Cynthia E. Grigsby, Chief, Regulations Unit, Assistant Chief Counsel (Corporate).

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
30 CFR Part 914
[SPATS No. IN–145–FOR; State Program Amendment No. 98–1]

Indiana 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 Indiana regulatory program (Indiana program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA).

Indiana proposes reference changes in its rules for surface mining permit applications, geology description; underground mining permit applications, geology description; and permit applications, public participation. Indiana also proposes to add a new provision to its rule for surface mining permit applications, postmining land uses. Indiana intends to revise its program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations.

This document gives the times and locations that the Indiana program and amendment to that program are available for your inspection, the comment period during which you may submit written comments on the amendment, and the procedures that will be followed for the public hearing, if one is requested.

DATES: We will accept written comments until 4:00 p.m., e.s.t., April 26, 1999. If requested, we will hold a public hearing on the amendment on April 19, 1999. We will accept requests to speak at the hearing until 4:00 p.m., e.s.t. on April 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: You should mail or hand deliver written comments and requests to speak at the hearing to Andrew R. Gilmore, Director, Indianapolis Field Office, at the address listed below.

You may review copies of the Indiana program, the amendment, a listing of
any scheduled public hearings, and all written comments received in response to this document at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. You may receive one free copy of the amendment by contacting OSM's Indianapolis Field Office.

Andrew R. Gilmore, Director, Indianapolis Field Office, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Minton-Capehart Federal Building, 575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 301, Indianapolis, IN 46204, Telephone: (317) 226-6700

Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 402 West Washington Street, Room C256, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Telephone: (317) 232-1547

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andrew R. Gilmore, Director, Indianapolis Field Office. Telephone: (317) 226-6700. Internet: INFOMAIL@ndgw.osmre.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on the Indiana Program

On July 29, 1982, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Indiana program. You can find background information on the Indiana program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval in the Federal Register, 47 FR 32107. You can find later actions on the Indiana program at 30 CFR 914.10, 914.15, and 914.16.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

By letter dated March 8, 1999 (Administrative Record No. IND-1633), Indiana sent us an amendment to its program under SMCRA. Indiana sent the amendment its own initiative. Indiana proposes to amend the Indiana Administrative Code (IAC) at 310 IAC 12-3 as discussed below.

1. 310 IAC 12-3-31 Surface Mining Permit Applications; Geology Description

At 310 IAC 12-3-31(a)(3), Indiana proposes to replace a reference to "IC 13-4.1 with a reference to "IC 14-34." At 310 IAC 12-3-31(c), Indiana proposes to replace a reference to "this rule" with a reference to "this article." 

2. 310 IAC 12-3-48 Surface Mining Permit Applications; Reclamation and Operations Plan; Postmining Land Uses

Indiana proposes to revise this rule by adding a new provision at 310 IAC 12-3-48(a)(3) to require the detailed description of the proposed land use to explain "[t]he consideration given to making all of the proposed surface mining activities consistent with surface owner plans and applicable state and local land use plans and programs."

3. 310 IAC 12-3-69 Underground Mining Permit Applications; Geology Description

At 310 IAC 12-3-69(a)(3) and 12-3-69(c)(3), Indiana proposes to replace references to "this rule" with references to "this article." At 310 IAC 12-3-69(d), Indiana proposes to replace a reference to "subsection (b)" with a reference to "subsection (b)(2) and (b)(3)."

4. 310 IAC 12-3-106 Permit Applications; Public Participation

At 310 IAC 12-3-106(a)(8), Indiana proposes to replace a reference to "section 84" with a reference to "section 94.1."

III. Public Comment Procedures

Under the provisions of 30 CFR 732.17(h), we are requesting comments on whether the amendment satisfies the applicable program approval criteria of 30 CFR 732.15. If we approve the amendment, it will become part of the Indiana program.

Written Comments

Your written comments should be specific and pertain only to the issues proposed in this rulemaking. You should explain the reason for any recommended change. In the final rulemaking, we will not necessarily consider or include in the Administrative Record any comments received after the time indicated under "DATES" or at locations other than the Indianapolis Field Office.

Public Hearing

If you wish to speak at the public hearing, contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT by 4:00 p.m., e.s.t. on April 9, 1999. We will arrange the location and time of the hearing with those persons requesting the hearing. If you are disabled and need special accommodations to attend a public hearing, contact the individual listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. The hearing will not be held if no one requests an opportunity to speak at the public hearing.

