

control requirements will be accomplished through State enforcement since Illinois has regulatory provisions in place that correspond to the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.121(c) and has the authority to implement them for all underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992.

If circumstances within Illinois change significantly, the Director may reassess this decision. Formal reassessment of this decision would be addressed by **Federal Register** notice.

Dated: July 24, 1995.

Charles E. Sandberg,

Acting Regional Director, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center.

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30 CFR Part 914

Indiana Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Notice of decision.

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing its decision on initial enforcement of underground coal mine subsidence control and water replacement requirements in Indiana. Amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) and the implementing Federal regulations require that underground coal mining operations conducted after October 24, 1992: promptly repair or compensate for subsidence-caused material damage to noncommercial buildings and to occupied dwellings and related structures and promptly replace drinking, domestic, and residential water supplies that have been adversely affected by underground coal mining. After consultation with Indiana and consideration of public comments, OSM has decided that initial enforcement in Indiana will be accomplished through joint Indiana and OSM enforcement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: 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, Indiana 46204, Telephone: (317) 226-6166.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. The Energy Policy Act

Section 2504 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102-486, 106 Stat. 2776

(1992) added new section 720 SMCRA. Section 720(a)(1) requires that all underground coal mining operations promptly repair or compensate for subsidence-caused material damage to noncommercial buildings and to occupied residential dwellings and related structures. Repair of damage includes rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement of the structures identified in section 720(a)(1), and compensation must be provided to the owner in the full amount of the reduction in value of the damaged structures as a result of subsidence. Section 720(a)(2) requires prompt replacement of certain identified water supplies if those supplies have been adversely affected by underground coal mining operations.

These provisions requiring prompt repair or compensation for damage to structures, and prompt replacement of water supplies, went into effect upon passage of the Energy Policy Act on October 24, 1992. As a result, underground coal mine permittees in States with OSM-approved regulatory programs are required to comply with these provisions for operations conducted after October 24, 1992.

B. The Federal Regulations Implementing the Energy Policy Act

On March 31, 1995, OSM promulgated regulations at 30 CFR Part 817 to implement the performance standards of sections 720(a)(1) and (2) of SMCRA (60 FR 16722).

30 CFR 817.121(c)(2) requires in part that:

The permittee must promptly repair, or compensate the owner for, material damage resulting from subsidence caused to any non-commercial building or occupied residential dwelling or structure related thereto that existed at the time of mining. * * * The requirements of this paragraph apply only to subsidence-related damage caused by underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992.

30 CFR 817.41(j) requires in part that:

The permittee must promptly replace any drinking, domestic or residential water supply that is contaminated, diminished or interrupted by underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992, if the affected well or spring was in existence before the date the regulatory authority received the permit application for the activities causing the loss, contamination or interruption.

Alternative OSM enforcement decisions. 30 CFR 843.25 provides that by July 31, 1995, OSM will decide, in consultation with each State regulatory authority with an approved program, how enforcement of the new requirements will be accomplished. As discussed in the April 7, 1995, **Federal**

Register (60 FR 17736) and as reiterated below, enforcement could be accomplished through the 30 CFR part 732 State program amendment process, or by State, OSM, or joint State and OSM enforcement of the requirements.

(1) *State program amendment process.* If the State's promulgation of regulatory provisions that are counterpart to 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) is imminent, the number and extent of underground mines that have operated in the State since October 24, 1992, is low, the number of complaints in the State concerning section 720 of SMCRA is low, or the State's investigation of subsidence-related complaints has been thorough and complete so as to assure prompt remedial action, then OSM could decide not to directly enforce the Federal provisions in the State. In this situation, the State would enforce its State statutory and regulatory provisions once it has amended its program to be in accordance with the revised SMCRA and to be consistent with the revised Federal regulations. This program revision process, which is addressed in the Federal regulations at 30 CFR part 732, is commonly referred to as the State program amendment process.

(2) *State enforcement.* If the State has statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to all of the requirements of the above-described Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) and the State has authority to implement its statutory and regulatory provisions for all underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992, then the State would enforce its provisions for these operations.

