

(h) Statistical information describing coal exploration and surface coal mining and reclamation operations in the State, adequate to demonstrate that the provisions of the State program and the resources available to it are sufficient when compared to the current and projected coal mining activities in the State;

(i) A description of the actual capital and operating budget, including source of funds, used or proposed to be used to administer the State program for the prior and current fiscal years, and the projected annual budget for each of the next two fiscal years, assuming supplemental funding pursuant to an approved State program and grants under 30 CFR part 735; and a description of the existing and proposed physical resources for use in the program.

[44 FR 15324, Mar. 13, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 26364, June 17, 1982; 48 FR 2272, Jan. 18, 1983; 52 FR 4261, Feb. 10, 1987]

## PART 732—PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF STATE PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 44 FR 15326, Mar. 13, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

### § 732.1 Scope.

This part sets forth criteria and procedures for decisions to approve or disapprove submissions of State programs and program amendments, including requirements for public participation in the process of approval or disapproval.

### § 732.10 Information collection.

The information collection requirements contained in 30 CFR 732.16(a) and 732.17(b) have been approved by the Of-

fice of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3507 and assigned clearance number 1029-0024. The information is needed to afford a State the opportunity to modify or amend its State program and will be used by OSM to determine whether the amendment meets the provisions of the Act.

[47 FR 26365, June 17, 1982]

### § 732.11 Review by the Director.

(a) Immediately upon receipt of a proposed State program, the Director shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER and in a newspaper of general circulation in the State a notice meeting the following requirements:

(1) The notice shall include the date of the submission of the program and a summary of the program's contents. It shall also indicate that the full text of the program submission is available for review during regular business hours at the OSM State Office and at the central office and each field office of the State agency responsible for the submission.

(2) The notice shall afford interested persons an opportunity to submit written comments. The comment period shall end on a date following the public hearing scheduled to be held under paragraph (b) of this section and that date shall be specified in the notice.

(3) The notice shall identify the time and location within the State at which the Office will hold the public hearing under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) A public hearing shall be held by the Director no sooner than 40 days following the publication of the notice required by paragraph (a) of this section. The hearing shall be informal and follow legislative procedures.

(1) The format and the rules of procedure for each hearing shall be determined by the Director and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice required by paragraph (a).

(2) When the program is submitted, State laws and regulations must be submitted in their final form or in the form in which they are expected to become final. Should revisions to any of the laws or regulations be necessary during the public comment period or before the Secretary's decision, OSM will give notice and provide an opportunity for review and comment. State

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laws and regulations must be enacted by the date of program approval.

(c) Copies of written comments shall be available for public inspection and copying at the OSM State Office and the offices of the State agency responsible for submitting the program.

(d) The Director shall consider all relevant information, including information obtained from public hearings and comments, and shall recommend to the Secretary that the program be approved or disapproved, in whole or in part. The recommended decision shall specify the reasons for the recommendation.

[47 FR 26365, June 17, 1982]

### § 732.13 Decision by the Secretary.

(a) After consideration of the information accompanying the Director's recommendation and the Director's recommendation and findings, the Secretary shall issue to the State in writing, either a decision approving or an initial decision disapproving the State program, in whole or in part.

(b) A program shall not be approved until the Secretary has—

(1) Solicited and publicly disclosed the views of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the heads of other Federal agencies concerned with or having special expertise relevant to the program as proposed; and

(2) Obtained written concurrence of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to those aspects of a State program which relate to air or water quality standards promulgated under the authority of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), or the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*).

(c) The Secretary's decision shall include the findings upon which it is based and shall be mailed to the State.

(d) The Secretary shall issue his decision within 6 months of the Director's receipt of a program submission.

(e) All decisions approving or disapproving a program, in whole or in part, shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, indicating, in the event of disapproval, that the State has 60 days to submit a revised program for consideration.

(f) If the Secretary disapproves a program, in whole or in part, the State shall have 60 days from the date of publication of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice to submit a revised program to the Director for reconsideration. The procedures of § 732.11 will then apply to the revised State program, except that the time allowed between publication of notice and the public hearing for public review and comment may be shortened to not less than 15 days.

(g) The Secretary shall either approve or disapprove the revised program within 60 days from the date of submission of the revised program and publish that decision and reasons for the decision in the FEDERAL REGISTER. A decision disapproving the revised program constitutes the final decision by the Department disapproving that program in its entirety.

(h) If a revised State program is not submitted by a State within 60 days of an initial disapproval under paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary shall disapprove the initial program submission in its entirety. This decision shall constitute the final decision by the Secretary. This decision and the basis for it shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(i) A decision by the Secretary approving a program submission establishes a State program for the State which submitted it and constitutes the final decision by the Department. The State program becomes effective on the date of publication of the decision in the FEDERAL REGISTER unless otherwise specified by the Secretary. The Secretary shall not give his approval unless the program submission can be approved in whole, except as provided in paragraph (j) of this section.

(j) The Secretary may conditionally approve a State program where the program is found to have minor deficiencies, provided:

(1) The deficiencies are of such a size and nature so as to render no part of a proposed State program incomplete;

(2) The State has initiated and is actively proceeding with steps to correct the deficiencies;

(3) The State agrees in writing to correct such deficiencies within a time established by the Secretary and stated in the conditional approval; and

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(4) If the deficiencies have not been corrected by the date set forth in the Secretary's decision under paragraph (j)(3) of this section, the Director shall notify the Secretary that the deficiencies have not been corrected and shall within 30 days—

(i) Withdraw approval of the State program in whole or in part, and specify the extent to which approval of the State program is being withdrawn;

(ii) Substitute direct Federal enforcement of those portions of the permanent regulatory program that the State has failed to implement;

(iii) Initiate procedures in accordance with parts 733 and 736 of this chapter to withdraw State program approval and implement a Federal program for the State, including specifying necessary remedial actions to correct continued deficiencies; or

(iv) Take any combination of actions under paragraphs (j)(4) and (i) through (iii) of this section.

[44 FR 15326, Mar. 13, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 26365, 26367, June 17, 1982]

### § 732.14 Resubmission of State programs.

If, by a final decision, the program is disapproved, the State may submit another proposed State program to the Director at any time. Resubmitted State programs must meet the requirements of § 731.14 and will be acted upon pursuant to §§ 732.11–732.16.

[47 FR 26366, June 17, 1982]

### § 732.15 Criteria for approval or disapproval of State programs.

The Secretary shall not approve a State program unless, on the basis of information contained in the program submission, comments, testimony and written presentations at the public hearings, and other relevant information, the Secretary finds that—

(a) The program provides for the State to carry out the provisions and meet the purposes of the Act and this Chapter within the State and that the State's laws and regulations are in accordance with the provisions of the Act and consistent with the requirements of the Chapter.

(b) The State regulatory authority has the authority under State laws and

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regulations pertaining to coal exploration and surface coal mining and reclamation operations and the State program includes provisions to—

(1) Implement, administer and enforce all applicable requirements consistent with subchapter K of this chapter;

(2) Implement, administer and enforce a permit system consistent with the regulations of subchapter G of this chapter and prohibit surface coal mining and reclamation operations without a permit issued by the regulatory authority;

(3) Regulate coal exploration consistent with 30 CFR parts 772 and 815 and prohibit coal exploration that does not comply with 30 CFR parts 772 and 815;

(4) Require that persons extracting coal incidental to government financed construction maintain information on site consistent with 30 CFR 707;

(5) Enter, inspect and monitor all coal exploration and surface coal mining and reclamation operations on non-Indian and non-Federal land within the State consistent with the requirements of section 517 of the Act and subchapter L of this chapter;

(6) Implement, administer and enforce a system of performance bonds and liability insurance, or other equivalent guarantees, consistent with the requirements of subchapter J of this chapter;

(7) Provide for civil and criminal sanctions for violations of the State law, regulations and conditions of permits and exploration approvals including civil and criminal penalties in accordance with section 518 of the Act and consistent with 30 CFR 845, including the same or similar procedural requirements;

(8) Issue, modify, terminate and enforce notices of violation, cessation orders and show cause orders in accordance with section 521 of the Act and consistent with the requirements of subchapter L of this chapter including the same or similar procedural requirements;

(9) Designate areas as unsuitable for surface coal mining consistent with subchapter F of this chapter;

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(10) Provide for public participation in the development, revision and enforcement of State regulations and the State program, consistent with public participation requirements of the Act and this chapter;

(11) Monitor, review and enforce the prohibition against indirect or direct financial interests in coal mining operations, by employees of the State regulatory authority, consistent with 30 CFR 705;

(12) Require the training, examination and certification of persons engaged in or responsible for blasting and the use of explosives consistent with regulations issued by the Secretary, except that no State program is required to implement this provision until six months after Federal regulations for this provision have been promulgated;

(13) Provide for small operator assistance.

(14) Provide for administrative review of State program actions, in accordance with section 525 of the Act and subchapter L of this chapter;

(15) Provide for judicial review of State program actions in accordance with State law, as provided in section 526(e) of the Act, except that judicial review of State enforcement actions shall be in accordance with section 526 of the Act. Judicial review in accordance with State law shall not be construed to limit the operation of the rights established in section 520 of the Act, except as provided in that section.

(16) Cooperate and coordinate with and provide documents and other information to the Office under the provisions of this chapter.

(c) The State laws and regulations and the State program do not contain provisions which would interfere with or preclude implementation of those in the Act and this chapter.

(d) The State regulatory authority and other agencies having a role in the State program have sufficient legal, technical and administrative personnel and sufficient funding to implement, administer and enforce the provisions of the program, the requirements of

paragraph (b) of this section, and other applicable State and Federal laws.

[44 FR 15326, Mar. 13, 1979, as amended at 46 FR 53384, Oct. 28, 1981; 47 FR 26366, June 17, 1982; 48 FR 2272, Jan. 18, 1983; 48 FR 44779, Sept. 30, 1983]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For a document suspending § 732.15(b)(7) in part, see 45 FR 51548, Aug. 4, 1980.

### § 732.16 Terms and conditions for State programs.

Terms and conditions for the implementation, administration and operation of a State program may be established by the Director as necessary, including, but not limited to—

(a) Establishing a system for regularly reporting to the Office information collected by the State regulatory authority in the conduct of the State program; and

(b) Providing the Office with access to books and records of the regulatory authority upon request.

### § 732.17 State program amendments.

(a) This section applies to any alteration of an approved State program whether accomplished on the initiative of the State regulatory authority or the Director. Such alterations are referred to in this section as “amendments”.

(b) The State regulatory authority shall promptly notify the Director, in writing, of any significant events or proposed changes which affect the implementation, administration or enforcement of the approved State program. At a minimum, notification shall be required for—

(1) Changes in the provisions, scope or objectives of the State program;

(2) Changes in the authority of the regulatory authority to implement, administer or enforce the approved program;

(3) Changes in the State law and regulations from those contained in the approved State program;

(4) Significant changes in staffing and resources of the regulatory authority and divisions or departments of other agencies with duties in the approved program;

(5) Changes in agreements between the regulatory authority and other

agencies which have duties in the approved program;

(6) Significant changes in funding or budgeting relative to the approved program; and

(7) Significant changes in the number or size of coal exploration or surface coal mining and reclamation operations in the State.

(c) Within 30 days of receipt of notification, in writing, of events or proposed changes that may require a State program amendment, or whenever the Director becomes aware of conditions described in paragraph (e) of this section, the Director shall determine whether a State program amendment is required and notify the State regulatory authority of the decision.

(d) The Director shall promptly notify the State regulatory authority of all changes in the Act and the Secretary's regulations which will require an amendment to the State program.

(e) State program amendments may be required when—

(1) As a result of changes in the Act or regulations of this chapter, the approved State program no longer meets the requirements of the Act or this chapter; or

(2) Conditions or events change the implementation, administration or enforcement of the State program; or

(3) Conditions or events indicate that the approved State program no longer meets the requirements of the Act or this chapter.

(f)(1) If the Director determines that a State program amendment is required, the State regulatory authority shall, within 60 days after notification of that decision, submit to the Director either a proposed written amendment or a description of an amendment to be proposed that meets the requirements of the Act and this chapter, and a timetable for enactment which is consistent with established administrative or legislative procedures in the State.

(2) If the State regulatory authority does not submit the information required by paragraph (f)(1), or does not subsequently comply with the submitted timetable, or if the resulting proposed amendment is not approved under this section, then the Director must begin proceedings under 30 CFR part 733 if the Director has reason to

believe that such action is warranted because the State is not effectively implementing, administering, maintaining or enforcing all or part of its approved State program.

(g) Whenever changes to laws or regulations that make up the approved State program are proposed by the State, the State shall immediately submit the proposed changes to the Director as an amendment. No such change to laws or regulations shall take effect for purposes of a State program until approved as an amendment.

(h) The following procedures, time schedules and criteria for approval and disapproval shall apply to State program amendments.

(1) Within 30 days after receipt of a State program amendment from a State regulatory authority, the Director will publish a notice of receipt of the amendment in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(2) The FEDERAL REGISTER notice announcing the receipt of the amendment will indicate that the amendment(s) is being reviewed by the Director and will include the following:

(i) The text or a summary of the amendment(s) proposed by the regulatory authority;

(ii) Addresses where copies of the proposed amendment(s) may be obtained if the text is not included in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice and that each requestor may receive, free of charge, one single copy of proposed amendment(s) from the Director.

(iii) Date(s) of public comment period(s) and addresses where public comments should be directed;

(iv) Dates and locations of public hearing(s) and/or meeting(s) if public hearing(s) and/or meeting(s) are to be held.

(3) A minimum public comment period of 30 days will be provided for each proposed State program amendment, except a 15 day public comment period may be provided where an amendment concerns changes in State law, regulations or the procedures contained in the approved program that are analogous to changes in SMCRA and/or implementing regulations: *Provided*, That the notice of receipt published in the FEDERAL REGISTER includes the full text of the proposed amendment: *And*

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*provided*, That all applicable provisions of 43 CFR part 14 are complied with.

(4) All State program amendments which may have an effect on historic properties shall be provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer and to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for comment.

(5) Public hearings may be provided at the discretion of the Director and shall be held no sooner than five days before the close of the public comment period. The comment period shall end on a date following any public hearing scheduled to be held.

Public hearing plans will be announced in the notice of receipt of the amendment published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. In determining whether to hold a public hearing, the Director will consider the subject of the amendment, its complexity and public hearing and meetings conducted by the State regulatory authority prior to submission of the amendment for OSM approval. When State regulatory authority public hearings or meetings are accepted in lieu of an OSM hearing, the State regulatory authority shall provide to the Director a complete record of any hearings or meetings including transcripts, written presentations, exhibits and copies of all comments. Hearings shall be informal and follow legislative procedures. The format and the rules of procedure for each hearing shall be determined by the Director and published in the notice required by paragraph (h)(1) of this section.

(6) Upon the close of the public comment period, the transcript, written presentations, exhibits and copies of all comments shall be transmitted to the Director.

(7) The Director shall consider all relevant information, including any information obtained from public hearings and comments, and shall approve or disapprove the amendment request within 30 days after the close of the public comment period established in accordance with § 732.17(h)(3).

(8) If the Director does not approve the amendment request, the State regulatory authority will have 60 days after publication of the Director's decision to submit a revised amendment for consideration by the Director. If more time may be needed by the State

to submit a revised amendment, the Director may grant more time by specifying in the decision, a date by which the State regulatory authority must submit a revised amendment. The date specified in the Director's decision should be based on the circumstances of the situation and the established administrative or legislative procedures of the State in question.

(9) The Director will approve or not approve revised amendment submissions in accordance with the provisions under paragraph (h) of this section.

(10) The applicable criteria for approval or disapproval of State programs set forth in § 732.15 shall be utilized by the Director in approving or disapproving State program amendments.

(11) State program amendments shall not be approved until the Director has—

(i) Solicited and publicly disclosed the views of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the heads of other Federal agencies concerned with or having special expertise relevant to the program amendment(s) as proposed; and

(ii) Obtained written concurrence of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to those aspects of a State program amendment(s) which relate to air or water quality standards promulgated under the authority of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), and the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*).

(12) All decisions approving or not approving program amendments must be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and will be effective upon publication unless the notice specifies a different effective date. The decision approving or not approving program amendments will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER within 30 days after the date of the Director's decision.

(13) Final action on all amendment requests must be completed within seven months after receipt of the proposed amendments from the State.

[44 FR 15326, Mar. 13, 1979, as amended at 46 FR 7909, Jan. 23, 1981; 47 FR 26366, 26367, June 17, 1982; 52 FR 4261, Feb. 10, 1987; 70 FR 61206, Oct. 20, 2005]

**PART 733—EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION, MAINTENANCE OF STATE PROGRAMS, PROCEDURES FOR SUBSTITUTING FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF STATE PROGRAMS, AND WITHDRAWING APPROVAL OF STATE PROGRAMS**

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 44 FR 15328, Mar. 13, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 733.1 Scope.**

This part establishes requirements for the maintenance of State programs and procedures for substituting Federal enforcement of State programs and withdrawing approval of State programs.

**§ 733.5 Definitions.**

As used in this part, the following terms have the specified meanings:

*Action plan* means a detailed schedule OSMRE prepares to identify specific requirements a State regulatory authority must achieve in a timely manner to resolve State regulatory program issues identified during oversight of State regulatory programs.

*State regulatory program issue* means an issue OSMRE identifies during oversight of a State or Tribal regulatory program that could result in a State regulatory authority not effectively implementing, administering, enforcing, or maintaining all or any portion of its State regulatory program, including instances when a State regulatory authority has not adopted and implemented program amendments that are required under 30 CFR 732.17

and 30 CFR subchapter T, and issues related to the requirement in section 510(b) of the Act that a State regulatory authority must not approve a permit or revision to a permit unless the State regulatory authority finds that the application is accurate and complete and that the application is in compliance with all requirements of the Act and the State regulatory program.

[85 FR 75189, Nov. 24, 2020]

**§ 733.10 Information collection.**

The information collection requirement contained in § 733.13(a)(2) has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3507 and assigned clearance number 1029–0025. The information required is needed by OSMRE to verify the allegations in a citizen request to evaluate a State program and to determine whether an evaluation should be undertaken.

[85 FR 75189, Nov. 24, 2020]

**§ 733.11 General requirements for maintaining State programs.**

States with an approved State program shall implement, administer, enforce and maintain it in accordance with the Act, this chapter and the provisions of the approved State program.

**§ 733.12 Early identification and corrective action to address State regulatory program issues.**

(a) When the Director identifies a State regulatory program issue, he or she should take action to make sure the identified State regulatory program issue is corrected as soon as possible in order to ensure that it does not escalate into an issue that would give the Director reason to believe that the State regulatory authority is not effectively implementing, administering, enforcing, or maintaining all or a portion of its State regulatory program.

(1) The Director may become aware of State regulatory program issues through oversight of State regulatory programs or as a result of information received from any source.

(2) If the Director concludes that the State regulatory authority is not effectively implementing, administering,