

SECTION 13

PROSPECTING

SUBJECT: General Procedures for Prospecting

1. Purpose: Clarification of procedures governing prospecting.
2. Definition:
3. Legal Authority/Reference: 22-3-7; 38-2-13
4. Policy Procedures:
 - A. A Notice of Intent to Prospect is intended for operations determining the location, quality, and quantity of a natural coal deposit or conducting feasibility studies. They are not small surface mining permits.
 - B. A Notice of Intent to Prospect is required whenever excavation equipment is used to determine the location or nature of a natural coal deposit, abandoned refuse for possible reprocessing, to include new roads which are constructed or upgraded for drilling operations.
 - C. A Notice of Intent to Prospect (NIP) for less than 250 tons must be inspected quarterly and NIP greater than 250 tons must be inspected monthly. However, upon reclamation of the site, the approval may be inspected quarterly.
 - D. All prospecting disturbance is to be regraded to A.O.C. within 3 months of initial disturbance, unless an SMA number has been issued. However, reclamation of a prospect site cannot be delayed more than one (1) year after the receipt of an SMA number. All stream crossings should be removed and stream beds returned to original configuration.
 - E. All boreholes should be filled immediately as per

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- F. All disturbance must be seeded and mulched in accordance with the pre-plan as soon as possible.
- G. Drilling for the purposes of overburden analysis or stability analysis will require a Notice of Intent to Prospect when substantial disturbance is anticipated.

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SUBJECT: Blasting on Prospecting Approvals

1. **Purpose:** Clarification of blasting requirements on prospecting approvals.
2. **Definitions:**
3. **Legal Authority:** 22-3-7; 38-2-13.4(c), & 38-2-13.5(b)
4. **Policy/Procedures:** Blasting is prohibited on prospecting operations unless they are addressed in the proposed prospecting application. If approved, all blasting must comply with section 38-2-6 of the rules and regulations.

If blasting is required after a prospecting approval has been issued without a blasting plan, then a new prospecting application must be submitted which includes all the requirements of Section 38-2-6.

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SUBJECT: Map Requirements for Notices of Intent to Prospect

1. Purpose: Requirements of map locations for drill holes and excavations.
2. Definitions: N/A
3. Legal Authority: 22-3-7, 38-2-13.1(a), 13.2(c), 13.3
4. Policy/Procedures: The location of drill holes and excavations on maps are required to be an appropriate location. Meaning that a reasonable variance in actual location of a drill hole or outcrop excavation from the proposed location will not constitute a violation.