Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Cancellation of a Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Proposed Development of the Bull Mountains Mine No. 1 and Associated Support Facilities, Musselshell and Yellowstone Counties, Montana

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

ACTION: Cancellation of a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is cancelling the notice published in the Federal Register on May 9, 1990 (55 FR 19365) for the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the proposed development of the Bull Mountains Mine No. 1 and its associated support facilities. Meridian Minerals Company (Meridian) had submitted a permit application package (PAP) for their proposed underground coal mine and its associated support facilities, located about 35 miles northeast of Billings, Montana and 12 miles southeast of Roundup, Montana. Decisions on the application for a Federal permit to mine coal and for the possible Federal approval of a mining plan are no longer required.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Floyd McMullen, Environmental Project Manager, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Western Regional Coordinating Center, 1999 Broadway, Suite 3320, Denver, Colorado 80202-5733 (telephone: 303-672-5601).

Dated: February 14, 1996.

Richard J. Seibel,
Regional Director, Western Regional Coordinating Center.
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BILLING CODE 4310-05-M

Request for Determination of Valid Existing Rights Within the Wayne National Forest

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

ACTION: Notice of request for determination and invitation for interested persons to participate.

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has received a request for a determination that Buckingham Coal Co., Inc. (the requester) has valid existing rights (VER) pursuant to section 522(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) to mine coal by surface methods on 25.2 acres of Federal land within the Wayne National Forest in Perry County, Ohio. By this notice, OSM is inviting interested persons to participate in the proceeding and to submit relevant factual information on the matter.

DATES: OSM will accept written comments on this request until 5:00 p.m. local time on April 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Mail or hand deliver written comments to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, Room 218, Three Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

The Administrative Record for this request is available for review at both the address above and OSM’s Columbus Office, Eastland Professional Plaza, 4480 Refugee Road, Suite 201, Columbus, Ohio 43232 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Peter Michael, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, Room 218, Three Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Telephone: (412) 937-2867.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on VER Requirements for National Forest Lands

Section 522(e) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1272(e)) prohibits surface coal mining operations on certain lands unless a person has VER to conduct such operations or unless the operation was in existence on August 3, 1977. Section 522(e)(2) applies the prohibition to Federal lands within the boundaries of any national forest unless the Secretary of the Interior finds that there are no significant recreational, timber, economic, or other values that may be incompatible with surface coal mining operations and the surface operations...