

(d) In lieu of § 7-505(b)(2)(iii) and § 7-505(d) of this subtitle, the Department may issue permits under this section, without public hearing, upon a written finding that the proposed operation will be conducted in a manner consistent with the environmental and public safety objectives of this subtitle.

(e) Instead of the amounts of bonds required by § 7-506(d) and § 7-511(a)(2) of this subtitle, the amount of bond required for a permit issued under this section shall be sufficient to assure completion of the reclamation plan by the Department in the event of forfeiture, and in no case may be less than \$4,000.

(f) Instead of the provisions of § 7-511 of this subtitle relating to minimum periods of time after which the Department may release a portion of the amount of a bond, the Department may release up to 50 percent of the amount of a bond posted under this section upon completion and approval of all backfilling and planting on the permit area, and shall hold the operator responsible for the successful revegetation of the permit area for 2 years after approval of the planting report unless this period is extended to ensure compliance with the requirements of this subtitle. All other requirements of § 7-511 of this subtitle apply without change to permits issued under this section.]

7-515.

(A) IF THE DEPARTMENT FINDS THAT THE PROBABLE TOTAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION AT ALL LOCATIONS OF A SURFACE COAL MINING OPERATOR WILL NOT EXCEED 300,000 TONS, THE COST OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES, WHICH SHALL BE PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LABORATORY OR SUCH OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE QUALIFIED ENTITY DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL BE ASSUMED BY THE DEPARTMENT UPON WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE OPERATOR IN CONNECTION WITH A PERMIT APPLICATION:

(1) THE DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE HYDROLOGIC CONSEQUENCES REQUIRED BY § 7-505(C)(4) OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING ENGINEERING ANALYSES AND DESIGNS NECESSARY FOR THE DETERMINATION;

(2) THE DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-SECTION MAPS AND PLANS REQUIRED BY § 7-505(C)(7) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(3) THE GEOLOGIC DRILLING AND STATEMENT OF RESULTS OF TEST BORINGS AND CORE SAMPLINGS REQUIRED BY § 7-505(C)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(4) THE COLLECTION OF ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE PREPARATION OF PLANS NECESSITATED THEREBY;

(5) PREBLAST SURVEYS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

(6) THE COLLECTION OF SITE-SPECIFIC RESOURCE INFORMATION AND PRODUCTION OF PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT PLANS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITATS AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.