This document has been
Rescinded and is located
in our Archive files.

For Active files, visit
http://www.osmre.gov/directiv.htm

	U·S·DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVES SYSTEM	Subject Number: TSR-4 Transmittal Number: 394 Date: 11/04/87

Subject: TECHNICAL STUDIES/APPLIED RESEARCH

Approval: Jed W. Christensen | Title: DIRECTOR

1. PURPOSE. This directive establishes procedures for the conduct and administration of technical studies and applied research initiated, conducted, or funded by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).

2. DEFINITIONS. All terms used in this directive are defined consistently with those in SMCRA and 30 CFR Chapter VII.

3. POLICY/PROCEDURES.

a. Policy. OSMRE will conduct and/or support appropriate studies in both technical and regulatory areas and in methods of mining and reclamation:

(1) To resolve technical regulatory issues that are national or regional in scope; and,

(2) To foster the development of improved methods of mining and reclamation that will enhance environmental protection aspects of the regulatory program while reducing the burden on the coal mining industry.

b. Procedures. The following procedures will be followed annually.

(1) The Applied Studies Policy Committee (PC), composed of the Deputy Director for Operations and Technical Services (DD/OTS), Assistant Director for Program Policy (AD/PP), and the Assistant Directors for Field Operations, will review suggestions from OSMRE program units for technical study priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. Suggestions will be submitted through OSMRE program Assistant Directors by June 1, and should include meritorious projects or topics identified by Field Operations staff, Field Offices, industry, States, environmental groups, and others.

(2) By July 1, the PC will develop study priorities for the upcoming fiscal year, obtain approval of those priorities by the Director, and provide the priorities to the Technical Studies Committee (TC).

(3) The TC will include a representative from the Division of Technical Services and one representative from each of the two Field Operations units. The AD/PP and each Assistant Director for Field Operations will recommend a member for the committee for approval by the DD/OTS. The TC will solicit proposals consistent with the priorities for the fiscal year. This will include notification of interested parties through publication in the Commerce Business Daily or other appropriate means. The TC will also develop a schedule for the following activities to ensure funding of projects by April 1 of the fiscal year.

(a) The TC will receive and coordinate the technical review of any proposals submitted and will make final recommendations for project funding to the PC. Proposals will be reviewed for technical merit by individuals knowledgeable in the subject matter area, including reviewers outside OSMRE. Successful participants will be notified of funding by the TC.

(b) The Division of Technical Services will coordinate with the U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, and other agencies and activities to ensure that proposed projects do not duplicate studies and research being conducted elsewhere.

(c) A Technical Project Officer (TPO) trained as a Contracting Officer's Technical Representative will be appointed by the appropriate Assistant Director for each approved project.

(d) The TC, in consultation with the TPO and the contracting officer, will prepare or coordinate the preparation of formal solicitations. Each package will include a requirement that appropriate monitoring reports be provided to OSMRE, consistent with the requirements of the Technical Publication Policy directive and suitable for transmitting results of the studies to the States, industry, and the interested public.

(4) Following the funding of technical studies, the TPO will monitor and coordinate project activities, provide data for updating OSMRE's Technical Studies and Applied Research Database in a timely fashion, and recommend final acceptance of the work product.

(5) The PC will meet at least annually to review the status and progress of all technical studies and applied research and to disseminate project information. This review should be coordinated with the distribution of the annual research status report prepared by the Technical Services

Division. The PC will make recommendations and decisions to facilitate the dissemination of research results as appropriate.

c. Program Responsibilities.

(1) Director. Determines national technical studies and applied research policy and approves annual study priorities.

(2) Deputy Director for Operations and Technical Services. Appoints members to both the Applied Studies Policy Committee and the Technical Studies Committee serving as chairman of the former.

(3) Assistant Directors for Program Policy and Field Operations. Serve on the Applied Studies Policy Committee and recommend the members of the Technical Studies Committee.

(4) Chief, Division of Technical Services. Coordinates and provides staff support to the PC and TC, including support for the preparation of timely and adequate proposals for technical projects and the preparation of annual reports that summarize the status of all ongoing and completed projects.

(5) Chief, Branch of Research and Technical Standards. Monitors technical project status through the TPO, coordinates and tracks projects including maintaining the Technical Studies and Applied Research Database.

(6) Applied Studies Policy Committee. Develops annual priorities for technical areas to be considered and makes final selection of projects to be funded. Reviews progress of technical studies and applied research programs.

(7) Technical Studies Committee. Coordinates the review of technical proposals and develops recommendation to the PC for projects to be funded. Notifies successful participants of funding.

(8) Technical Project Officer. Assists in development of formal solicitations, monitors and coordinates project activities and projects, reviews or coordinates the review of final products, makes recommendations for final approval of technical products, provides information for the Technical Studies and Applied Research Database.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. As specified in each Technical Studies project. The TPO is to provide information to the Headquarters' Technical Services Division for the Technical

Studies and Applied Research Database and for the annual research status report which the Technical Services Division will prepare.

5. REFERENCE. Section 201(c)(5) of SMCRA.

6. EFFECT ON OTHER DOCUMENTS. None.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE. Upon issuance.

8. CONTACT. Division of Technical Services, Branch of Research and Technical Standards, (202) 343-1514.