DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner

24 CFR Part 3500

Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X); Escrow Accounting Procedures: Announcement of Availability of Software To Calculate Aggregate Accounting Adjustment

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing, Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of availability of software.

SUMMARY: On October 26, 1994, HUD published a final rule establishing escrow accounting procedures under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. In the October 26 final rule the Department indicated that it would make available computer software that could be used in calculating the numerical value of the aggregate accounting adjustment for a last line in the 1000 series of the HUD-1 and HUD-1A. This notice describes the availability of this software on Internet or by requesting a diskette by mail or telephone. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Reid, Research Economist, Office of Policy Development and Research, Room 8212, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-0421 or (202) 708-0770 (TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 26, 1994 (59 FR 53890), the Department published a final rule establishing escrow accounting procedures under Sections 6(g) and 10 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, 12 U.S.C. 2605(g) and 2609 (RESPA). This final rule was corrected on December 19, 1994 (59 FR 65442), and augmented on February 15, 1995 (60 FR 8811; correction published March 1, 1995, 60 FR 11194) by a further final rule that included commentaries, corrections, and illustrations. The February 15, 1995, rule also established an effective date of May 24, 1995, for both the October 26 and February 15 rules. In the October final rule, at page 53895, the Department said it would make available software that could be used in calculating the numerical value of the aggregate accounting adjustment for a last line in the 1000 series of the HUD-1 and HUD-1A. The software is available at no charge over Internet by accessing the "HUD Gopher" (see instructions below). Alternatively, a diskette containing the two files included on the Internet may be obtained by sending a request, with a check payable to HUD USER for $15 for each diskette ordered, to: HUD USER, P.O. Box 6091, Rockville, MD 20850. HUD USER also may be reached by telephone at 1-800-245-2691 to answer inquiries about this software or to order diskettes when the cost of the diskettes is being charged to a VISA or MasterCard account. All inquiries, whether by mail or telephone, should reference "Notice FR-3255, Escrow Accounting Software."

Access via Internet

To access the software using the HUD Gopher, follow these procedures:

• Access the Internet;
• Select the Gopher option from the Internet utilities menu;
• Type the address: “huduser.aspenys.com 73” (depending on the user's Gopher convention, the selection of port 73 may be signaled by typing a different character (such as an underline, colon, or backslash) instead of the space);
• At the main menu of options, select "Policy Development and Research Publications";
• Then select "Homeownership"; and
• Select the two Lotus 1-2-3 format files: "biweekly mortgage aggregate adjustment" and "monthly mortgage aggregate adjustment".

Dated: March 27, 1995.

Nicolas P. Retsinas, Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 914

[IN–111–FOR; Amendment 94–1]

Indiana Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.

ACTION: Final rule; approval of amendment.

SUMMARY: OSM is approving, with exceptions, a proposed amendment to the Indiana permanent regulatory program (hereinafter referred to as the Indiana program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The amendment consists of revisions to Indiana's Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Statutes concerning bond forfeiture procedures, underground mine subsidence control, permit revocation procedures, administrative orders and procedures, and conflict of interest. The amendment is intended to revise the Indiana Code (IC) to implement statutory changes.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger W. Calhoun, Director, Indianapolis Field Office, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Minton-Capehart Federal Building, 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 301, Indianapolis, IN 46204, Telephone (317) 226-6166.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on the Indiana Program

On July 29, 1982, the Indiana program was made effective by the conditional approval of the Secretary of the Interior. Information pertinent to the general background on the Indiana program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and a detailed explanation of the conditions of approval of the Indiana program can be found in the July 26, 1982 Federal Register (47 FR 32107). Subsequent actions concerning the conditions of approval and program amendments are identified at 30 CFR 914.10, 914.15, and 914.16.

II. Submission of the Amendment

By letter dated March 21, 1994 (Administrative Record Number IND-1341), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) submitted a proposed amendment consisting of three sets of changes to the Indiana program. The first set of changes involve statutes enacted by Indiana under SEA 408 from the 1994 Indiana Legislative Session. The amendments concern bond forfeiture procedures, underground mine subsidence control, and permit revocation procedures. The second set of amendments are contained in SEA 319 (Pub. L. 1–1987). These amendments primarily concern the substitution of the citation of the then-
repealed IC 4±22±1 with IC 4±21.5 concerning administrative orders and procedures. The third amendment is contained in HEA 1516 (Pub. L. 13±1987). This amendment changes the Indiana conflict of interest provisions. OSM announced receipt of the proposed amendment in the April 18, 1994, Federal Register (59 FR 18330), and, in the same notice, opened the public comment period and provided opportunity for a public hearing on the adequacy of the proposed amendment. The comment period closed on May 18, 1994.

