DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 550-2100-006

TITLE: Coal Pillars

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 31, 1998

AUTHORITY: The Oil and Gas Act (P.L. 1140, No. 223) (58 P.S. Section 601.101 et seq.)
Coal and Gas Resource Coordination Act (P.L. 1069, No. 214)
(58 P.S. Section 501.1 et seq.)
The Administrative Code (P.L. 177, No. 175) (71 P.S. Section 510.1 et seq.)

POLICY: DEP will review all applications and plans for coal pillars around gas wells in underground coal mines for compliance with applicable statutes and regulations.

APPLICABILITY: This policy applies as guidance for decisions by DEP's oil and gas management program when considering coal pillar plans for approval.

PURPOSE: This guidance document provides the Department's interpretation of applicable laws and regulations where necessary detail is absent from the law or regulation.

DISCLAIMER: The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance document are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or regulation. There is no intent on the part of the Department to give these rules that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

LENGTH: 2 pages

LOCATION: Volume 11, Tab 06

Coal Pillars

GENERAL:

Before approving a coal pillar plan the Departent will review the applicant's plans for completeness, accuracy, and adherence with all applicable statutes and regulations.

Signature requirements for an application for coal pillar plan approval are the same as for well drilling permit applications. Refer to Oil and Gas Well Drilling Permits and Related Approvals, Technical Guidance Document ID# 550-2100-003.

DESIGN GUIDELINES:

Design guidelines for coal pillars for gas well support are to be based on the Gas Well Pillar Study of 1957 by the Joint Coal and Gas Committee, sponsored by the Oil and Gas Division of Pennsylvania's Department of Mines and Mineral Industries.