**Section 1773.11 Requirements to Obtain Permits**

a) All operations.

On and after February 1, 1983, no person shall engage in or carry out any surface coal mining operations on non-Federal or non-Indian Lands within the State, unless such person has first been issued a permanent regulatory program permit by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Department), except as provided for in subsection (b). A permittee need not renew the permit if no surface coal mining operations will be conducted under the permit and solely reclamation activities remain to be done. Obligations established under a permit continue until completion of surface coal mining and reclamation operations, regardless of whether the authorization to conduct surface coal mining operations has expired or has been terminated, revoked, or suspended.

b) Continuation of interim regulatory program operations.

1) A person authorized to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations under a permit issued or amended by the Department in accordance with the requirements of the interim regulatory program may conduct such operations beyond February 1, 1983, if:

A) Not later than August 3, 1982, regardless of litigation contesting that program, an application for a permanent regulatory program permit is filed for any operation to be conducted after February 1, 1983, in accordance with the provisions of the permanent program;

B) The Department has not yet rendered an initial administrative decision approving or disapproving the permit; and

C) The surface coal mining and reclamation operation is conducted in compliance with the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) (Federal Act), the Surface Coal Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Act [225 ILCS 720] (State Act), 62 Ill. Adm. Code 1800 through 1850 and all terms and conditions of the interim program permit.

2) No new interim program permits shall be issued.

(Source: Amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 20265, effective November 5, 1998)