Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This rule:

a. Does not have an annual effect on the economy of $100 million;

b. Will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; and

c. Does not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S. based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

This determination is based upon the fact that the state submittal which is the subject of this rule is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an analysis was prepared and a determination made that the Federal regulation was not considered a major rule.

Unfunded Mandates

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 any local, State, or Tribal governments or private entities.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 934

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original amendment submission date</th>
<th>Date of final publication</th>
<th>Citation/description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 9, 2001</td>
<td>November 16, 2001</td>
<td>NDCC 38–14.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Brent Wahlquist,
Regional Director, Western Regional Coordinating Center.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 30 CFR part 934 is amended as set forth below:

PART 934—NORTH DAKOTA

1. The authority citation for part 934 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.

2. Section 934.15 is amended in the table by adding a new entry in chronological order by “Date of Final Publication” to read as follows:

§ 934.15 Approval of North Dakota’s regulatory program amendments.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 938

[PA–132–FOR]

Pennsylvania Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is approving legislation submitted by Pennsylvania as part of its regulatory program (Pennsylvania program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). Pennsylvania submitted the legislation to satisfy a condition of program approval found at 30 CFR 938.11(i). The condition requires the submission of enacted laws providing for the award of costs and expenses that are no less effective than 30 CFR 840.15 and in accordance with section 525(e) of SMCRA.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Brock, Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Harrisburg Field Office, Harrisburg Transportation Center, Third Floor, Suite 3C, 4th and Market Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101, Telephone: (717) 782–4036, email: bbrock@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on the Pennsylvania Program

II. Pennsylvania’s Submission

III. Secretary’s Findings

IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments

V. Secretary’s Decision

VI. Procedural Determinations

I. Background on the Pennsylvania Program

Section 503(a) of SMCRA permits a State to assume primacy for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations on non-Federal and non-Indian lands within its borders by demonstrating that its State program includes, among other things, “a State law which provides for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations in accordance with the requirements of the Act * * * “ and “rules and regulations consistent with regulations issued by the Secretary” pursuant to the Act. 30 U.S.C. 1253(a)(1) and (7). On the basis of these criteria, the Secretary conditionally approved the Pennsylvania program on July 30, 1982. You can find background information on the Pennsylvania program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of the approval in the July 30, 1982, Federal Register (47 FR 33050). Subsequent actions concerning the Pennsylvania program and previous amendments are codified at 30 CFR 938.11, 938.12, 938.15 and 938.16.

II. Pennsylvania’s Submission

By letter dated January 3, 2001, (Administrative Record Number PA 848.23), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) submitted legislation consisting of excerpts of House Bill 393 regarding attorney costs and expenses associated with administrative legal proceedings relating to coal mining for Secretarial approval. House Bill 393 amends Title 27 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding section 7708 titled, “Costs for Mining Proceedings.”

The full text of Pennsylvania’s submission was published in the February 15, 2001, Federal Register (66 FR 10405). The public comment period closed on March 19, 2001. OSM received two comments. No one requested an opportunity to speak at a public hearing, so no hearing was held.

III. Secretary’s Findings

Set forth below, pursuant to SMCRA and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 732.15 and 732.17, are the Secretary’s findings concerning the legislation submitted by Pennsylvania.

