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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
**DIRECTIVES SYSTEM**

Subject Number:

INE-21

Transmittal Number:

320

Date: 2/27/87

Subject: Inspection Frequency of Undisturbed Permits

Approval: *John Christensen* Title: Director

1. Purpose. This directive defines when newly permitted sites first become subject to prescribed inspection frequencies.

2. Definitions. None.

3. Policy/Procedure.

(1) The inspection frequency obligations set out at 30 CFR 840.11 and 842.11, and in the approved state program apply only to surface coal mining and reclamation operations for which surface coal mining, as defined in 30 CFR 700.5, have actually commenced. Consequently, when calculating the number of inspections required in an evaluation period, Field Offices shall base such calculations on the date surface coal mining operations actually begin; that is, when construction, excavation, blasting, or other activities are conducted which disturb the land surface in connection with, incidental to, or in anticipation of the extraction of coal. This would not include the initiation or continuation of surface or ground water monitoring or other similar activities normally associated with exploration unless such activities involve new disturbance of the land surface in anticipation of the extraction of coal.

(2) Field Offices should ensure that states are capable of effectively monitoring undisturbed permits in order to promptly comply with inspection frequency requirements.

4. Reporting Requirements. None.

5. References. 30 CFR 700.5  
30 CFR 840.11  
30 CFR 842.11

6. Effects On Other Documents.

Supersedes "Inspection Frequency Calculations of Undisturbed Permits" memorandum dated June 16, 1986 from the Deputy Director, Operations and Technical Services.

7. Effective Date. Upon Issuance.

8. Contact. Chief, Branch of Inspection, (202) 343-5384.