III. Director’s Findings

Set forth below, pursuant to SMCRA and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 732.15 and 732.17, are the Director’s findings concerning the proposed amendment to the Indiana program. Revisions which are not discussed below concern nonsubstantive wording changes, or revise paragraph notations to reflect organizational changes resulting from this amendment.

1. IC 13±4.1±6±9 Forfeiture of Bond

Indiana is adding new subsection 9(b) to provide that an order issued under IC 13±4.1±6±9(a) is governed by IC 4±21.5±3±6 and becomes an effective and final order without a proceeding if a request for review of the order is not filed within 15 days after the order is served upon: (1) the permittee; and (2) the person that executed the permittee’s bond or other performance guarantee, if the permittee filed a bond or other performance guarantee under IC 13±4.1±1.

The Director finds the proposed language is substantively identical to and no less effective than the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 800.50(b)(1) concerning forfeiture of bond.

2. IC 13±4.1±9±2.5 Subsidence—Repair or Compensation

This new section is added as a counterpart to SMCRA section 720 which was added by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102±486 [H.R. 776]; October 24, 1992). Subsection 2.5(a) provides that as used in subsection 2.5(d)(1), “repair” includes rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement. This proposed language is substantively identical to SMCRA subsection 720(a)(1) which provides that repair of damage shall include rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement.

New subsection 2.5(b) provides that as used in subsection 2.5(d)(1), “compensation” means to provide compensation in an amount equal to the full amount of the diminution of value resulting from the subsidence referred to in subsection 2.5(d)(1). This proposed language is substantively identical to SMCRA subsection 720(a)(1) which provides that compensation shall be provided in the full amount of the diminution in value resulting from the subsidence.

New subsection 2.5(c) provides that for the purposes of subsection 2.5(d)(1), compensation may be accomplished through the purchase, before the commencement of mining operations, of a noncancelable premium-prepaid insurance policy. This proposed language is substantively identical to SMCRA section 720(a)(1) which provides that compensation may be accomplished through the purchase, prior to mining, of a noncancelable premium-prepaid insurance policy.

New subsection 2.5(d) provides that the operator of an underground coal mining operation conducted after June 30, 1994, shall do the following: (1) Promptly replace any drinking, domestic, or residential water supply from a well or spring that: (A) was in existence before the filing of the operator’s application for a surface coal mining and reclamation permit; and (B) has been affected by contamination, diminution, or interruption resulting from the operator’s underground coal mining operation. (2) Promptly replace any drinking, domestic, or residential water supply from a well or spring that: (A) was in existence before the filing of the operator’s application for a surface coal mining and reclamation permit; and (B) has been affected by contamination, diminution, or interruption resulting from the operator’s underground coal mining operation. This proposed language is substantively identical to SMCRA section 720(a)(1) except that the Indiana provision applies only to underground coal mining operations which occur after June 30, 1994. SMCRA section 720(a) provides that underground coal mining operations conducted after the date of enactment of new section 720 (October 24, 1992) shall comply with the requirements of section 720. Therefore, to the extent that the proposed amendment meets the requirements of SMCRA section 720(a) from June 30, 1994, the Director finds that IC 13±4.1±9±2.5 is no less stringent than SMCRA section 720. Therefore, to the extent that the proposed amendment meets the requirements of SMCRA section 720(a) from June 30, 1994, the Director finds that IC 13±4.1±9±2.5 is no less stringent than SMCRA section 720.

The Director is deferring decision on the enforcement of the provisions of SMCRA section 720(a) during the period from the effective date of SMCRA section 720 (October 24, 1992) to the effective date of IC 13±4.1±9±2.5 (June 30, 1994). The Federal subsidence regulations at 30 CFR 13±4.1±9±2.5(a) implement SMCRA section 720(a) have been finalized and will be published shortly. Within 120 days after the publication of the new Federal subsidence regulations, OSM intends to published for each State with a regulatory program, including Indiana, final rule notices concerning the enforcement of the provisions of the Energy Policy Act in those States.

3. IC 13±4.1±11±6 Suspension or Revocation of Permit

Indiana is amending subsection 6(a)(1)(B) by deleting the term “in commission” and added the words “adopted under IC 13±4.1±2±1.” Indiana is also relating the words “the violations.” As amended, IC 13±4.1±11±6(a)(1)(B) reads as follows: “the rules adopted under IC 13±4.1±2±1.” Since IC 13±4.1±2±1 is the provision which establishes the authority for the Indiana Natural Resources Commission (the commission) to adopt rules, the change does not render the provision less effective. A similar amendment at subsection 6(a)(2)(A)(ii) also does not render the provision less effective.

