep mining plans.

(2) 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.