SUMMARY: OSM is correcting an error in the addressing section of a proposed rule announcing receipt of a proposed amendment to the Pennsylvania regulatory program (PA–113–FOR) published on Wednesday, February 28, 1996 (61 FR 7446).

On page 7447, the name and address for the Maryland Bureau of Mines was included in error. The correct reference should be: Pennsylvania Bureau of Mining and Reclamation, Room 209, Executive House, Harrisburg, PA 17105, Telephone (717) 787-5103.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert J. Biggi, Director, Harrisburg Field Office, Telephone: (703) 523-4036.

DATED: March 8, 1996.

Allen D. Klein, Regional Director, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center.

[FR Doc. 96–6445 Filed 3–15–96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–05–M

30 CFR Part 946
[VA–104–FOR]

Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program

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

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing the receipt of a proposed amendment to the Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AMLR) Program (hereinafter referred to as the Virginia Program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq., as amended. The proposed amendment is intended to streamline Virginia’s total AMLR plan to be consistent with the Federal regulations.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on April 17, 1996. If requested, a public hearing on the proposed amendments will be held at 1:00 p.m. on April 12, 1996. Requests to present oral testimony at the hearing must be received on or before 4:00 p.m. on April 2, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to testify at the hearing should be mailed or hand-delivered to Mr. Robert A. Penn, Director, Big Stone Gap Field Office at the first address listed below.

Copies of the Virginia program, the proposed amendment, a listing of any scheduled public meetings or hearing, and all written comments received in response to this notice will be available for public review at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Big Stone Gap Field Office, P.O. Drawer 1217, Powell Valley Square Shopping Center, Room 220, Route 23, Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219, Telephone: (703) 523-4303

Virginia Division of Mines Land Reclamation, P.O. Drawer 900, Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219, Telephone: (703) 523-8100

Each requester may receive, free of charge, one copy of the proposed amendment by contacting the OSM Big Stone Gap Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert A. Penn, Director, Big Stone Gap Field Office, Telephone: (703) 523-4303.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on the Virginia Program

On December 15, 1981, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Virginia Program. Background on the Virginia program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval can be found in the December 15, 1981 Federal Register (46 FR 61085–61115). Subsequent actions concerning the conditions of approval and AMLR program amendments are identified at 30 CFR 946.20 and 946.25.

II. Discussion of the Proposed Amendment

By letter received February 29, 1996 (Administrative Record No. VA–871), the Virginia Division of Mines Land Reclamation (DMLR) submitted a proposed Program Amendment to the Virginia Program. This amendment is intended to streamline Virginia’s total AMLR plan to more closely parallel the Federal state reclamation plan information requirements of 30 CFR 884.13.


The full text of the proposed program amendment submitted by Virginia is available for public inspection at the addresses listed above. The Director now seeks public comment on whether the proposed amendment is no less effective than the Federal regulations. If approved, the amendment will become part of the Virginia program.

III. Public Comment Procedures

In accordance with the provisions of 30 CFR 884.15, OSM is now seeking comment on whether the amendment proposed by Virginia satisfies the applicable requirements for the approval of State AMLR program amendments. If the amendment is deemed adequate, it will become part of the Virginia program.

Written Comments

Written comments should be specific, pertain only to the issues proposed in this rulemaking, and include explanations in support of the commenter’s recommendations. Comments received after the time indicated under DATES or at locations other than the Big Stone Gap Field Office will not necessarily be considered in the final rulemaking or included in the Administrative Record.

Public Hearing

Persons wishing to comment at the public hearing should contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT by close of business on April 2, 1996. If no one requests an opportunity to comment at a public hearing, the hearing will not be held.

Filing of a written statement at the time of the hearing is requested as it will greatly assist the transcription. Submission of written statements in advance of the hearing will allow OSM officials to prepare adequate responses and appropriate questions.

The public hearing will continue on the specified date until all persons scheduled to comment have been heard. Persons in the audience who have not been scheduled to comment and who wish to do so will be heard following those scheduled. The hearing will end after all persons who desire to comment have been heard.

Public Meeting

If only one person requests an opportunity to comment at a hearing, a public meeting, rather than a public hearing, may be held. Persons wishing to meet with OSM representatives to discuss the proposed amendments may request a meeting at the Big Stone Gap Field Office by contacting the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. All such meetings shall be open to the public and, if possible, notice of the meetings will be posted in advance at the locations listed above under ADDRESSES. A summary of
Executive Order 12291

On March 30, 1992, the Office of Management and Budget granted the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) an exemption from sections 3, 4, 7 and 8 of Executive Order 12291 for actions related to approval or disapproval of State and tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof. Therefore, preparation of a regulatory impact analysis is not necessary and OMB regulatory review is not required.

Executive Order 12778

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12778 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 and Tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof since each such plan is drafted and adopted by a specific State or Tribe, not by OSM. Decisions on proposed State and Tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof submitted by a State or Tribe are based on a determination of whether the submittal meets the requirements of Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) (30 U.S.C. 1231-1243) and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR Parts 884 and 888.

National Environmental Policy Act

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since agency decisions on proposed State and Tribal abandoned mine land reclamation plans and revisions thereof are categorically excluded from compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332) by the Manual of the Department of the Interior [5616 DM 6, appendix 8, paragraph 8.4B(29)].

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by the Office of Management and Budget 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 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. Hence, this rule will ensure that existing requirements established by SMCRA or 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 in the analyses for the corresponding Federal regulations.