Secretary of the Commission and the intrastate pipeline.

(ii) Protests shall be filed with the Commission in the form required by Part 385 of this Chapter including a detailed statement of the protestor’s interest in the filing and the specific reasons and rationale for the objection and whether the protestor seeks to be an intervenor.

(5) Effect of protest. If a protest is filed in accordance with paragraph (g)(4) of this section, the intrastate pipeline, the person who filed the protest, any intervenors, and staff shall have 30 days from the deadline for filing protests established by the Secretary of the Commission in accordance with paragraph (g)(3) of this section, to resolve the protest, and to file a withdrawal of the protest pursuant to paragraph (g)(6) of this section. Informal settlement conferences may be convened by the Director of the Office of Energy Market Regulation or his designee during this 30 day period. If a protest is withdrawn or dismissed by end of that 30 day period, the filing shall not be deemed approved pursuant to paragraph (g)(3) of this section. Within 60 days from the deadline for filing protests established by the Secretary of the Commission in accordance with paragraph (g)(3) of this section, the Commission will establish procedures to resolve the proceeding.

(6) Withdrawal of protests. The protestor may withdraw a protest by submitting written notice of withdrawal to the Secretary of the Commission pursuant to §385.216 and serving a copy on the intrastate pipeline, any intervenors, and any person who has filed a motion to intervene in the proceeding.

(7) Amendments or modifications to tariff record prior to approval. An intrastate pipeline may file to amend or modify a tariff record contained in the initial filing pursuant to the procedures under this paragraph (g) which has not yet been approved pursuant to paragraph (g)(6) of this section. Such filing will toll the notice period established in paragraph (g)(3) of this section and the Secretary of the Commission will issue a notice establishing new deadlines for comments and protests for the entire filing pursuant to paragraph (g)(3).

(8) Final approval. (i) If no protest is filed within the time allowed by the Secretary of the Commission under paragraph (g)(3) of this section, the filing by the intrastate pipeline is approved, effective on the day after time expires for protests unless, during that time, the intrastate pipeline withdrawals, amends, or modifies its filing or the filing is rejected pursuant to this paragraph.

(ii) If any protest is filed within the time allowed by the Secretary of the Commission under paragraph (g)(3) of this section and is subsequently withdrawn before the end of the 30-day reconciliation period provided by paragraph (g)(5) of this section, the filing by the intrastate pipeline is approved effective upon the later of the day after the deadline for filing protests, if there are no other protests to the filing, or the day after the withdrawal of all protests unless the intrastate pipeline withdrawals, amends, or modifies its filing or the filing is rejected, prior to that date.

(9) Periodic rate review. Rates of pipelines approved by the Commission pursuant to this paragraph are required to be periodically reviewed. Any intrastate pipeline with rates so approved must file an application for rate review under §384.224 of this chapter and with rates approved pursuant to this paragraph must on or before the date five years following the date it filed the application for authorization of rates pursuant to this paragraph. Any Hinshaw pipeline that has been a granted a blanket certificate under §284.224 of this chapter and with rates approved pursuant to this paragraph must on or before the date five years following the date it filed the application for authorization of the rates pursuant to this paragraph either file cost, throughput, revenue and other data, in the form specified in §154.313 of this chapter to allow the Commission to determine whether any change in rates is required pursuant to 5 of the Natural Gas Act or an application for rate authorization pursuant to this section.

(10) Withdrawal of filing prior to approval. A pipeline may, pursuant to paragraph (h) of this section, withdraw in its entirety a filing made pursuant to this paragraph (g) that has not been approved by filing a withdrawal motion with the Commission. A filing that is withdrawn will not fulfill the requirements under paragraph (g)(8) of this section.

(h) Withdrawal of filing. A pipeline may withdraw in its entirety a filing pursuant to this section that has not been approved by filing a withdrawal motion with the Commission.

