§ 772.13 Coal exploration compliance duties.

(a) All coal exploration and reclamation activities that substantially disturb the natural land surface shall be conducted in accordance with the coal exploration requirements of this part, part 815 of this chapter, the regulatory program, and any exploration permit term or condition imposed by the regulatory authority.

(b) Any person who conducts any coal exploration in violation of the provisions of this part, part 815 of this chapter, the regulatory program, or any exploration permit term or condition imposed by the regulatory authority shall be subject to the provisions of section 518 of the Act, subchapter L of this chapter, and the applicable inspection and enforcement provisions of the regulatory program.

§ 772.14 Commercial use or sale.

(a) Except as provided under §§ 772.14(b) and 700.11(a)(5), any person who intends to commercially use or sell coal extracted during coal exploration operations under an exploration permit, shall first obtain a permit to conduct surface coal mining operations for those operations from the regulatory authority under parts 773 through 785 of this chapter.

(b) With the prior written approval of the regulatory authority, no permit to conduct surface coal mining operations is required for the sale or commercial use of coal extracted during exploration operations if such sale or commercial use is for coal testing purposes only. The person conducting the exploration shall file an application for such approval with the regulatory authority. The application shall demonstrate that the coal testing is necessary for the development of a surface coal mining and reclamation operation for which a surface coal mining operations permit application is to be submitted in the near future, and that the proposed commercial use or sale of coal extracted during exploration operations is solely for the purpose of testing the coal. The application shall contain the following:

(1) The name of the testing firm and the locations at which the coal will be tested.

(2) If the coal will be sold directly to, or commercially used directly by, the intended end user, a statement from the intended end user, or if the coal is sold indirectly to the intended end user through an agent or broker, a statement from the agent or broker. The statement shall include:

(i) The specific reason for the test, including why the coal may be so different from the intended user’s other coal supplies as to require testing;

(ii) The amount of coal necessary for the test and why a lesser amount is not sufficient; and

(iii) A description of the specific tests that will be conducted.

(3) Evidence that sufficient reserves of coal are available to the person conducting exploration or its principals for future commercial use or sale to the intended end user, or agent or broker of such user identified above, to