

§933.701

or determines that such screening measures are either not feasible or not desirable.

(2) North Carolina mining laws and regulations apply to mining operations affecting an area greater than one acre. To the extent that North Carolina mining law and regulations cited in paragraph (f) of this section apply to coal mining operations not regulated by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, they are not preempted by this Federal program for North Carolina.

(3) North Carolina Dam Safety Law of 1967, North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS) 143-215.23 through 143-215.37.

(4) Geophysical Exploration regulations, Title 15, North Carolina Administrative Code, Subchapter 5C, applies to any coal exploration involving the use of explosives.

(f) The following are North Carolina laws and regulations that generally interfere with the achievement of the purposes and requirements of the Act and are, in accordance with section 504(g) of the Act, preempted and superseded to the extent that they regulate coal exploration or surface coal mining and reclamation operations regulated by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. Other North Carolina laws may interfere with the achievement of the purposes of goals of the Act in an individual situation, and may be preempted and superseded as they affect a particular coal exploration or surface mining operation by publication of the notice to that effect in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(1) North Carolina Mining Act of 1971, as amended, NCGS 74-46 through 74-68, except to the extent that the Mining Act is preserved as provided in paragraph (e) of this section.

(2) Title 15, North Carolina Administrative Code, Subchapters 5A, 5B, and 5F Mining and Mineral Resources, except to the extent that those regulations are preserved as provided in paragraph (e) of this section.

(g) The Secretary may grant a limited variance from the performance standards of §§933.815 through 933.828 of this part if the applicant for coal exploration approval or a surface mining permit submitted pursuant to §§933.772

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through 933.785 demonstrates in the application that: (1) Such variance is necessary because of the unique nature of North Carolina's terrain, climate, biological, chemical, or other relevant physical conditions; and (2) the proposed alternative will achieve equal or greater environmental protection than does the performance requirement from which the variance is requested.

[48 FR 30302, June 30, 1983, as amended at 52 FR 13811, Apr. 24, 1987]

§933.701 General.

Sections 700.5, 700.11, 700.12, 700.13, 700.14, 700.15 and part 701 of this chapter shall apply to surface coal mining and reclamation operations in North Carolina.

§933.702 Exemption for coal extraction incidental to the extraction of other minerals.

Part 702 of this chapter, *Exemption for Coal Extraction Incidental to the Extraction of Other Minerals*, shall apply to any person who conducts coal extraction incidental to the extraction of other minerals for purposes of commercial use or sale.

[54 FR 52123, Dec. 20, 1989]

§933.707 Exemption for coal extraction incidental to government-financed highway or other construction.

Part 707 of this chapter, *Exemption for Coal Extraction Incidental to Government-Financed Highway or Other Construction*, shall apply to surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

§933.761 Areas designated unsuitable for surface coal mining by Act of Congress.

Part 761 of this chapter, *Areas Designated Unsuited for Coal Mining by Act of Congress*, with the exception of §§761.11(c) and 761.12(f)(1), shall apply to surface coal mining and reclamation operations, beginning one year after the effective date of this program. For the purposes of part 933, the following §§761.11(c) and 761.12(f)(1) shall replace the existing §§761.11(c) and 761.12(f)(1).

(c) On any lands which will adversely affect any publicly owned park, forest, recreation area, or any places included on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of

Historic Places, unless approved jointly by the regulatory authority and the Federal, State, or local agency with jurisdiction over the park, forest, recreation area, or places;

(f)(1) Where the proposed surface coal mining operation may adversely affect any public park, forest, recreation area, or any places included on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the regulatory authority shall transmit to the Federal, State, or local agencies with jurisdiction over, or a statutory or regulatory responsibility for, the park, forest, recreation area, or historic place a copy of the completed permit application containing the following:

(i) A request for that agency's approval or disapproval of the operators;

(ii) A notice to the appropriate agency that it must respond within 30 days from receipt of the request.

§ 933.762 Criteria for designating areas as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

Part 762 of this chapter, *Criteria for Designating Areas Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations*, shall apply to surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

§ 933.764 Process for designating areas unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

Part 764 of this chapter, *State Processes for Designating Areas Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations*, pertaining to petitioning, initial processing, hearing requirements, decisions, data base and inventory systems, public information, and regulatory responsibilities shall apply to surface coal mining and reclamation operations beginning one year after the effective date of this program.

§ 933.772 Requirements for coal exploration.

(a) Part 772 of this chapter, *Requirements for Coal Exploration*, shall apply to any person who conducts or seeks to conduct coal exploration operations.

(b) The Office shall make every effort to act on an exploration application within 60 days of receipt or such longer time as may be reasonable under the circumstances. If additional time is needed, OSMRE shall notify the applicant that the application is being reviewed, but more time is necessary to complete such review, setting forth the

reasons and the additional time that is needed.

[52 FR 13811, Apr. 24, 1987]

§ 933.773 Requirements for permits and permit processing.

(a) Part 773 of this chapter, *Requirements for Permits and Permit Processing*, shall apply to any person who applies for a permit for surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

(b) In addition to the requirements of part 773, the following permit application review procedures shall apply:

(1) Any person applying for a permit shall submit five copies of the application to the Office.

(2) The Office shall review an application for administrative completeness and acceptability for further review and shall notify the applicant in writing of the findings. The Office may:

(i) Reject a flagrantly deficient application, notifying the applicant of the findings;

(ii) Request additional information required for completeness stating specifically what information must be supplied and negotiate the date by which the information must be submitted; or

(iii) Judge the application administratively complete and acceptable for further review.

(3) Should the applicant not submit the information as required by § 912.773(b)(2)(ii) by the specified date, the office may reject the application. When the applicant submits the required information by the specified date, the Office shall review it and advise the applicant concerning its acceptability.

(4) When the application is judged administratively complete, the applicant shall be advised by the Office to file the public notice required by § 773.6 of this chapter.

(5) A representative of the Office shall visit the proposed permit area to determine whether the operation and reclamation plans are consistent with actual site conditions. The applicant will be notified in advance of the time of the visit. At the time of the visit, the applicant shall have the locations of the proposed permit boundaries, topsoil storage areas, sediment control structures, roads, and other significant