

FEDERAL REGISTER: 44 FR 63737 (November 5, 1979)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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

30 CFR Parts 870 Through 888 [INT DES 79-58]

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program; Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement (DES) addressing implementation of program policies for abandoned mine lands reclamation.

SUMMARY: OSM has prepared a DES addressing implementation of program policies for abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), 30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq. OSM published final rules on October 25, 1978, (43 FR 49932) which established the abandoned mine land reclamation program and procedures for administering Title IV of SMCRA (30 CFR Parts 870-888). Copies of the DES are being made available today. Public comment on the DES is solicited and public hearings will be held as described below.

DATES: All comments on the DES must be received at the address given below under "Address" on or before December 24, 1979, at 5 p.m. Comments may also be presented at public hearings scheduled as itemized below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the DES must be mailed or hand delivered to: Office of Surface Mining, Room 135, South Building, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All comments will be on file and available for inspection at the same address. Public hearings will be held at the addresses listed below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James D. Evans, Chairman, EIS Task Force, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240, 202-343-4057.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Title IV of SMCRA, OSM, has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (DES). The DES addresses alternatives for two elements of the abandoned mine lands program as follows:

A. FEDERAL DISCRETIONARY FUND ALLOCATION

- (1) No action,
- (2) Allocation of funds based on share of national fee collection,
- (3) Allocation of funds based on share of national historical production,
- (4) Allocation of funds based on share of national problems, or
- (5) Allocation of funds based on a composite approach.

B. ABANDONED MINE LANDS RECLAMATION GUIDELINES

- (1) No reclamation guidelines,
- (2) Goal-oriented reclamation guidelines,
- (3) Detailed reclamation guidelines.

DES AVAILABILITY

Copies of the DES are available for inspection and may be obtained at any of the OSM offices listed below.

Office of Surface Mining, Administrative Record, Room 135, South Building, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Office of Surface Mining -- Region I, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1st Floor, Thomas Hill Building, 950 Kanawha Boulevard East, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

Office of Surface Mining -- Region II, U.S. Department of the Interior, 530 Gay Street, Suite 500, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Office of Surface Mining -- Region II, U.S. Department of the Interior, Federal Building and Court House, 45 East Ohio Street, Room 520, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Office of Surface Mining -- Region IV, U.S. Department of the Interior, 818 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Office of Surface Mining -- Region V, U.S. Department of the Interior, Post Office Building, Room 270, 1832 Stout Street, Denver, Colorado 80202.

Public Hearings

Public hearings on the DES will be held at the following locations and on the dates noted:

Austin, Texas -- Marriott Hotel, 6121 Interstate Highway 35 North, November 28, at 10:00 a.m.

Alcoa, Tennessee -- Holiday Inn Airport, Alcoa Highway (Highway 129), November 28 at 10:00 a.m.

Indianapolis, Indiana -- Indiana War Memorial, Southeast Meeting Room, 431 North Meridian Street, November 2m at 10:00 a.m.

Denver, Colorado -- U.S. Post Office Building, Room 269, 1823 Stout Street, November 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Charleston, West Virginia -- Charleston National Bank Plaza Auditorium, Room 7-1 (Lower level), Corner, Virginia and Capitol Streets, November 24 at 1:00 p.m.

Those persons wishing to speak at any of the public hearings may be scheduled on the programs in advance by telephoning Jim Evans in Washington, D.C., at 202-343-8083. Individual testimony at these hearings will be limited to 15 minutes.

The hearings will be transcribed. Filing of a written statement at the time of giving oral testimony will be helpful and will facilitate the job of the court reporter. The public hearings will commence at the times identified above and will continue until all persons scheduled to speak have been heard. Persons in the audience who have not been scheduled to speak and who wish to do so will be heard at the end of the scheduled speakers. Persons not scheduled to testify, but wishing to do so, assume the risk of having the public hearing adjourned on any given day unless they are present in the audience at the time all scheduled speakers have been heard.

OSM encourages the public to comment on the scope and content of the DES. In particular, OSM solicits comments which identify errors, omissions, or alternatives not yet considered. Whenever possible, public comments should be supported by technical data or other source material. All comments from the public on the DES will be considered and responses to timely comments will be prepared for inclusion in the final environmental impact statement.

Dated: October 30, 1979.

Larry E. Meierotto, *Assistant Secretary of the Interior* .