

§ 23.3

§ 23.3 Definitions.

As used in the regulations in this part:

(a) *Mineral leasing acts* means the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920, as amended and supplemented (30 U.S.C. 181-287) and the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351-359);

(b) *Mining Supervisor* means the Area Mining Supervisor, or his authorized representative, of the Geological Survey authorized as provided in 30 CFR 211.3 and 231.2 to supervise operations on the land covered by a permit or lease;

(c) *District manager* means the manager of the district office or other authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management having administrative jurisdiction of and responsibility for the land covered by a permit, lease, contract, application, or offer;

(d) *Overburden* means all the earth and other materials which lie above a natural deposit of minerals and such earth and other materials after removal from their natural state in the process of mining;

(e) *Area of land to be affected or area of land affected* means the area of land from which overburden is to be or has been removed and upon which the overburden or waste is to be or has been deposited, and includes all lands affected by the construction of new roads or the improvement or use of existing roads to gain access to an operation and for haulage;

(f) *Operation* means all of the premises, facilities, roads, and equipment used in the process of determining the location, composition or quality of a mineral deposit, or in developing, extracting, or onsite processing of a mineral deposit in a designated area;

(g) *Method of operation* means the method or manner by which a cut or open pit is made, the overburden is placed or handled, water is controlled or affected and other acts performed by the operator in the process of exploring or uncovering and removing or onsite processing of a mineral deposit;

(h) *Holder or Operator* means the permittee, leasee, or contractor designated in a permit, lease, or contract;

(i) *Reclamation* means measures undertaken to bring about the necessary

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reconditioning or restoration of land or water that has been affected by exploration or mineral development, mining or onsite processing operations, and waste disposal, in ways which will prevent or control onsite and offsite damage to the environment.

[34 FR 852, Jan. 18, 1969, as amended at 38 FR 10009, Apr. 23, 1973; 48 FR 27016, June 10, 1983]

§ 23.4 Application for permission to conduct exploration operations.

No person shall, in any manner or by any means which will cause the surface of lands to be disturbed, explore, test, or prospect for minerals (other than oil and gas) subject to disposition under the mineral leasing acts without first filing an application for, and obtaining, a permit, lease or contract which authorizes such exploring, testing, or prospecting.

[34 FR 852, Jan. 18, 1969, as amended at 48 FR 27016, June 10, 1983]

§ 23.5 Technical examination of prospective surface exploration and mining operations.

(a)(1) In connection with an application for a permit or lease under the mineral leasing acts, the district manager shall make, or cause to be made, a technical examination of the prospective effects of the proposed exploration or surface mining operations upon the environment. The technical examination shall take into consideration the need for the preservation and protection of other resources, including recreational, scenic, historic, and ecological values; the control of erosion, flooding, and pollution of water; the isolation of toxic materials; the prevention of air pollution; the reclamation by revegetation, replacement of soil, or by other means, of lands affected by the exploration or mining operations; the prevention of slides; the protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat; and the prevention of hazards to public health and safety.

(2) A technical examination of an area should be made with the recognition that actual potential mining sites and mining operations vary widely with respect to topography, climate, surrounding land uses, proximity to densely used areas, and other environmental influences and that mining and