DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Minerals Management Service
30 CFR Parts 202, 206, and 211
RIN 1010–AC02

Amendments to Gas Valuation Regulations for Federal Leases

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of further extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) hereby gives notice that it is extending the public comment period for a notice requesting comments on supplemental information which was published in the Federal Register on April 22, 1997, (62 FR 19536). In this notice MMS withdrew its proposed rulemaking to amend the regulations for valuing natural gas produced from Federal leases and requested comments on supplemental options for natural gas valuation.

In response to requests for additional time, MMS will further extend the comment period from July 23, 1997, to September 22, 1997.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before September 22, 1997.

ADDRESS: Written comments or suggestions should be sent to the following addresses.

For comments sent via the U.S. Postal Service use: Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program, Rules and Publications Staff, P.O. Box 25165, MS 3021, Denver, Colorado 80225–0165.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
David S. Guzy, Chief, Rules and Publications Staff, phone: (303) 231–3434, FAX: (303) 231–3394, e-mail: David_Guzy@mms.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
MMS received requests from representatives of the oil and gas industry to extend the comment period of this notice. This time extension is in response to these requests in order to provide commentors with adequate time to provide detailed comments.

Lucy Querques Denett,
Associate Director for Royalty Management.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
30 CFR Part 935
[OH–241–FOR, #74]
Ohio Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.
ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

SUMMARY: OSM is reopening the public comment period on a proposed amendment to the Ohio permanent regulatory program (hereinafter referred to as the “Ohio program”) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The proposed amendment consists of revisions to section 150.13–6–03 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) dealing with the Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP). The amendment is intended to revise the Ohio program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations.

DATES: Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., [E.D.T.] August 4, 1997.

ADDRESS: Written comments and requests to speak at the hearing should be mailed or hand delivered to George Rieger, Field Branch Chief, at the address listed below.

Copies of the Ohio program, the proposed amendment, a listing of any scheduled public hearings, and all written comments received in response to this document will be available for public review at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Each requester may receive one free copy of the proposed amendment by contacting OSM’s Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center.

George Rieger, Field Branch Chief, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 3 Parkway Center, Pittsburgh PA 15220, Telephone: (412) 937–2153.
Ohio Division of Mines and Reclamation, 1855 Fountain Square Court, Columbus, Ohio 43244, Telephone: (614) 265–1076.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
George Rieger, Field Branch Chief, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, Telephone: (412) 937–2153.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
I. Background on the Ohio Program

On August 16, 1982, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Ohio program. Background information on the Ohio program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval can be found in the August 10, 1982, Federal Register (47 FR 34688). Subsequent actions concerning conditions of approval and program amendments can be found at 30 CFR 935.11, 935.15, and 935.16.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

By letter dated October 3, 1996, (Administrative Record No. OH–2170–00) Ohio submitted a proposed amendment to its program regarding its SOAP pursuant to SMCRA. Ohio submitted the proposed amendment at its own initiative. OSM announced receipt of the proposed amendment in the October 18, 1996, Federal Register (61 FR 54373) and in the same document opened the public comment period and provided an opportunity for a public hearing on the adequacy of the proposed amendment. The public comment period closed on November
8. OAC 1501:13–6–03(D)(9) is the same as (D)(12), therefore (D)(9) has been deleted.

III. Public Comment Procedures

In accordance with the provisions of 30 CFR 732.17(h), OSM is seeking comments on whether the proposed amendment satisfies the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. Specifically, OSM is seeking comments on the revisions to the State’s regulations that were submitted on June 24, 1997 (Administrative Record No. OH–2170–09), with the corrections and additions as noted above. Comments should address whether the proposed amendment satisfies the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. If the amendment is deemed adequate, it will become part of the Ohio 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 Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center will not necessarily be considered in the final rulemaking or included in the Administrative Record.

IV. 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 12988

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 2 of Executive Order 12988 (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 sections 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), the Department 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.

Executive Order 12988

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Unfunded Mandates

This rule will not impose a cost of $100 million or more in any given year on any governmental entity or the private sector.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 935

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.


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

[FR Doc. 97–19000 Filed 7–17–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–05–M