(3) *Interim direct OSM enforcement.* If the State does not have any statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2), then OSM would enforce in their entirety 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) for all underground mining activities conducted in the State after October 24, 1992.

(4) *State and OSM enforcement.* If the State has statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to some but not all of the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) and the State has authority to implement its provisions for all underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992, then the State would enforce its provisions for these operations. OSM would then enforce those provisions of 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) that are not covered by the State provisions for these operations.

If the State has statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to some but not all of the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) and if the State's authority to enforce its provisions applies to operations conducted on or after some date later than October 24, 1992, the State would enforce its provisions for these operations on and after the provisions' effective date. OSM would then enforce 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) to the extent the State statutory and regulatory provisions do not include

corresponding provisions applicable to all underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992; and OSM would enforce those provisions of 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) that are included in the State program but are not enforceable back to October 24, 1992, for the time period from October 24, 1992, until the effective date of the State's rules.

As described in items (3) and (4) above, OSM could directly enforce in total or in part the applicable Federal regulatory provisions until the State adopts and OSM approves under 30 CFR Part 732, the State's counterparts to the required provisions. However, as discussed in item (1) above, OSM could decide not to initiate direct Federal enforcement but rather to rely instead on the 30 CFR Part 732 State program amendment process.

In those situations where OSM determined that direct Federal enforcement was necessary, the ten-day notice provisions of 30 CFR 843.12(a)(2) would not apply. That is, when on the basis of a Federal inspection OSM determined that a violation of 30 CFR 817.41(j) or 817.121(c)(2) existed, OSM would issue a notice of violation or cessation order without first sending a ten-day notice to the State.

Also under direct Federal enforcement, the provisions of 30 CFR 817.121(c)(4) would apply. This regulation states that if damage to any noncommercial building or occupied residential dwelling or structure related thereto occurs as a result of earth movement within an area determined by projecting a specified angle of draw from the outermost boundary of any underground mine workings to the surface of the land (normally a 30 degree angle of draw), a rebuttable presumption exists that the permittee caused the damage.

Lastly, under direct Federal enforcement, OSM would also enforce the new definitions at 30 CFR 701.5 of "drinking, domestic or residential water supply," "material damage," "non-commercial building," "occupied dwelling and structures related thereto," and "replacement of water supply" that were adopted with the new underground mining performance standards.

OSM would enforce 30 CFR 817.41(j), 817.121(c)(2) and (4), and 30 CFR 701.5 for operations conducted after October 24, 1992.

C. Enforcement in Indiana

Indiana program activity, requirements, and enforcement. By letter to Indiana dated December 13, 1994, OSM requested information that would be useful in determining how to implement section 720(a) of SMCRA

and the implementing Federal regulations in Indiana (Administrative Record No. IND-1438). By letter dated February (sic) 20, 1995, Indiana responded to this request (Administrative Record No. IND-1429) (the letter was misdated; the correct date is January 20, 1995.)

Indiana stated that six underground coal mines were active in Indiana between October 24, 1992, and July 1, 1994. Indiana also stated that Indiana statute IC 13-4.1-9-2.5 incorporates the substantive language of section 720 of SMCRA. Indiana noted that IC 13-4.1-9-2.5's requirements are expressly limited to operations conducted after June 30, 1994. Therefore, the Indiana Division of Reclamation (DOR) may not require structural repair (or compensation) or water replacement under the authority of IC 13-4.1-9-2.5 with respect to surface coal mining operations conducted on or before June 30, 1994. However, Indiana stated that preexisting Indiana program provisions provide the DOR with sufficient authority to impose the Energy Policy Act of 1992 requirements with respect to underground mining operations conducted on or before June 30, 1994.