Section 1 of House Bill 393 amends Title 27 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes by adding Chapter 77, “Costs and Fees,” section 7708. Section 7708 (a) states that
purposes of the section is to “provide costs and fees to the same extent of section 525(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–87, 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.” The Secretary finds that this portion of the legislation is in keeping with the requirements of the program condition at 30 CFR 938.11 that requires Pennsylvania to submit legislation in accordance with section 525(e) of SMCRA. The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Section 7708(b) provides that, “Any party may file a petition for award of costs and fees reasonably incurred as a result of that party’s participation in any proceeding involving coal mining activities which results in a final adjudication being issued by the Environmental Hearing Board or a final order being issued by an appellate court.” The Secretary finds that this provision is consistent with the provision in the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1290. The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Section 7708(c) defines who may receive an award. Subsection (1) defines the circumstances under which appropriate costs and fees may be awarded to any person from the permittee. This section is substantively identical to the provisions in the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1294(a). The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Subsection (2) defines the circumstances under which appropriate costs and fees may be awarded to any party, other than a permittee or his representative, from the department. This section is substantively identical to the provisions in the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1294(b). The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Subsection (3) provides that costs and fees may be awarded to a permittee from the department when the permittee demonstrates that the department in a matter concerning coal mining activities issued an order of cessation, a compliance order or an order to show cause why a permit should not be suspended or revoked, in bad faith and for the purpose of harassing or embarrassing the permittee. This section is substantively identical to the provisions in the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1294(c). The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Subsection (4) defines the circumstances under which appropriate costs and fees may be awarded to a permittee from any party. This section is substantively identical to the provisions in the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1294(d). The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Section 7708(d) defines the time for petitions for an award of costs. This section requires the petitions to be filed with the Environmental Hearing Board within 30 days of the date an adjudication of the Environmental Hearing Board becomes final. The Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1291 require petitions to be filed within 45 days of receipt of a final order. While the Pennsylvania provision allows less time for the filing of these petitions, the Secretary finds that 30 days is still a reasonable allotment of time. Moreover, the deadline will apply to both citizens and coal operators, and is therefore even-handed on its face. As such, the Secretary finds that subsection (d) is no less effective than its Federal counterpart in ensuring that parties have an adequate opportunity to petition the appropriate tribunal for an award of costs and fees, and it is therefore approved.

Section 7708(e) states the requirements for the contents of a petition. The requirements are substantively identical to the requirements of the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1292(a)(1) through (3). The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Section 7708(f) provides that any party shall have 30 days from service of the petition within which to file an answer to such petition. This section is substantively identical to the Federal regulation at 43 CFR 4.1293. The Secretary is approving this portion of the submission.

Section 7708(g) states, “Except for section 601 of the act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1937, No.394), known as the Clean Streams Law, the act of May 31, 1945 (P.L.1198, no.418), known as the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act, the Act of April 27, 1966 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.31, No.1), known as the Bituminous Mine Subsidie and Land Conservation Act, and the act of September 24, 1968 (P.L.1040, No.318), known as the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act, which govern coal mining or activities related to coal mining.

“Costs and fees.” All reasonable costs and expenses, including attorney fees and expert witness fees, reasonably incurred as a result of participation in a proceeding involving coal mining activities.

“Department.” The Department of Environmental Protection of the Commonwealth.

“Proceeding.” Appeals of final Department of Environmental Protection actions before the Environmental Hearing Board and judicial review of Environmental Hearing Board adjudications.

The Secretary finds that the definitions of the terms, “coal mining activities,” “coal mining acts,” “costs and fees,” “Department,” and “proceeding” do not make the submission inconsistent with the.
Federal regulations and is approving those definitions.

We note that this submission lacks a specific counterpart to the Federal regulations at 43 CFR 4.1295(b), which states that an award may include "all costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees and expert witness fees, reasonably incurred in seeking the award."

However, section 7708(a) states that the purpose of section 7708 is to "provide costs and fees to the same extent of section 525(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-87, 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto."

Also, while section 7708(b) sets forth a general rule that a party may file a petition for costs and fees as a result of any "proceeding involving coal mining activities," and while the definition of "proceeding" contained in section 7708(h) does not expressly include fee petition proceedings, the general rule does not appear to prevent the Environmental Hearing Board from complying with the above stated purpose of section 7708 by awarding costs and fees reasonably incurred in seeking the award for the underlying proceeding. Thus, the Secretary finds that section 7708 provides the Environmental Hearing Board with the authority to award all costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees and expert witness fees, reasonably incurred in seeking the award.

Section 2 of House Bill 393 repeals sections of several Pennsylvania mining laws. Specifically, the following sections are repealed:

The fifth sentence of section 4(b) and subsection (f)(5) of section 4.2 of the Act of May 31, 1945 (P.L. 1198, No. 418), known as the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act. The fifth sentence of section 4(b) states: "The Environmental Hearing Board, upon the request of any party, may in its discretion order the payment of costs and attorney's fees it determines to have been reasonably incurred by such party in proceedings pursuant to this section."

Subsection (f)(5) states: "A surface mining operator or owner who provides a successful defense to the presumptions of liability shall be entitled to recover the costs incurred, including, but not limited to, the costs of temporary water supply, design, construction, restoration or replacement costs, attorney fees and expert witness fees from the department."

