



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
**DIRECTIVES SYSTEM**

Subject Number:

TSR-6

Transmittal Number:

400

Date: 11/10/87

Subject: Drainage Control on Valley and Durable Rock Fills

Approval:

*J. D. Christensen*

Title:

Director

1. **Purpose.** This directive outlines the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) policy on whether diversion channels constructed at valley and durable rock fills can be located at the interface of the fill and the natural ground.

2. **Definitions.** None

3. **Policy/Procedures.**

a. **Background.** The regulations governing the construction of excess spoil fills do not specify the location of channels that divert surface water runoff around the fill. For valley and head-of-hollow fills, 30 CFR 816.72 provides that the runoff be diverted into stabilized diversion channels. Regulations for durable rock fills at 30 CFR 816.73 provide that surface water runoff from areas adjacent to and above the fill is not allowed to flow onto the fill and is diverted into stabilized diversion channels. The 1979 regulation language expressly stating that such channels must be in natural ground was deleted from the rule in 1983.

b. **Policy.** The Federal provisions in sections 816.72 and 816.73 do not prohibit the construction of diversion channels at the interface of the fill with the natural ground. Whether located in natural ground or at the interface, each channel must be designed in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR 816.43 and must take into account site specific conditions of each channel. Diversion channels must be designed and constructed to ensure that they will not compromise the stability of the fill through water infiltration or channel erosion or otherwise conflict with any applicable performance standards. In conducting oversight of State regulatory programs, OSMRE will evaluate the State's conformance to its program requirements.

4. Reporting Requirements. None.

5. References.

a. 30 CFR 816/817.72(a)(2)

b. 30 CFR 816/817.73(f)

c. 30 CFR 816/817.43

6. Effects on Other Documents. None.

7. Effective Date. Upon issuance.

8. Contact. Division of Technical Services, (202) 343-1480.