Indiana is adding the words “permit conditions” at subsection 6(a)(2)(A)(iii) to provide a counterpart to SMCRA section 521(a)(4).

Subsection 6(a) is amended to provide that if the director of the DNIR determines that the criteria at subsections 6(a) (1) and (2) apply, the director shall issue an order of permit suspension or revocation and provide an opportunity for a public hearing. The provision formerly provided for an order “to the permittee to show cause why the permit should not be suspended or revoked.” The amendment does not render the provision less stringent than SMCRA section 521(a)(4) because section 6 in its entirety still provides for a hearing at which the permittee could show cause why the permit should not be suspended or revoked.

Subsection 6(b) is amended by relocating the existing language to new subsection 6(e). New language is added to subsection 6(b) to provide that an order issued under the pattern of violations criteria at subsection 6(a) is governed by IC 4±21.5±3±6 concerning required notice, and becomes an effective and final order of the commission without a proceeding if a request for review of the order is not filed within 30 days after the order is served upon the permittee. The Director finds the revision to be no less stringent than SMCRA at section 521(a)(4).

Subsection 6(c) is amended by replacing a citation of “IC 4±21.5±3” with “IC 4±21.5.” This change appropriately expands the citation to the entire Indiana administrative orders and procedures at IC 4±21.5. A block of
The following provisions contain citation changes which do not render the Indiana program less stringent than SMCRA:

IC 13-4.1-2-4; IC 13-4.1-4-3; IC 13-4.1-5; IC 13-4.1-6-7; IC 13-4.1-11-6; IC 13-4.1-11-8; IC 13-4.1-11-12; IC 13-4.1-12-1; IC 12-4.1-13-1; and IC 13-4.1-15-9.

5. IC 13-4.1-2-3 Conflict of Interest

This provision is amended to provide that an employee of the IDNR who has any duty under IC 13-4.1 may not have a direct or indirect financial interest in any surface coal mining operation. A member of the commission who has such an interest shall file annually with the State Board of Accounts. Any person who knowingly violates this provision commits a Class A misdemeanor.

Upon review of this provision, the Director has determined that the proposed language is substantively identical to and no less stringent than SMCRA at section 521(a)(4).

The comment stressed that protection of pipelines from unplanned subsidence is needed to prevent rupture of the pipelines and potential damage to property and the environment and loss of life. Protection should be given to surface structures equally, they stated. In response, the Director notes that the proposed language is substantively identical to the counterpart language in SMCRA at section 720. The language of section 720(a) of SMCRA provides for the repair or compensation for material damage resulting from subsidence caused to any occupied residential dwelling and structures related thereto, or noncommercial building due to underground coal mining operations.

In response to SMCRA section 720(b), OSM published proposed rules intended to implement SMCRA section 720(a) (58 FR 50174; September 24, 1993). In that notice, OSM specifically solicited comments on whether a need exists for nationwide rules that go beyond those required by SMCRA section 720(a). Comments received in response to that proposed rule are being reviewed.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(ii), the Director is required to obtain the written concurrence of the Administrator of the EPA with respect to any provisions of a State program amendment that relate to air or water quality standards promulgated under the authority of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.). The Director has determined that this amendment contains no provisions in these categories and that EPA’s concurrence is not required.

Pursuant to 732.17(h)(11)(i), OSM solicited comments on the proposed amendment from EPA (Administrative Record Number IND-1221). By letter dated June 21, 1994 (Administrative Record Number IND-1372), EPA concurred without comment.
V. Director’s Decision

Based on the findings above, and except as noted below, the Director is approving the program amendment submitted by Indiana on March 21, 1994. As discussed in Finding 2, the Director is approving IC 13-4.1-9-2.5 to the extent that the proposed amendment meets the requirements of SMCRA section 720(a) from June 30, 1994. In addition, the Director is deferring decision on the enforcement of the provisions of SMCRA section 720(a) during the period from the effective date of SMCRA section 720 (October 24, 1992) to the effective date of IC 13-4.1-9-2.5 (June 30, 1994). As discussed above in Finding 5, the Director is not acting on IC 13-4.1-2-3.

The Federal regulations at 30 CFR 720 of only such provisions.

VI. Procedural Determinations

Executive Order 12866

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

Executive Order 12778

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12778 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments since each such program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15 and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR Parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

National Environmental Policy Act

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 et seq.).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of the Interior has determined that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). The State submittal which is the subject of this rule is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously promulgated by OSM will be implemented by the State. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the counterpart Federal regulations.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 914

Intergovernmental relations; Surface mining; Underground mining.