(1) The withdrawal motion must state that any amounts collected subject to refund in excess of the rates authorized the Commission will be refunded with interest calculated and a refund report filed with the Commission in accordance with §154.501 of this chapter. The refund in excess of the rates authorized the Commission will be refunded with interest calculated and a refund report filed with the Commission in accordance with §154.501 of this chapter. The refund must be made within 60 days of the date the withdrawal motion becomes effective.

(2) The withdrawal motion will become effective, and the filing will be deemed withdrawn at the end of 15 days from the date of filing of the withdrawal motion, if no order disallowing the motion is issued within that period. If an answer in opposition is filed within the 15 day period, the withdrawal is not effective until an order accepting the withdrawal is issued.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 943

Texas Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; public comment period and opportunity for public hearing on proposed amendment.

SUMMARY: We, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), are announcing receipt of a proposed amendment to the Texas regulatory program (Texas program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). Texas proposes revisions to its regulations regarding: definitions; review of permit applications; criteria for permit approval or denial; commission review of outstanding permits; challenge of ownership or control and applicant/violator system procedures; identification of interests and compliance information; mining in previously mined areas; conditions of permits; revegetation standards; cessation orders; alternative enforcement; application approval and notice; permit revisions; permit renewals; transfer, assignment or sale of permit rights; and requirements for new permits for persons succeeding to rights granted under a permit. Texas intends to revise its program to be no less effective than the Federal regulations and improve operational efficiency.

This document gives the times and locations that the Texas program and this proposed 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 we will follow for the public hearing, if one is requested.
I. Background on the Texas Program

Section 503(a) of the Act 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 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 this Act * * * ; and rules and regulations consistent with regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this Act.” See 30 U.S.C. 1253(a)(1) and (7). On the basis of these criteria, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Texas program effective February 16, 1980. You can find background information on the Texas program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and the conditions of approval of the Texas program in the Federal Register, 27 February, 1980. Federal Register (45 FR 12998). You can also find later actions concerning the Texas program and program amendments at 30 CFR 943.10, 943.15, and 943.16.

II. Description of the Proposed Amendment

By email dated February 14, 2012 (Administrative Record No. TX–701), Texas sent us an amendment (TX–060–FOR) to its program under SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). Texas submitted the proposed amendment in response to a September 30, 2009, letter (Administrative Record No. TX–665) that OSM sent to Texas in accordance with 30 CFR 732.17(c) with additional changes submitted on its own initiative. The proposed rule was published, and its public comment period and opportunity for public hearing on the proposed amendment was announced in the Federal Register (77 FR 25949) on May 2, 2012. During our review of the amendment, we found several sections that were less effective than their counterpart Federal regulations. A list of the concerns was sent to Texas via a letter dated July 18, 2012 (Administrative Record No. TX–701.04). By letter dated August 09, 2012 (Administrative Record No. TX–702), Texas responded to the July 18, 2012, letter by withdrawing its amendment (TX–060–FOR) regarding ownership and control changes. By letter dated August 09, 2012 (Administrative Record No. TX–702), Texas sent us a new amendment to its program under SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.). This amendment was a corrected version of its withdrawn amendment (TX–060–FOR) as discussed in the previous paragraph. Texas submitted this proposed amendment in response to a September 30, 2009, letter (Administrative Record No. TX–665) that OSM sent to Texas in accordance with 30 CFR 732.17(c) with additional changes submitted on its own initiative. Below is a summary of the changes proposed by Texas. The full text of the program amendment is available for you to read at the locations listed above under ADDRESSES or at www.regulations.gov.

Texas proposes to revise its regulation at 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) at the following sections:

A. § 12.3 Definitions

Texas proposes to modify this section by revising, adding, or deleting language for the definitions of Applicant/Violator System; Control or controller; Knowing or knowingly; Lands eligible for remining; Own, owner, or ownership;-Owned or controlled and owns and controls; Remining; Violation; Violation, failure, or refusal; Violation notice; and Willful or willfully.

