

violation of subsections (a)(4), (a)(6), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), or (k) of section 922 of the Act, or knowing importation or bringing into the United States or any possession thereof any firearm or ammunition in violation of section 922(l) of the Act, or knowing violation of section 924 of the Act, or willful violation of any other provision of the Act or of this part, or any violation of any other criminal law of the United States, or any firearm or ammunition intended to be used in any offense referred to in paragraph (c) of this section, where such intent is demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture, and all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms, as defined in section 5845(a) of that Code, shall, so far as applicable, extend to seizures and forfeitures under the provisions of the Act: *Provided*, That upon acquittal of the owner or possessor, or dismissal of the charges against such person other than upon motion of the Government prior to trial, or lapse of or court termination of the restraining order to which he is subject, the seized or relinquished firearms or ammunition shall be returned forthwith to the owner or possessor or to a person delegated by the owner or possessor unless the return of the firearms or ammunition would place the owner or possessor or the delegate of the owner or possessor in violation of law. Any action or proceeding for the forfeiture of firearms or ammunition shall be commenced within 120 days of such seizure.

* * * * *

Par. 30. Section 178.153 is added to Subpart I to read as follows:

§ 178.153 Semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices manufactured or imported for the purposes of testing or experimentation.

The provisions of § 178.40 with respect to the manufacture, transfer, or possession of a semiautomatic assault weapon, and § 178.40a with respect to large capacity ammunition feeding devices, shall not apply to the manufacture, transfer, or possession of such weapons or devices by a manufacturer or importer for the purposes of testing or experimentation as authorized by the Director. A person desiring such authorization shall submit a letter application, in duplicate, to the Director. Such application shall contain the name and addresses of the persons directing or controlling, directly or indirectly, the policies and management of the applicant, the nature or purpose of the testing or experimentation, a

description of the weapons or devices to be manufactured or imported, and the source of the weapons or devices. The approved application shall be retained as part of the records required by Subpart H of this part.

Par. 31. Section 178.171 is amended by revising the last sentence to read as follows:

§ 178.171 Exportation.

* * * Licensed manufacturers and licensed importers exporting armor piercing ammunition and semiautomatic assault weapons manufactured after September 13, 1994, shall maintain records showing the name and address of the foreign consignee and the date the armor piercing ammunition or semiautomatic assault weapons were exported.

PART 179—MACHINE GUNS, DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES, AND CERTAIN OTHER FIREARMS

Par. 32. The authority citation for 27 CFR part 179 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 26 U.S.C. 7805.

§§ 179.34, 179.36, 179.42, 179.46, 179.47, and 179.50 [Amended]

Par. 33. Sections 179.34, 179.36, 179.42, 179.46, 179.47, and 179.50 are amended by removing "5630.5" wherever it occurs and, adding in its place, "5630.7."

Par. 34. Section 179.34(e) is added to read as follows:

§ 179.34 Special tax registration and return.

* * * * *

(e) *Identification of taxpayer.* If the taxpayer is an individual, with the initial return such person shall securely attach to Form 5630.7 a photograph of the individual 2 × 2 inches in size, clearly showing a full front view of the features of the individual with head bare, with the distance from the top of the head to the point of the chin approximately 1¼ inches, and which shall have been taken within 6 months prior to the date of completion of the return. The individual shall also attach to the return a properly completed FBI Form FD-258 (Fingerprint Card). The fingerprints must be clear for accurate classification and should be taken by someone properly equipped to take them: *Provided*, That the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to individuals who have filed with ATF a properly executed Application for License under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44, Firearms, ATF Form 7 (5310.12) (12-93 edition), as specified in § 178.44(a).

Signed: February 10, 1995.

Daniel R. Black,
Acting Director.

Approved: February 27, 1995.

John P. Simpson,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, (Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

28 CFR Part 0

[Civil Division Directive No. 14-95]

Redelegation by Civil Division of Authority to Compromise Civil Claims

AGENCY: Department of Justice, Civil Division.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This Directive implements a recent Attorney General order that increased settlement and compromise authority that the Assistant Attorneys General of the litigating divisions may redelegate to United States Attorneys in civil matters. This Directive, which supersedes Civil Division Directive 176-91, is being promulgated in order to increase Department efficiency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 6, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert M. Hollis, Assistant Director, Commercial Litigation Branch, Civil Division, Department of Justice, room 11022, 550 11th Street NW., Washington, DC 20530; (202) 307-1100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This Directive implements on behalf of the Civil Division the increase in the dollar amount of settlement authority which the Assistant Attorneys General may redelegate to United States Attorneys in civil matters. This increase in United States Attorney authority will further the efficient operation of the Department of Justice.