You should file a written statement at the time you request the hearing. This will allow us 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. If you are in the audience and have not been scheduled to speak and wish to do so, you will be allowed to speak after those who have been scheduled. We will end the hearing after all persons scheduled to speak and persons present in the audience who wish to speak have been heard.

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. If you wish to meet with us to discuss the amendment, request a meeting by contacting the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. All such meetings are open to the public and, if possible, we will post notices of meetings at the locations listed under ADDRESSES. We also make a written summary of each meeting a part of the Administrative Record.

VI. Procedural Determinations

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) exempts this rule from review under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review). Executive Order 12988

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 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 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on State regulatory programs and program amendments 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

This rule does not require an environmental impact statement since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on 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)).
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.).

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 corresponding 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. Therefore, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously published 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 corresponding Federal regulations.

OSM has determined and certifies under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1502 et seq.) that this rule will not impose a cost of $100 million or more in any given year on local, state, or tribal governments or private entities.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 914

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: March 17, 1999.

Brent Wahlquist,
Regional Director, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Parts 110, 162, and 165
[CDG17-99-002]
RIN 2115-AG81

Anchorage Ground; Safety Zone; Speed Limit; Tongass Narrows and Ketchikan, AK

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard proposes changes to the speed limit in Tongass Narrows. The present speed limit does not address the needs of floatplane traffic, may unnecessarily slow the transits of smaller vessels, and does not apply in the northern portions of Tongass Narrows where traffic congestion and wake from larger vessels has become a concern. The proposal would extend the speed limit area northward in Tongass Narrows to Channel Island, allow the take-off and landing of floatplanes, and allow smaller vessels to transit crowded areas to Tongass Narrows more quickly, thereby relieving congestion. The Coast Guard also proposes redesignation of the safety zone in Ketchikan Harbor as an anchorage ground. Vessels transiting the anchorage ground, other than those engaged in anchoring evolutions, would be required to proceed through the anchorage by the most direct route without delay or sudden course changes. The present designation of this areas as a safety zone does not reflect its actual use as an anchorage for large passenger vessels. The slow or erratic operation of small vessels in the present safety zone has made it very difficult for large vessels to safely maneuver to and from anchor. The requirement that transiting vessels proceed through the anchorage directly, without delay or sudden course changes, will make the final approach, anchoring, and departure of very large passenger vessels, safer for the vessels involved.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard by May 10, 1999.

The public hearing will be held on March 26, 1999, at 6 p.m. (AST).

ADDRESSES: You may mail comments to the Commander (mo), Seventeenth Coast Guard District, P.O. Box 25517, Juneau, Alaska 99802–5517, or deliver them to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, sixth floor, room 661, Juneau Alaska between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. The telephone number is 907–463–2242, the Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Maritime Operations Division, maintains the public docket for this rulemaking. Comments, and documents as indicated in this preamble, will become part of this and will be available for inspection or copying at room 66, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The public hearing will be held at the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska. Persons may request an additional public hearing by writing to the Commander (To), Seventeenth Coast Guard District, at the address under ADDRESSES. The request should include the reasons why an additional hearing would be beneficial. It is determined that the opportunity for additional oral presentations will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold an additional public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the Federal Register.

Background and Purpose

During the last two years the Coast Guard and the Federal Aviation Administration have held a series of public meetings in Ketchikan, Alaska, to assess maritime traffic, congestion, safety, and wake concerns in Tongass Narrows. The individuals and groups represented at these meetings included recreational vessel operators, passenger vessel operator, commercial fishing vessel operators, waterfront facility managers, commercial freight vessel/barge operators, commercial tank barge operators, commercial Kayak operators, floatplane operators, charter vessel operator, and local residents.

Request for Comments

The Coast Guard encourages you to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking (CDG17–99–002) and the specific section of this document to which each comments applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit two copies of all comment and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing. If you want acknowledgement or receipt of your comments, you should enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope.

The Coast Guard is establishing a forty-five-day comment period for this proposed rule instead of the usual sixty-day comment period. The shortened comment period should be sufficient to allow the public to comment on the proposed rule. The shortened comment period is needed so that the modification to the existing rule may be in place by the beginning of the 1999 summer boating season. The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change this proposed rule in view of the comments.

The Coast Guard has scheduled a public hearing for 6 p.m. (AST), March 26, 1999, at the Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska. Persons may request an additional public hearing by writing to the Commander (To), Seventeenth Coast Guard District, at the address under ADDRESSES. The request should include the reasons why an additional hearing would be beneficial. It is determined that the opportunity for additional oral presentations will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold an additional public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the Federal Register.