B. § 12.100 Responsibilities

Texas proposes to remove the word “renewal” from the provision that places the burden on the applicant to establish that an application is in compliance with all the Commission’s requirements.

C. § 12.116 Identification of Interests and Compliance Information (Surface Mining)

Texas proposes to delete language in this section regarding identification of interests and compliance information and replace it with new language regarding certifying and updating existing permit information, permit applicant and operator information, permit history information, property interest information, violation information, and commission actions.

D. § 12.155 Identification of Interests

Texas proposes to delete this section and incorporate the language into § 12.156 for efficiency.

E. § 12.156 Identification of Interest and Compliance Information (Underground Mining)

Texas proposes to add language to this section regarding identification of interests, specifically: certifying and updating permit application information, permit applicant and operator information, permit history information, property interest information, violation information, and commission actions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alfred L. Clayborne, Director, Tulsa Field Office. Telephone: (918) 581–6430. Email: aclayborne@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: I. Background on the Texas Program II. Description of the Proposed Amendment III. Public Comment Procedures IV. Procedural Determinations
Texas proposes to add new language regarding application requirements for operations on lands eligible for remining.

G. § 12.215 Review of Permit Applications
Texas proposes to add language requiring the entry and updating of data into AVS. Additionally, language is being added regarding the review of permit history, review of compliance history, and making a permit eligibility determination based on this information.

H. § 12.216 Criteria for Permit Approval or Denial
Texas proposes to add language stating that permits related to remining must contain lands eligible for remining, an identification of potential environmental and safety problems, and mitigation plans that address any potential environmental or safety problems.

I. § 12.225 Commission Review of Outstanding Permits
Texas proposes to add language regarding written findings and preliminary findings for improvidently issued permits. Additionally, changes are proposed regarding permit suspension and rescission timeframes and appeal rights.

J. § 12.234 Challenge of Ownership or Control, Information on Ownership and Control, and Violations, and Applicant/ Violator System Procedures
Texas proposes to renumber its § 12.234 as § 12.235 and add new language to create a new § 12.234 regarding ownership and control challenges—specifically—the applicability, procedures, burden of proof, written agency decisions, and post-permit issuance information requirements.

K. § 12.395 Revegetation: Standards for Success (Surface Mining) and § 12.560 Revegetation: Standards for Success (Underground Mining)
Texas proposes to delete language in this section regarding liability periods and replace it with new language that is no less effective than the Federal regulations.

L. § 12.676 Alternative Enforcement
Texas proposes to add new language regarding alternative enforcement, specifically for general provisions, criminal penalties, and civil actions for relief.

F. § 12.206 Mining in Previously Mined Areas
Texas proposes to add new language requiring written notification to the permittee, the operator, and anyone listed or identified as an owner or controller of an operation, within 60 days of issuing a cessation order.

Texas proposes to make minor, nonsubstantial reference changes in these sections.

III. Public Comment Procedures
Under the provisions of 30 CFR 732.17(h), we are seeking your 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 State program.

Electronic or Written Comments
If you submit written comments, they should be specific, confined to issues pertinent to the proposed regulations, and explain the reason for any recommended change(s). We appreciate any and all comments, but those most useful and likely to influence decisions on the final regulations will be those that either involve personal experience or include citations to and analyses of SMCRA, its legislative history, its implementing regulations, case law, other pertinent State or Federal laws or regulations, technical literature, or other relevant publications.

We cannot ensure that comments received after the close of the comment period (see DATES) or sent to an address other than those listed (see ADDRESSES) will be included in the docket for this rulemaking and considered.

Public Availability of Comments
Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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., c.d.t. on November 21, 2012. If you are disabled and need reasonable accommodations to attend a public hearing, contact the person listed under FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT. We will arrange the location and time of the hearing with those persons requesting the hearing. If no one requests an opportunity to speak, we will not hold a hearing.