On June 28, 1995 (Administrative Record Number IND-1493), OSM met with Indiana to discuss enforcement of the underground coal mine subsidence control and water replacement requirements in Indiana. As detailed above in its initial response to OSM concerning enforcement, Indiana stated that Indiana law at IC 13-4.1-9-2.5 incorporates the substantive language of section 720 of SMCRA and applies to underground mining operations conducted after June 30, 1994. For underground mining operations conducted in Indiana in the interim period between October 24, 1992 (the effective date of the Energy Policy Act of 1992) and June 30, 1994 (the effective date of Indiana law counterpart to the Energy Policy Act of 1992), the State concluded that the existing Indiana program provisions provide the Indiana Division of Reclamation (IDOR) with sufficient authority to impose the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 with respect to underground mining operations conducted in Indiana during the interim period. The State concluded, however, that although it believes that the IDOR has sufficient authority to impose the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 during the interim period, joint State and OSM enforcement in Indiana should be the chosen enforcement scheme in Indiana, as it would assure protection for the citizens of Indiana during the interim period Administrative Record Number

IND-1494. Under this scheme, the IDOR would enforce the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in Indiana from June 30, 1994, and during the interim period to the extent permissible under Indiana law. OSM would enforce the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in the interim period only if a situation arose where the State could not so enforce. Indiana does not anticipate any situations where the IDOR would not be able to enforce the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 during the interim period.

Comments. On April 7, 1995, OSM published in the **Federal Register** (60 FR 17736) an opportunity for a public hearing and a request for public comment to assist OSM in making its decision on how the underground coal mine subsidence control and water replacement requirements should be implemented in Indiana. The comment period closed on May 8, 1995. Because OSM did not receive a request for one, OSM did not hold a public hearing. OSM received comments from one party in response to its notice (Administrative Record Number IND-1476).

The party stated that the enforcement alternatives incorporating total or partial direct interim Federal enforcement (items (3) and (4) in section I.B. above) have no statutory basis in SMCRA and are not consistent with Congress' intent in creating section 720 of SMCRA. Specifically, the party commented that SMCRA contains various statutory procedures for the amendment, preemption, and substitution of Federal enforcement of State programs (sections 503, 505, and 521(b)) that should be used in lieu of direct interim Federal enforcement.

In response to this comment, OSM's position remains as was stated in the March 31, 1995, preamble for the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 843.25, which in part implement section 720 of SMCRA:

OSM has concluded that it is not clear from the legislation or legislative history, how Congress intended that section 720 was to be implemented, in light of existing SMCRA provisions for State primacy. Thus, OSM has a certain amount of flexibility in implementing section 720. After weighing these considerations, OSM intends to implement section 720 promptly, but will pursue federal enforcement without undermining State primacy under SMCRA.

(60 FR 16722, 16743). Using this rationale, OSM concludes that there is no inconsistency in its implementation of section 720 of SMCRA with sections 503, 505, and 521(b) of SMCRA.

Further the party commented that Congress' intent was that agreements between coal mine operators and

landowners would be used to ensure that the protective standards of section 720 of SMCRA would occur rather than enforcement by State regulatory authorities and OSM. The party did not supply any legislative history to support this conclusion, and the plain language of section 720 of SMCRA does not support this conclusion.

Lastly, the party commented that the waiving of ten-day notice procedures in implementing direct Federal enforcement is not consistent with Federal case law. OSM does not agree with the commenter's assertion. The following response to a similar comment in the March 31, 1995, **Federal Register** (60 FR 16722, 16742-16745) also applies to this comment.

[The commenter stated that] the proposal to provide for direct Federal enforcement ignores Federal case law which indicates that, as a general proposition, the State program, not SMCRA, is the law within the State. OSM recognizes that, under existing rules implementing SMCRA, States with approved regulatory programs have primary responsibility for implementing SMCRA, based on the approved program. However, in this rule OSM has carved out a limited exception to the general proposition, to the extent necessary to give reasonable force and effect to section 720, while maintaining so far as possible State primacy procedures. OSM believes that the process adopted in this final rule is consistent with and authorized by Congress under the Energy Policy Act, and that case law interpreting other provisions of SMCRA is not necessarily dispositive.