As a regulation related to internal Department of Justice management, this rule may become effective without provision for public comment pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(A). This Directive is not a "significant regulatory action" under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 and, accordingly, it has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 605(b), the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division certifies that because the effect of this Directive is internal to the Department of Justice it will not have a significant adverse economic impact on a substantial number of small business entities.

This rule will not have substantial direct effects on the states, on the relationship between the national government and the states, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Therefore, in accordance with Executive Order 12612, it is determined that this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment.

List of Subjects in 28 CFR Part 0

Authority delegations (government agencies), Government employees, Organization and functions (government agencies), Whistleblowing.

PART 0—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 0 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. § 301, 28 U.S.C. §§ 509, 510, 515–519.

2. In the Appendix to Subpart Y, Civil Division Directive No. 176–91 is removed and Civil Division Directive 14–95 is added in its place to read as follows:

Appendix to Subpart Y—Redelegations of Authority To Compromise and Close Civil Claims

* * * * *

[Directive No. 14–95]

By virtue of the authority vested in me by part 0 of title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations, particularly §§ 0.45, 0.160, 0.164, and 0.168, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Authority To Compromise or Close Cases and to File Suits and Claims

(a) Delegation to Deputy Assistant Attorneys General. The Deputy Assistant Attorneys General are authorized to act for, and to exercise the authority of, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Division with respect to the institution of suits, the acceptance or rejection of compromise offers, and the closing of claims or cases, unless any such authority is required by law to be exercised by the Assistant Attorney General personally or has been specifically delegated to another Department official.

(b) Delegation to United States Attorneys, Branch, Office and Staff Directors and Attorneys-in-Charge of Field Offices. Subject to the limitations imposed by 28 CFR 0.160(c), and 0.164(a) and section 4(c) of this directive, and the authority of the Solicitor General set forth in 28 CFR 0.163,

(1) Branch, Office, and Staff Directors, and Attorneys-in-Charge of Field Offices with respect to matters assigned or delegated to their respective components are hereby delegated the authority to:

(a) Accept offers in compromise of claims on behalf of the United States;

(i) In all cases in which the gross amount of the original claim did not exceed \$500,000; and,

(ii) In all cases in which the gross amount of the original claim was between \$500,000 and \$5,000,000, so long as the difference between the gross amount of the original claim and the proposed settlement does not exceed \$500,000 or 15 percent of the original claim, whichever is greater;

(b) Accept offers in compromise of, or settle administratively, claims against the United States in all cases where the principal amount of the proposed settlement does not exceed \$500,000; and,

(c) Reject any offers.

(2) United States Attorneys with respect to matters assigned or delegated to their respective components are hereby delegated the authority to:

(a) Accept offers in compromise of claims on behalf of the United States;

(i) In all cases in which the gross amount of the original claim did not exceed \$1,000,000 and,

(ii) In all cases in which the gross amount of the original claim does not exceed \$5,000,000, and in which the difference between the gross amount of the original claim and the proposed settlement does not exceed \$1,000,000;

(b) Accept offers in compromise of, or settle administratively, claims against the United States in all cases where the principal amount of the proposed settlement does not exceed \$1,000,000 and,

(c) Reject any offers.

(3) With respect to claims asserted in bankruptcy proceedings, the term *gross amount of the original claim* in (1) (a) and (b), and (2) (a) and (b) above means liquidation value. *Liquidation value* is the forced sale value of the collateral, if any, securing the claim(s) plus the dividend likely to be paid for the unsecured portion of the claim(s) in an actual or hypothetical liquidation of the bankruptcy estate.

(c) Subject to the limitations imposed by sections 1(e) and 4(c) of this directive, United States Attorneys, Directors, and Attorneys-in-Charge are authorized to file suits, counterclaims, and cross-claims, to close, or to take any other action necessary to protect the interests of the United States in all routine nonmonetary cases, in all routine loan collection and foreclosure cases, and in other monetary claims or cases where the gross amount of the original claim does not exceed \$500,000, or in the case of United States Attorneys, \$1,000,000. Such actions in nonmonetary cases which are other than routine will be submitted for the approval of the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division.

