



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Louisville District ®

Public Notice

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Please address all comments and inquiries to:
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This notice announces the availability of the [Kentucky Pre-Application Coordination Process](#) document for coal facilities. This document is the result of coordination with an inter-agency workgroup composed of representatives from the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Kentucky Division of Water, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The purpose of the document is to reduce the cumulative time required for review of permit applications for the various permits required for coal mining activities (Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and Clean Water Act Section 402 and Section 404 permits and Section 401 Water Quality Certification); Eliminate unnecessary re-design and re-review of mine plans by discussing alternatives and avoidance/minimization measures and identifying regulatory requirements up front; Consolidate pre-permitting sampling and analysis efforts to reduce time and expense to the applicant; Identify critical resources or other features that would require further characterization (surveys, documentation) or special consideration in the mine plan; and Assure consistency of information provided to all agencies to avoid approval of conflicting plans.

One of the important tools discussed in the document is the availability of pre-application meetings to discuss potential projects with the agencies. At a pre-application meeting, the applicant would introduce conceptual project plans, and the agencies would advise the applicant on procedural aspects of the permit application and review process. The agencies would also clarify the specific site analyses necessary for each agency to thoroughly and expeditiously review applicable permit applications consistent with each agency's respective regulatory roles and responsibilities. It is envisioned that pre-application meetings will significantly enhance the efficiency of the permit application process, provide for synoptic collection of necessary site information, and minimize requests for additional information from the agencies during the permit application review process.

The next pre-application meetings are being scheduled for June 19, 2012. If you would like to introduce one of your projects to the inter-agency team, please contact this office at the address or phone number listed above.

The Kentucky Pre-Application Coordination document is available on Louisville District's Internet site at <http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/orf/article.asp?id=2876&MyCategory=49>.