The last sentence of section 5(g) of the act of April 27, 1966 (1st Sp. Sess., P.L. 31, No. 1), known as the Bituminous Mine Safety and Conservation Act. This sentence states: "The Environmental Hearing Board, upon the request of any party, may in its discretion order the payment of costs and attorney's fees it determines have been reasonably incurred by such party in proceedings pursuant to this section."

The last sentence of section 5(i) of the Act of September 24, 1968 (P.L. 1040, No. 318), known as the Coal Refuse Disposal Control Act. This sentence states: "The Environmental Hearing Board, upon the request of any party, may in its discretion order the payment of costs and attorney's fees it determines to have been reasonably incurred by such party in proceedings pursuant to this section."

In addition, section 2(b) of House Bill 393 indicated that, "All other acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar as they are inconsistent with this act."

The Secretary is approving the repeal of the above noted statute sections. Repeal of these sections, in conjunction with the adoption of the new section 7708, does not make this submission inconsistent with the Federal regulations.

Section 3 of House Bill 393 states: "The addition of 27 Pa.C.S. Section 7708 shall apply to all proceedings and petitions for costs and fees filed after the effective date of this act."

The Secretary finds that this section is not inconsistent with SMCRA or the Federal regulations, and is therefore approving it.

Section 4 of House Bill 393 provides that:

This act shall take effect as follows:

(1) The following provisions shall take effect immediately:

(i) The addition of 27 Pa.C.S. Section 7708.

(ii) This section.

(2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60 days.

The Secretary finds that this section is not inconsistent with SMCRA or the Federal regulations, and is therefore approving it.

IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments

Federal Agency Comments

On January 31, 2001, we asked for comments from various Federal agencies who may have an interest in the Pennsylvania submission (Administrative Record Number PA 848.26). We solicited comments in accordance with section 503(b) of SMCRA and 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(i) of the Federal regulations.

The U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety and Health Administrative (MSHA) commented that Title 27, Environmental Resources of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is consistent with requirements of section 525(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

No other Federal agency comments were received.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Pursuant to 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(i) and (ii), OSM is required to obtain the written concurrence of the EPA with respect to those provisions of the proposed program submission that relate to air or water quality standards promulgated under the authority of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) or the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.). We have determined that this submission contains no such provisions, thereby rendering EPA concurrence unnecessary. By letter dated January 31, 2001, we requested comments from EPA on the State’s proposed submission of January 3, 2001, (Administrative Record Number PA 848.26). EPA responded on April 11, 2001, (Administrative Record Number PA 848.29) by noting that it had no comments on the submission.

Public Comments

No comments were received in response to our request for public comments.

V. Secretary’s Decision

Based on the findings above we are approving Pennsylvania’s submission and removing the condition codified at 30 CFR 938.11(i).

The Federal regulations at 30 CFR Part 938 codifying decisions concerning the Pennsylvania program are being amended to implement this decision. We find that good cause exists under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to make this final rule effective immediately. Section 503(a) of SMCRA requires that the State’s program demonstrate that the State has the capability of carrying out the provisions of the Act and meeting its purposes. Making this regulation effective immediately will expedite that process. Consistency of State and Federal standards is required by SMCRA.

VI. Procedural Determinations

Executive Order 12866—Regulatory Planning and Review

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 12630—Takings

This rule does not have takings implications. This determination is based on the analysis performed for the counterpart Federal regulation.
Executive Order 13132—Federalism

This rule does not have federalism implications. SMCRA delineates the roles of the Federal and State governments with regard to the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations. One of the purposes of SMCRA is to “establish a nationwide program to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining and reclamation operations.” Section 503(a)(1) of SMCRA requires that State laws regulating surface coal mining and reclamation operations be “in accordance with” the requirements of SMCRA, and section 503(a)(7) requires that State programs contain rules and regulations “consistent with” regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to SMCRA.

Executive Order 12988—Civil Justice Reform

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 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 proposed State regulatory 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.

Executive Order 13211—Regulations That Significantly Affect The Supply, Distribution, or Use of Energy

On May 18, 2001, the President issued Executive Order 13211 which requires agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for a rule that is (1) considered significant under Executive Order 12866, and (2) likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. Because this rule is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866, and because it is not expected to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy, a Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

National Environmental Policy Act

Section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that a decision on a proposed State regulatory program provision does not constitute a major Federal action within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)). A determination has been made that such decisions are categorically excluded from the NEPA process (516 DM 8.4.A).

