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August 31, 2010

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Environmental Quality Board
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2301

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Re: Proposed Amendments to Chapter 77, Noncoal Mining Fees

Members:

I am responding to a proposed new fee as printed in PA Bulletin, Doc. No. 10-1584. Both the large and small permits that do not go below water table or contiguous terrain should both be inspected twice yearly. There is no difference in cost to inspect either.

§77.106 Fees: In an attempt to make the industry self-supporting, I would definitely approach the small surface mining fees differently. They are not self-supporting and should also be bonded and subject to the same closure rules as large permits. I suggest the following fees:

New Permits:

Large Surface Mining (below water table)	\$20,225.00
Large Surface Mining (not mining below water table or contiguous terrain)	\$12,000.00
Small Mining Permits	\$6,000.00

Annual Fees:

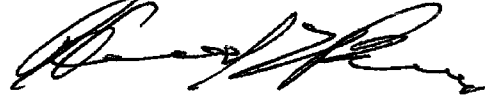
Large Active Surface Mine (below water table)	\$1,450.00
Large Active Mining Permit w/Blasting	\$1,850.00
Large Active Mining Permit (above water table)	\$1,000.00
Small Surface Mining Permit w/Blasting	\$1,500.00
Small Surface Mining Permit (no Blasting)	\$800.00

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Small non-coal mining permits are not paying fees sufficient to cover the Departmental costs of administration, inspection, closure, and monitoring.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold L. Brake", written in a cursive style.

Harold L. Brake, Chairman

HLB/ts