

SUBCHAPTER B—INITIAL PROGRAM REGULATIONS

PART 710—INITIAL REGULATORY PROGRAM

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, as amended, and Pub. L. 100-34.

SOURCE: 42 FR 62677, Dec. 13, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§ 710.1 Scope.

(a) This part provides general introductory and applicability material for the initial regulatory program required by section 502 and other sections of the Act which require early implementation. The initial regulatory program is effective until permanent programs are approved in accordance with sections 503, 504, or 523 of the Act.

(b) The initial regulatory program which this part introduces includes—

(1) Environmental performance standards of parts 715 through 718 of this chapter.

(2) Inspection and enforcement procedures of parts 720 through 723 of this chapter; and

(3) Reimbursements to States of part 725 of this chapter.

§ 710.2 Objectives.

The objectives of the initial regulatory program are to—

(a) Protect the health and safety of the public and minimize the damage to the environment resulting from surface coal mining operations during the interval between enactment of the Act and adoption of a permanent State or Federal regulatory program; and

(b) Coordinate the State and Federal regulatory programs to accomplish the purposes of the Act.

§ 710.3 Authority.

(a) The Secretary is directed to implement an initial regulatory program

within six months after the date of enactment of the Act in each State which regulates any aspect of surface coal mining under one or more State laws until a State program has been approved or until a Federal program has been implemented.

(b) The Secretary is also authorized to regulate surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Federal Lands by the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181-287) and the Minerals, Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351-359) and on Indian lands by various Indian lands acts. Additional regulations under these Acts are in 30 CFR part 211,¹ 43 CFR part 3041 and 25 CFR part 177.

§ 710.4 Responsibility.

(a) Under the general direction of the Assistant Secretary, Energy and Minerals, the Director is responsible for administering the initial regulatory program established by the Secretary.

(b) The States are responsible for issuing permits and inspection and enforcement on lands on which operations are regulated by a State to insure compliance with the initial performance standards in parts 715 through 718 of this chapter. States are required to file copies of inspection reports with the Office. States are also responsible for assuring that permits are not issued which would be in conflict with the restriction on mining found in section 510 of the Act, particularly in regard to alluvial valley floors and prime farm lands, and section 522(e) of the Act in regard to prohibitions of mining on certain lands.

§ 710.5 Definitions.

As used throughout the initial regulatory program the following terms have the specified meanings unless otherwise indicated:

Acid drainage means water with a pH of less than 6.0 discharged from active

¹EDITORIAL NOTE: 30 CFR part 211 was redesignated as 43 CFR part 3480 at 48 FR 41589, Sept. 16, 1983.