



How to Report a Problem with Coal Mining Steps for Citizens



The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) controls the way mining and reclamation are done in this country. As part of this law, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) was founded to oversee coal mining throughout the country. Because mining and reclamation are not done the same way in every state, the law allows each State to take charge of mining matters in their state. In Illinois, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division (LRD) has the main role in making sure that coal mining companies obey mining laws. The AMLR is also in charge of reclaiming abandoned coal mines (those mined before August 3, 1977). OSM's major role in Illinois is to evaluate the state's programs and assist the state with needed improvements.

REPORTING A PROBLEM TO THE STATE ACTIVE COAL MINING (Mining took place after August 3, 1977)



Your complaint should be directed to the LRD. You have a right to report a coal mining site you think is operating contrary to the law. When you write or call, explain what you think is wrong as clearly as you can. Giving details will help the LRD decide the best way to handle your problem. You will be asked to send in a letter, if you reported your problem by telephone. You can tell the LRD that you do not want the company to know you made the report, and they will not give out your name. Also, you may ask to go with the LRD personnel when they check the problem.

To report an active coal mining problem, the IDNR can be reached at the following:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources,
Land Reclamation Division
Office of Mines and Minerals
524 S. Second Street
Springfield . Illinois 62701-1787
(217) 782-4970

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Land Reclamation Division
Office of Mines and Minerals
503 E. Main
Benton, IL
(618) 439-9111

REPORTING A PROBLEM TO THE STATE ABANDONED COAL MINING (Mining took place before August 3, 1977)



Your complaint should be directed to Illinois Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Division (AMLR) Today, coal operators are required to reclaim their sites when mining is completed. But it was not always so. Prior to passage of SMCRA many mines were abandoned, leaving behind thousands of acres of scarred and useless land which have public safety hazards and environmental problems. Examples of these problems are dangerous highwalls, open portals and airshafts, and burning mine refuse (gob). SMCRA established a reclamation fund to finance restoration of land that had been mined and abandoned prior to August 3, 1977. AMLR also administers the AML Emergency Program which can respond within 24 hours to abandoned coal mine problems that occur suddenly and may be life-threatening.

To report an abandoned coal mining problem, the AMLR can be reached at the following:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources,
Land Reclamation Division
Office of Mines and Minerals
524 S. Second Street
Springfield . Illinois 62701-1787
(217) 782-0588

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
AML Reclamation Division
Office of Mines and Minerals
1707 Industrial Park Drive
Marion, IL 62959
(618) 997-9495

REPORTING A PROBLEM TO OSM

You may write or call OSM to report a problem with an active coal mine and request an inspection by OSM. OSM will ask you to write a letter giving the details of the problem, as well as your name, address, and telephone number and the name of the coal company and permit number, if you know it. You can tell OSM if you do not want the company to know you made the report, and they will not give out your name. Also, you may ask to go with OSM when they check the problem. When you report a problem to OSM that is not a severe danger, it will be sent to the LRD because they are the primary enforcer of the coal mining laws in Illinois. The state will then have 10 days to check on the matter and inform OSM what they have found. OSM will read the report, and will see if the LRD has taken care of the problem. OSM will send you a letter telling what has been done and what actions you can take if you do not agree with what was decided.

Problems with abandoned coal mines can also be reported to OSM. These problems will be referred immediately to AMLR.

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ILLINOIS