**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement**

**30 CFR Part 920**

**[MD–043–FOR]**

**Maryland Regulatory Program**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; public comment period and opportunity for public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** OSM is announcing receipt of a proposed amendment to the Maryland regulatory program (hereinafter the “Maryland program” under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA)). The proposed amendment consists of changes to provisions of the Maryland statutes pertaining to the financial interests of committee members. The amendment is intended to revise the Maryland program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations and SMCRA.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. e.s.t. October 20, 1997. If requested, a public hearing on the proposed amendment will be held on October 14, 1997. Requests to speak at the hearing must be received by 4:00 p.m., e.s.t., on October 6, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and requests to speak at the hearing should be mailed or hand delivered to George Rieger, Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, 3 Parkway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Telephone: (412) 937-2153.

**Maryland Bureau of Mines, 160 South Water Street, Frostburg, Maryland 21532, Telephone: (301) 689-4136.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

George Rieger, Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, at (412) 937-2153.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Background on the Maryland Program

On December 1, 1980, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Maryland program. Background information on the Maryland program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval can be found in the December 1, 1980, Federal Register (45 FR 79449). Subsequent actions concerning the conditions of approval and program amendments can be found at 30 CFR 920.12, 920.15, and 920.16.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

By letter dated August 22, 1997 (Administrative Record No. MD–578.00), Maryland submitted a proposed amendment to its program pursuant to SMCRA in response to a required amendment at 30 CFR 920.16(1). Maryland is revising the 1997 Laws of Maryland, Chapter 223 (House Bill 245), at section 15–204(a)(4). Specifically, Maryland proposes to require that Land Reclamation Committee members rescue themselves from proceedings that may affect their direct or indirect financial interests.

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. If the amendment is deemed adequate, it will become part of the Maryland 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.
Public Hearing

Persons wishing to speak at the public hearing should contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT by 4:00 p.m., e.s.t. on October 6, 1997. The location and time of the hearing will be arranged with those persons requesting the hearing. If no one requests an opportunity to speak at the 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 transcriber. 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 speak have been heard. Persons in the audience who have not been scheduled to speak, and who wish to do so, will be heard following those who have been scheduled. The hearing will end after all persons scheduled to speak and persons present in the audience who wish to speak have been heard.

Any disabled individual who has need for a special accommodation to attend a public hearing should contact the individual listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

Public Meeting

If only one person requests an opportunity to speak 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 amendment may request a meeting by contacting the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. All such meetings will be open to the public and, if possible, notices of meetings will be posted at the locations listed under ADDRESSES. A written summary of each meeting will be made a part of 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 OMS. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

National Environmental Policy Act.

No environmental impact statement is required for this rule since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB 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 counterpart Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certificate made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. Accordingly, this rule will ensure that existing requirements 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 for the counterpart Federal regulations.

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 920

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.


John A. Holbrook, II,
Acting Regional Director, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 51 and 52

[FRL–5889–1]

Minor Amendments to Inspection Maintenance Program Evaluation Requirements

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This document proposes revisions to the Motor Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance (I/M) requirements by replacing the I/M rule requirement that the tailpipe portion of the mandatory program evaluation be performed using only an IM240 or equivalent mass-emission transient test with a requirement that states use a sound evaluation methodology capable of providing accurate information about the overall effectiveness of an I/M program. The goal of this proposed rule change is to allow states additional flexibility to use not only IM240 but other approved alternative methodologies for their program evaluation. This proposal also clarifies that such program evaluation testing shall begin no later than November 30, 1998, and is not required to be coincident with program start up (though the first report is still due two years after program start up). This proposal also clarifies that "initial test" simply means that the test is conducted before repairs for each test cycle, and does not therefore preclude states from using alternative sampling methodologies such as roadside pullover to sample the fleet.

This proposal also amends the conditions relating to the program evaluation testing requirements that were part of the conditional interim approval actions taken on the I/M State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for the Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia and the State of Delaware. Lastly, through this document, EPA requests that other agencies that would like to take advantage of the flexibility proposed today review their