

FEDERAL REGISTER: 46 FR 41046 (August 14, 1981)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)

30 CFR Parts 716 and 785

Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations Initial and Permanent Regulatory Program;
Deferral of Effective Dates

ACTION: Deferral of effective dates.

SUMMARY: The effective dates of final regulations which were previously deferred at *46 FR 18023 (March 23, 1981)*, *46 FR 20211 (April 3, 1981)*, *46 FR 23924 (April 29, 1981)*, and *46 FR 31258 (June 15, 1981)* are further postponed until September 28, 1981, and September 29, 1981, (see below) to allow OSM additional time to comply with Executive Order 12291 (February 17, 1981). The regulations deal with the prime farmland exemption and prime farmland definitions of OSM's initial and permanent regulatory programs.

DATES: The new effective date of 30 CFR 716.7(a) and (b) as published on January 22, 1981, is September 28, 1981, and of 30 CFR 716.7(a)(2) and 785.17(a) as published on January 23, 1981, is September 29, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LeRoy de Moulin, Soil Scientist, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, (202) 343-5261.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

These regulations have been the subject of several Federal Register notices on suspension and effective dates as follows: Notice of Suspension of Certain Regulations, *44 FR 67942 (November 27, 1979)*; Notice of Suspension, *44 FR 77454 (December 31, 1979)*; Extension of Effective Dates for Final Rules, *46 FR 10707 (February 4, 1981)*; Notice of Suspension of Certain Rules, *46 FR 18023 (March 23, 1981)*; Cancellation of Prior Notice and Deferral of Effective Dates for Final Rules, *46 FR 20211 (April 3, 1981)*; Continued Suspension of Final Rules, *46 FR 23924 (April 25, 1981)* and Deferral of Effective Dates, *46 FR 31258 (June 15, 1981)*. Voluminous comments received from the public during the comment period which ended May 9, 1981, required the deferral of the effective dates for an additional 60 days to enable OSM to analyze thoroughly the public comments and decide whether to modify, issue or suspend these rules indefinitely pending the outcome of further rulemaking. However, due to additional requirements of Executive Order 12291 (February 19, 1981), OSM finds it necessary to extend the effective date an additional 45 days.

Dated: August 11, 1981.

J. S. Griles, Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining.

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