

(3) ANY PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING SHALL BE AT LEAST 15 BUT NOT MORE THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE COMMITTEE PROVIDES PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE HEARING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHALL BE PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION PLAN, IN WRITING, UNTIL THE DATE OF ANY HEARING.

(4) THE COMMITTEE SHALL APPROVE OR REJECT THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION PLAN. IF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING IS REQUESTED, THE COMMITTEE SHALL APPROVE OR REJECT THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION PLAN AFTER THE HEARING. IF THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION PLAN IS REJECTED, THE APPLICANT SHALL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING OF THE REASON FOR REJECTION OR THE COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS. THE APPLICANT MAY RESUBMIT THE PLAN WITH CORRECTIONS OR THE COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS. IF THE CHANGES ARE MADE, THE COMMITTEE MAY APPROVE THE RECLAMATION PLAN.

(5) THE COMMITTEE SHALL NOTIFY THE APPLICANT, THE DEPARTMENT, AND ANY PARTICIPANTS TO A HEARING, OF ITS DECISION.

(B) THE COMMITTEE SHALL DETERMINE THAT REVEGETATION OF RECLAIMED SURFACE COAL MINED LAND MEETS THE REVEGETATION STANDARDS OF THE REGULATORY PROGRAM BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT MAY RELEASE ANY BOND HELD TO ASSURE REVEGETATION OF THE LAND.

(C) IF THE COMMITTEE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A VIOLATION OF THE SUBTITLE, REGULATIONS, OR PERMIT CONDITIONS EXISTS, THE COMMITTEE SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH A REPORT THAT INDICATES THE RESULTS OF AN INSPECTION, OR THE REASON WHY NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

7-505.

(a) Before any person conducts open-pit mining, he shall obtain a permit [on a form furnished by] FROM the Department for each separate operation. All permits shall require the operator to comply with all amendments to this subtitle and rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. A permit may not be issued if the Department determines that reclamation cannot be accomplished in accordance with the requirements of this subtitle or rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto. The permit is valid for a term not to exceed 5 years, unless the Department suspends or cancels it prior to that time. If an applicant demonstrates that a specified longer term is necessary to obtain financing for equipment and opening the operation, the Department may grant a permit for such longer term. A permit issued under this subtitle shall carry with it the right of successive renewal and may be renewed [or amended as provided in subsection (d)] if the permit meets the requirements of this subtitle and rules and regulations adopted under this subtitle. A permit may not be transferred or assigned without written approval from the Department.