To assist the transcriber and ensure an accurate record, we request, if possible, that each person who speaks at the public hearing provide us with a written copy of his or her comments. The public hearing will continue on the specified date until everyone scheduled to speak has been given an opportunity to be 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 everyone scheduled to speak and others present in the audience who wish to speak, have been heard.

Public Meeting
If only one person requests an opportunity to speak, we may hold a public meeting rather than a public hearing. If you wish to meet with us to discuss the amendment, please 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 will make a written summary of each meeting a part of the administrative record.

IV. Procedural Determinations
Executive Order 12866—Regulatory Planning and Review
This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866.

Other Laws and Executive Orders Affecting Rulemaking
When a State submits a program amendment to OSM for review, our regulations at 30 CFR 732.17(h) require us to publish a notice in the Federal Register indicating receipt of the proposed amendment, its text or a summary of its terms, and an opportunity for public comment. We conclude our review of the proposed amendment after the close of the public comment period and determine whether the amendment should be approved, approved in part, or not approved. At
that time, we will also make the
determinations and certifications
required by the various laws and
executive orders governing the
rulemaking process and include them in
the final rule.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 943
Intergovernmental relations, Surface
mining, Underground mining.

Dated: August 16, 2012.
Ervin J. Barchenger,
Regional Director, Mid-Continent Region.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
50 CFR Part 660
RIN 0648–XC165
Fisheries Off West Coast States;
Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery;
Trawl Rationalization Program; Notice
of Non-Whiting At-Sea Processing
Prohibition Exemption

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability of
exemptions to the non-whiting at-sea
processing prohibition.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces the receipt
of applications for, and the issuance of,
exemptions to the prohibition of at-sea
processing for non-whiting groundfish
caught in the Shorebased Individual
Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program, as part of
the trawl rationalization program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jamie Goen, phone: 206–526–4656, fax:
206–526–6736, and email jamie.goen@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Electronic Access
This proposed rule is accessible via
the Internet at the Office of the Federal
Register’s Web site at
http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html. Background information and
documents are available at the Pacific
Fishery Management Council’s Web site
at http://www.pcouncil.org/.

Background
In January 2011, NMFS implemented
a trawl rationalization program, a catch
share program, for the Pacific coast
groundfish fishery’s trawl fleet. The
trawl rationalization program consists of
an IFQ program for the shorebased trawl
fleet (including whiting and non-
whiting fisheries); and cooperative
(coop) programs for the at-sea
mothership and catcher/processor trawl
fleets (whiting only).

The Shorebased IFQ Program includes
a prohibition on processing non-whiting
groundfish at sea, as specified in the
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 50
CFR 660.112(b)(1)(xii) and implemented
through a final rule published in the
Federal Register on December 15, 2010
(75 FR 78344). The prohibition was
implemented to ensure that shoreside
processing plants would continue to
have access to groundfish landed in the
Shorebased IFQ Program. The preamble
to the proposed rule dated August 31,
2010 (75 FR 53380) further described
the prohibition on processing at sea in
the Shorebased IFQ Program.

With the December 1, 2011 final rule
(also called the trawl rationalization
program improvement and
enhancement (PIE) rule), NMFS
implemented regulations providing a
one-time opportunity for vessels to
apply for an exemption from the
prohibition on processing non-whiting
groundfish at-sea in the Shorebased IFQ
Program. Between January and March of
2012, NMFS completed the application
and review process for an exemption
from the prohibition, as provided for in
Federal regulations at § 660.25(b)(6)(ii).
Effective March 16, 2012, two vessels
qualified for the exemption: F/V LAST
STRAW and F/V MISS LEONA. The
non-whiting at-sea processing
exemption is associated with those
specific vessels, not with the vessel
owner’s limited entry permit, and may
not be transferred to any other vessel,
vessel owner, or permit owner for any
reason.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

Lindsay Fullenkamp,
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable
Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.