DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
30 CFR Part 773
RIN 1029-AB80
Notification and Permit Processing

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior. ACTION: Proposed rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: After reviewing comments received during the public comment period, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is withdrawing the proposed Notification and Permit Processing rule published in the Federal Register on October 26, 1994 (59 FR 53884).

DATES: This withdrawal is effective September 10, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Boyce, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20240; Telephone: (202) 208-2986 commercial or FTS. E-mail: sboyce@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a letter dated September 29, 1992, Mr. Jim B. Wyant of Vincennes, Indiana, presented a petition for rulemaking to OSM. The “Notice of availability of a petition to initiate rulemaking and request for comment” was published in the Federal Register on November 12, 1992 (57 FR 53670). On August 24, 1993 (58 FR 44630), the Director of OSM published his “Notice of decision on petition for rulemaking” and stated that OSM would initiate Federal rulemaking. The proposed rule was published in the Federal Register on October 26, 1994 (59 FR 53884), and would have revised the permit notification provisions of 30 CFR 773.15 and the permit processing provisions of 30 CFR 773.15(c) and 773.17. On December 23, 1994 (59 FR 66287), OSM extended the comment period for the proposed rule until February 27, 1995. In order to accommodate requests for a public hearing the comment period was reopened on March 10, 1995, and extended until March 23, 1995. A public hearing was held on March 16, 1995, in Vincennes, Indiana.

Comments on the proposed rulemaking reveal that there are no widespread problems with the existing rules that warrant a national rulemaking. Accordingly, the proposed rule published on October 26, 1994 (59 FR 53884), is withdrawn.


Bob Armstrong,
Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
30 CFR Part 870
RIN 1029-AB93
Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund Reauthorization Implementation

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

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior is proposing to remove its regulation at 30 CFR 870.17. The regulation governs the scope of audits conducted in connection with OSM’s abandoned mine land reclamation program.

DATES: Written comments: OSM will accept written comments on the proposed rule until 5 p.m., Eastern time, on November 10, 1997.

Public hearings: Upon request, OSM will hold public hearings on the proposed rule at dates, times and locations to be announced in the Federal Register prior to the hearings. OSM will accept requests for public hearings until 5 p.m., Eastern time, on October 1, 1997. Individuals wishing to attend, but not testify, at any hearing should contact the person identified under FOR FURTHER CONTACT before the hearing date to verify that the hearing will be held.

ADDRESSES: Written comments: Hand-deliver or mail to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Administrative Record, Room 117, 151 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Electronic Mail: You may send comments through the Internet to OSM’s Administrative Record at: osmrules@osmre.gov. Copies of any messages received electronically will be filed with the Administrative Record.

Public hearings: You may submit a request for a public hearing orally or in writing to the person and address specified under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. The address, date and time for any public hearing held will be announced prior to the hearing. Any individual who requires special accommodation to attend a public hearing should also contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Krawchyk, Division of Compliance Management, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 3 Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Telephone 412–921–2676. E-mail: jkrawchyk@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
I. Public Comment Procedures
II. Background
III. Discussion of Proposed Rule and Guidelines
IV. Procedural Matters

I. Public Comment Procedures

Written Comments: Written or electronic comments submitted on the proposed rule should be specific, should be confined to issues pertinent to the proposed rule, and should explain the reason for any recommended change. Where practicable, commenters should submit three copies of their comments. Comments received after the close of the comment period (see DATES) or delivered to an address other than those listed above (see ADDRESSES), may not