



COALEX STATE INQUIRY REPORT - 76
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TOPIC: EXPLORATION PERMIT TERMS

INQUIRY: What states, if any, limit the terms of "test burn" permits that allow the removal of more than 250 tons of coal?

SEARCH RESULTS: A COALEX search was conducted to determine which states limit the term of an exploration permit. Three states were identified as having some type of time limit on the term of an exploration permit.

Alabama's regulations allow the regulatory authority to set the term of an exploration permit. If the exploration will involve the removal of more than 250 tons of coal, the permit will be valid "for a period determined by the Regulatory Authority". (Alabama Surface Mining Commission Rules and Regulations 880-X-8C-.06(3) (1981))

The Alaska regulations allow exploration permits to be issued for a term of two years. These permits may be renewed. (11 Alaska Admin. Code 90.165(e) (1983)) Louisiana's regulations set an exploration permit term of one year. (Louisiana Surface Mining Regulations 176.2(b) (1983))

Mr. Gary Merritt, Director of the Office of Environmental Policy, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, reported that in Pennsylvania, the term of the permit is set by the operator. Thus, is an operator says in his permit application that he will be exploring for six months, that will be the term of the permit.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Alabama Surface Mining Commission Rules and Regs., Sec. 880-X-8C-.06(3) (1981).
- B. 11 Alaska Admin. Code Sec. 90.165(e) (1983).
- C. Louisiana Surface Mining Regs., Sec. 176.2(b) (1983).