(d) United States Attorneys may redelegate in writing the above-conferred compromise and suit authority to Assistant United States Attorneys who supervise other Assistant United States Attorneys who handle civil litigation.

(e) Limitations on delegations. The authority to compromise cases, file suits, counter-claims, and cross-claims, to close cases, or take any other action necessary to protect the interests of the United States, delegated by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this

section, may not be exercised, and the matter shall be submitted for resolution to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, when:

(1) For any reason, the proposed action, as a practical matter, will control or adversely influence the disposition of other claims totaling more than the respective amounts designated in the above paragraphs.

(2) Because a novel question of law or a question of policy is presented, or for any other reason, the proposed action should, in the opinion of the officer or employee concerned, receive the personal attention of the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division.

(3) The agency or agencies involved are opposed to the proposed action. The views of an agency must be solicited with respect to any significant proposed action if it is a party, if it has asked to be consulted with respect to any such proposed action, or if such proposed action in a case would adversely affect any of its policies.

(4) The U.S. Attorney involved is opposed to the proposed action and requests that the matter be submitted to the Assistant Attorney General for decision.

(5) The case is on appeal, except as determined by the Director of the Appellate Staff.

Section 2. Action Memoranda

(a) Whenever an official of the Civil Division or a United States Attorney accepts a compromise, closes a claim or files a suit or claim pursuant to the authority delegated by this Directive, a memorandum fully explaining the basis for the action taken shall be executed and placed in the file. In the case of matters compromised, closed, or filed by United States Attorneys, a copy of the memorandum must be sent to the appropriate Branch or Office of the Civil Division.

(b) The compromising of cases or closing of claims or the filing of suits for claims, which a United States Attorney is not authorized to approve, shall be referred to the appropriate Branch or Office within the Civil Division, for decision by the Assistant Attorney General or the appropriate authorized person within the Civil Division. The referral memorandum should contain a detailed description of the matter, the United States Attorney's recommendation, the agency's recommendation where applicable, and a full statement of the reasons therefor.

Section 3. Return of Civil Judgment Cases to Agencies

Claims arising out of judgments in favor of the United States which cannot be permanently closed as uncollectible may be returned to the referring Federal agency for servicing and surveillance whenever all conditions set forth in USAM 4–2.230 have been met.

Section 4. Authority for Direct Reference and Delegation of Civil Division Cases to United States Attorneys

(a) Direct reference to United States Attorneys by agencies. The following civil actions under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, may be referred by the agency concerned directly to the appropriate United States Attorney for

handling in trial courts, subject to the limitations imposed by paragraph (c) of this section. United States Attorneys are hereby delegated the authority to take all necessary steps to protect the interests of the United States, without prior approval of the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, or his representations, subject to the limitations set forth in section 1(e) of this directive. Agencies may, however, if special handling is desired, refer these cases to the Civil Division. Also, when constitutional questions or other significant issues arise in the course of such litigation, or when an appeal is taken by any party, the Civil Division should be consulted.

(1) Money claims by the United States, except claims involving penalties and forfeitures, where the gross amount of the original claim does not exceed \$1,000,000.

(2) Single family dwelling house foreclosures arising out of loans made or insured by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration and the Farmers Home Administration.

(3) Suits to enjoin violations of, and to collect penalties under, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, 7 U.S.C. 1376, the Packers and Stockyards Act, 7 U.S.C. 203, 207(g), 213, 215, 216, 222, and 228a, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930, 7 U.S.C. 499c(a) and 499h(d), the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 *et seq.*, the Potato Research and Promotion Act, 7 U.S.C. 2611 *et seq.*, the Cotton Research and Promotion Act of 1966, 7 U.S.C. 2101 *et seq.*, the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*, and the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*

(4) Suits by social security beneficiaries under the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 402 *et seq.*

(5) Social Security disability suits under 42 U.S.C. 423 *et seq.*

(6) Black lung beneficiary suits under the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, 30 U.S.C. 921 *et seq.*

(7) Suits by Medicare beneficiaries under 42 U.S.C. 1395ff.

(8) Garnishment actions authorized by 42 U.S.C. 659 for child support or alimony payments and actions for general debt, 5 U.S.C. 5520a.