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 counterpart Federal regulations for which an analysis was prepared and a determination made that the Federal regulation was not considered a major rule.

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 938

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.


J. Steven Griles,
Acting Assistant Secretary Lands and Minerals Management.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, Title 30, Chapter VII, Subchapter T of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as set forth below.

PART 938—PENNSYLVANIA

1. The authority citation for Part 938 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.

2. Section 938.11 is amended by removing and reserving paragraph (i).

3. Section 938.15 is amended in the table by adding a new entry in chronological order by “Date of Final Publication” to read as follows:

§ 938.15 Approval of Pennsylvania regulatory program amendments.

* * * * *


J. Steven Griles,
Acting Assistant Secretary Lands and Minerals Management.
Environmetal Protection Agency

40 CFR Part 52
[CA 169–0272a; FRL–7100–6]

Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, California State Implementation Plan Revision; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, and South Coast Air Quality Management District

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is taking direct final action to approve revisions to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVUAPCD), and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) portions of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). These revisions concern volatile organic compound (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from equipment tuning procedure for boilers, steam generators, and process heaters, pumps and compressor seals at petroleum refineries and chemical plants, and residential type, natural gas-fired water heaters. We are proposing to approve local rules to regulate these emission sources under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990 (CAA or the Act). We are approving local rules that regulate these emission sources under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990 (CAA or the Act).

DATES: This rule is effective on January 15, 2002 without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse comments by December 17, 2001. If we receive such comment, we will publish a timely withdrawal in the Federal Register to notify the public that this rule will not take effect.

ADDRESS: Mail comments to Andy Steckel, Rulemaking Office Chief (AIR–4), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105–3901.

To inspect copies of the submitted SIP revisions and EPA’s technical support documents (TSDs) at our Region IX office during normal business hours. You may also see copies of the submitted SIP revisions at the following locations:

- California Air Resources Board, Stationary Source Division, Rule Evaluation Section, 1001 “I” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, 1990 E. Gettysburg, Fresno, CA 93726
- South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 E. Copley Dr. Diamond Bar, CA 91765–4182

For further information contact: Charnjit Bhullar, Rulemaking Office (AIR–4), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, (415) 744–1153.

Supplementary information: Throughout this document, “we,” “us,” and “our” refer to EPA.

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B. Do the rules meet the evaluation criteria?
C. EPA recommendations to further improve the rules.
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Why were the rules submitted?
IV. Administrative Requirements
I. The State’s Submittal
A. What Rules Did the State Submit?
Table 1 lists the rules we are approving with the dates that they were adopted by local air agencies and submitted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

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<tr>
<th>Local agency</th>
<th>Rule #</th>
<th>Rule title</th>
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<th>Submitted</th>
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<tr>
<td>SJVUAPCD</td>
<td>4304</td>
<td>Equipment tuning procedure for boilers, steam generators, and process heaters.</td>
<td>10/19/95</td>
<td>03/26/96</td>
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<tr>
<td>SJVUAPCD</td>
<td>4452</td>
<td>Pumps and compressor seals at petroleum refineries and chemical plants</td>
<td>12/17/92</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCAQMD</td>
<td>1121</td>
<td>Control of nitrogen oxides from residential type, natural gas-fired water heaters.</td>
<td>12/10/99</td>
<td>03/28/00</td>
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</table>

On May 15, 1996, October 20, 1999, and May 19, 2000 these rule submittals were found to meet the completeness criteria in 40 CFR part 51, appendix V, which must be met before formal EPA review.

B. Are There Other Versions of These Rules?

There is no previous version of SJVUAPCD Rule 4304 in the SIP. EPA approved an earlier version of Rule 4452, numbered 464.2, which was adopted locally on April 11, 1991. We approved a version of SCAQMD Rule 1121 adopted on March 10, 1995.

C. What Is the Purpose of the Submitted Rule and Rule Revisions?

SJVUAPCD Rule 4304 provides tuning procedures for boilers, steam generators, and process heaters to control visible emissions, and both nitrogen oxide (NOx) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions.