

§810.11

standards of this subchapter are implemented and enforced under every regulatory program.

(b) The State regulatory authority shall ensure that performance standards and design requirements at least as stringent as the standards in this subchapter are implemented and enforced under every State program.

(c) Each person conducting coal exploration or surface coal mining and reclamation operations is responsible for complying with performance standards and design requirements which are at least as stringent as the standards in this subchapter and the applicable regulatory program.

§810.11 Applicability.

Part 815 applies to all coal exploration conducted under regulatory programs. Part 816 applies to all surface mining activities conducted under regulatory programs. Part 817 applies to all underground mining activities conducted under regulatory programs. Parts 818 through 828 apply to certain special categories of surface coal mining and reclamation operations. Parts 816 and 817 apply to each of those special categories of operations, except to the extent that a provision of parts 818 through 828 specifically exempts a particular category from a particular requirement of part 816 or part 817.

PART 815—PERMANENT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS— COAL EXPLORATION

Sec.

815.1 Scope and purpose.

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815.15 Performance standards for coal exploration.

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, as amended; and Pub. L. 100-34.

SOURCE: 48 FR 40636, Sept. 8, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

§815.1 Scope and purpose.

This part sets forth performance standards required for coal exploration which substantially disturbs the natural land surface. At the discretion of the regulatory authority, coal exploration operations may be further required to comply with the applicable

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standards of 30 CFR parts 816 through 828.

§815.2 Permitting information.

Notwithstanding cross-references in other parts which may be otherwise construed, part 772 establishes the notice and permit information requirements for coal exploration.

[53 FR 52950, Dec. 29, 1988]

§815.13 Required documents.

Each person who conducts coal exploration which substantially disturbs the natural land surface shall, while in the exploration area, have available a copy of the filed notice of intention to explore or a copy of the exploration permit for review by the authorized representative of the regulatory authority upon request.

§815.15 Performance standards for coal exploration.

(a) Habitats of unique or unusually high value for fish, wildlife, and other related environmental values and critical habitats of threatened or endangered species identified pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) shall not be disturbed during coal exploration.

(b) All roads or other transportation facilities used for coal exploration shall comply with the applicable provisions of §§816.150 (b) through (f), 816.180, and 816.181 of this chapter.

(c) If excavations, artificially flat areas, or embankments are created during exploration, these areas shall be returned to the approximate original contour promptly after such features are no longer needed for coal exploration.

(d) Topsoil shall be separately removed, stored, and redistributed on areas disturbed by coal exploration activities as necessary to assure successful revegetation or as required by the regulatory authority.

(e) All areas disturbed by coal exploration activities shall be revegetated in a manner that encourages prompt revegetation and recovery of a diverse, effective, and permanent vegetative cover. Revegetation shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:

(1) All areas disturbed by coal exploration activities shall be seeded or planted to the same seasonal variety native to the areas disturbed. If the land use of the exploration area is intensive agriculture, planting of the crops normally grown will meet the requirements of this paragraph.

(2) The vegetative cover shall be capable of stabilizing the soil surface from erosion.

(f) Diversions of overland flows and ephemeral, perennial, or intermittent streams shall be made in accordance with §816.43 of this chapter.

(g) Each exploration hole, borehole, well, or other exposed underground opening created during exploration shall be reclaimed in accordance with §§816.13 through 816.15 of this chapter.

(h) All facilities and equipment shall be promptly removed from the exploration area when they are no longer needed for exploration, except for those facilities and equipment that the regulatory authority determines may remain to—

(1) Provide additional environmental data,

(2) Reduce or control the onsite and offsite effects of the exploration activities, or

(3) Facilitate future surface mining and reclamation operations by the person conducting the exploration.

(i) Coal exploration shall be conducted in a manner which minimizes disturbance of the prevailing hydrologic balance in accordance with §§816.41 through 816.49 of this chapter. The regulatory authority may specify additional measures which shall be adopted by the person engaged in coal exploration.

(j) Acid- or toxic-forming materials shall be handled and disposed of in accordance with §§816.41(b), 816.41(f), and 816.102(e) of this chapter. The regulatory authority may specify additional measures which shall be adopted by the person engaged in coal exploration.

[48 FR 40636, Sept. 8, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 45211, Nov. 8, 1988]

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