(9) Judicial review of actions of the Secretary of Agriculture under the food stamp program, pursuant to the provisions of 7 U.S.C. 2022 involving retail food stores.

(10) Cases referred by the Department of Labor for the collection of penalties or for injunctive action under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

(11) Cases referred by the Department of Labor solely for the collection of civil penalties under the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act of 1963, 7 U.S.C. 2048(b).

(12) Cases referred by the Interstate Commerce Commission to enforce orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission or to enjoin or suspend such orders pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1336.

(13) Cases referred by the United States Postal Service for injunctive relief under the nonmailable matter laws, 39 U.S.C. 3001 *et seq.*

(b) Delegation to United States Attorneys. Upon the recommendation of the appropriate Director, the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division may delegate to United States Attorneys suit authority involving any claims or suits where the gross amount of the original claim does not exceed \$5,000,000 where the circumstances warrant such delegations. United States Attorneys may compromise any case redelegated under this subsection in which the gross amount of the original claim does not exceed \$5,000,000, so long as the difference between the gross amount of the original claim and the proposed settlement does not exceed \$1,000,000. United States Attorneys may close cases redelegated to them under this subsection only upon the authorization of the appropriate authorized person within the Department of Justice. All delegations pursuant to this subsection shall be in writing and no United States Attorney shall have authority to compromise or close any such delegated case or claim except as is specified in the required written delegation or in section 1(c) of this directive. The limitations of section 1(e) of this directive also remain applicable in any case or claim delegated hereunder.

(c) Cases not covered. Regardless of the amount in controversy, the following matters normally will not be delegated to United States Attorneys for handling but will be personally or jointly handled or monitored by the appropriate Branch or Office within the Civil Division:

(1) Civil actions in the Court of Federal Claims.

(2) Cases within the jurisdiction of the Commercial Litigation Branch involving patents, trademarks, copyrights, etc.

(3) Cases before the United States Court of International Trade.

(4) Any case involving bribery, conflict of interest, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of employment contract, or exploitation of public office.

(5) Any fraud or False Claims Act case where the amount of single damages, plus civil penalties, if any, exceeds \$1,000,000.

(6) Any case involving vessel-caused pollution in navigable waters.

(7) Cases on appeal, except as determined by the Director of the Appellate Staff.

(8) Any case involving litigation in a foreign court.

(9) Criminal proceedings arising under statutes enforced by the Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (relating to odometer tampering), except as determined by the Director of the Office of Consumer Litigation.

(10) Nonmonetary civil cases, including injunction suits, declaratory judgment actions, and applications for inspection warrants, and cases seeking civil penalties including but not limited to those arising under statutes enforced by the Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (relating to odometer tampering), except as determined by the Director of the Office of Consumer Litigation.

(11) Administrative claims arising under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Section 5. Adverse Decisions

All final judicial decisions adverse to the Government involving any direct reference or delegated case must be reported promptly to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, attention Director, Appellate Staff. Consult title 2 of the United States Attorney's Manual for procedures and time limitations. An appeal cannot be taken without approval of the Solicitor General. Until the Solicitor General has made a decision whether an appeal will be taken, the Government attorney handling the case must take all necessary procedural actions to preserve the Government's right to take an appeal, including filing a protective notice of appeal when the time to file a notice of appeal is about to expire and the Solicitor General has not yet made a decision. Nothing in the foregoing directive affects this obligation.

Section 6. Supersession

This directive supersedes Civil Division Directive No. 176-91 regarding redelegation of the Assistant Attorney General's authority in Civil Division cases to Branch Directors, heads of offices and United States Attorneys.

Section 7. Applicability

This directive applies to all cases pending as of the date of this directive and is effective immediately.

Approved: March 27, 1995.

Frank W. Hunger,

Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division.

Dated March 27, 1995.

John R. Schmidt,

Associate Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 95-8482 Filed 4-5-95; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 915

Iowa Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Final rule; approval of amendment.

SUMMARY: OSM is approving a proposed amendment to the Iowa regulatory program (hereinafter referred to as the "Iowa program") under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Iowa proposed revisions to rules pertaining to rulemaking petitions, definitions, permit processing, permit revisions, bonding, backfilling and grading, alternative enforcement, and individual civil penalties. The amendment is intended to revise the Iowa program to be consistent with the