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	U·S·DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING** **RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT** **DIRECTIVES SYSTEM**	**Subject Number:** AML-3 **Transmittal Number:** 303 **Date:** 11/21/86

Subject: Eligibility of Abandoned Mine Sites Involving Uraniferous Lignite Coal

Approval: Ted D. Christensen **Title:** Director

1. Purpose. This directive provides guidance to Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) employees in determining the eligibility for reclamation funding of abandoned mine land sites which involved uraniferous lignite coal mining.

2. Definitions.

a. Uraniferous means containing or yielding uranium.

b. Lignite coal means consolidated lignite coal having less than 8,300 British thermal units per pound, moist and mineral-matter free.

c. Eligible lands and water means lands and water eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures which were mined for coal or which were affected by such mining, wastebanks, coal processing, or other coal mining processes, and abandoned or left in an inadequate reclamation status prior to August 3, 1977, and for which there is no continuing reclamation responsibility under State or other Federal law.

3. Policy/Procedures.

a. Concept.

Lands and water eligible for reclamation under Section 404 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and for funding under Section 402(g)(2) and 402(g)(3) of SMCRA include past mining for coal which was part of the extraction process for uraniferous lignite coal that involved removal of the body of coal. Neither the purpose of the past mining of coal nor the use to which the coal will be put determines eligibility. The critical factor is the actual mining for coal.

4. Reporting Requirements. None.

5. References. OSMRE Solicitor memorandum dated April 17, 1980, Subject: Use of Secretary's Discretionary Moneys to Reclaim Abandoned Uraniferous Lignite Mine Sites.

6. Effect on Other Documents. Supersedes AML-3, Transmittal Number 99, dated June 10, 1981.

7. Effective Date. Upon Issuance.

8. Contact. Division of Abandoned Mine Lands. 202-343-7887