Director's decision. Based on the information discussed above, the Director has decided that enforcement of the underground coal mine subsidence control and water replacement requirements in Indiana will be accomplished through joint State and OSM enforcement. The Director has made this decision after soliciting public comment (one comment was received) and providing opportunity for public hearing (no requests for a hearing were received), and considering information provided by Indiana by letter dated February (sic) 20, 1995, and in discussions held with Indiana on June 28, 1995. The Director has concluded that Indiana law at IC 13-4.1-9-2.5 authorizes enforcement of provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 in Indiana from June 30, 1994. As for enforcement during the interim period (October 24, 1992, through June 30, 1994), Indiana will enforce the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to the extent authorized by existing Indiana law. OSM will enforce the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 during the interim period in any circumstances where the State cannot so enforce. Neither the IDOR nor OSM

anticipates any cases where the IDOR would not be able to enforce the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 during the interim period.

If circumstances within Indiana change significantly, the Director may reassess this decision. Formal reassessment of this decision would be addressed by **Federal Register** notice.

Dated: July 24, 1995.

Charles E. Sandberg,

Acting Regional Director, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center.

[FR Doc. 95-18611 Filed 7-27-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-M

30 CFR Part 917

Kentucky Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Notice of decision.

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing its decision on initial enforcement of underground coal mine subsidence control and water replacement requirements in Kentucky. Amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) and the implementing Federal regulations require that underground coal mining operations conducted after October 24, 1992: promptly repair or compensate for subsidence-caused material damage to noncommercial buildings and to occupied dwellings and related structures, and promptly replace drinking, domestic, and residential water supplies that have been adversely affected by underground coal mining. After consultation with Kentucky and consideration of public comments, OSM has decided that initial enforcement in Kentucky will be accomplished through State and OSM enforcement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William J. Kovacic, Director, Lexington Field Office, OSM, 2675 Regency Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40503, Telephone (606) 233-2894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. The Energy Policy Act

Section 2504 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102-486, 106 Stat. 2776 (1992) added new section 720 to SMCRA. Section 720(a)(1) requires that all underground coal mining operations promptly repair or compensate for subsidence-caused material damage to noncommercial buildings and to occupied residential dwellings and related structures. Repair of damage

includes rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement of the structures identified in section 720(a)(1), and compensation must be provided to the owner in the full amount of the reduction in value of the damaged structures as a result of subsidence. Section 720(a)(2) requires prompt replacement of certain identified water supplies if those supplies have been adversely affected by underground coal mining operations.

These provisions requiring prompt repair or compensation for damage to structures, and prompt replacement of water supplies, went into effect upon passage of the Energy Policy Act on October 24, 1992. As a result, underground coal mine permittees in States with OSM-approved regulatory programs are required to comply with these provisions for operations conducted after October 24, 1992.

B. The Federal Regulations Implementing the Energy Policy Act

On March 31, 1995, OSM promulgated regulations at 30 CFR part 817 to implement the performance standards of sections 720(a)(1) and (2) of SMCRA (60 FR 16722).

30 CFR 817.121(c)(2) requires in part that:

The permittee must promptly repair, or compensate the owner for, material damage resulting from subsidence caused to any non-commercial building or occupied residential dwelling or structure related thereto that existed at the time of mining. * * * The requirements of this paragraph apply only to subsidence-related damage caused by underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992.

30 CFR 817.41(j) requires in part that:

The permittee must promptly replace any drinking, domestic or residential water supply that is contaminated, diminished or interrupted by underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992, if the affected well or spring was in existence before the date the regulatory authority received the permit application for the activities causing the loss, contamination or interruption.

Alternative OSM enforcement decisions. 30 CFR 843.25 provides that by July 31, 1995, OSM will decide, in consultation with each State regulatory authority with an approved program, how enforcement of the new requirements will be accomplished. As discussed in the April 7, 1995, **Federal Register** (60 FR 17739) and as reiterated below, enforcement could be accomplished through the 30 CFR Part 732 State program amendment process, or by State, OSM, or joint State and OSM enforcement of the requirements.

(1) *State program amendment process.* If the State's promulgation of regulatory