

FEDERAL REGISTER: 45 FR 57149 (August 27, 1980)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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

30 CFR Part 890

Grants for Mining and Mineral Resources, Research Institutes and Mineral Research Projects

ACTION: Proposed amendments to rules.

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) proposes to amend portions of the policies and procedures (Title 30, Chapter VII, Part 890). The proposed changes would clarify the date of submission of applications and revise the grant period for allotment grants. The mineral institutes will be required to submit the allotment grant applications on or before April 1 for grants commencing on July 1 of the same calendar year. The revised grant period would begin on July 1 to correspond to the academic year of the mineral institutes. These changes were initiated by OSM at the request of the mineral institutes.

DATE: Written comments on the proposed amendments must be received on or before 4:00 p.m., September 15, 1980.

ADDRESSES: Written comments must be mailed to: Administrative Record, Technical Services and Research, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240; (202) 343-8032.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ranvir Singh, Technical Services and Research, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. 20240; (202) 343-8032.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title III of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (the Act), Pub. L. 95-87, 30 U.S.C. 1221, et seq., authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate a mining and mineral resources research institute (mineral institute) at one public college or university in each State for conducting a program of substantial instruction and research in mining and minerals extraction. As of this date, 31 mineral institutes have been established in as many States. Title III also provides for annual allotment grants and for mineral research grants including grants for scholarships and fellowships.

Section 890.11(a) requires that to obtain an allotment grant a mineral institute must submit a request to the Office of Surface Mining six months prior to the end of the Federal fiscal year. Since the Federal fiscal year begins on October 1, a grant application must be submitted by April 1. Currently, the grant period for the allotment grant coincides with the Federal fiscal year. The Office of Surface Mining is proposing to change the grant period to begin on July 1 of each year. However, OSM is not proposing to change the deadline for grant requests from April 1. This will require the mineral institutes to submit grant request 90 days prior to the beginning of the grant period. OSM believes that this change will still provide the Office adequate time to review and evaluate the grant requests and to verify the proposed budgets. The proposed rule change in Section 890.11(a), would clarify that grant requests are due on April 1.

Section 890.21(a)(3) is being amended to change the grant period. The grant period currently begins on October 1 and ends on September 30 of the following year. The revised grant period will begin on July 1 and will end on June 30 of the following year and thus will correspond to the academic year of the mineral institutes. The revised grant period would result in more efficient planning for and management of grant funds by the mineral institutes.

OSM will appreciate any and all comments. The comments should be as specific as possible and should include any supporting facts or rationale. All comments will be available for inspection at Room 153, South Interior Building, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES: Copies of these proposed amendments may be obtained from the following office: Ranvir Singh, Technical Services and Research, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, D.C. 20240; (202) 343-8032.

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The Department of the Interior has determined that these amendments of rules are not significant and do not require a regulatory analysis under Executive Order 12044 and 43 CFR Part 14. The Department of the Interior has also determined that amendment of the rules within the scope of this document will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, this action is not subject to the environmental impact statement requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Dated: August 19, 1980.
Walter N. Heine,
Director, Office of Surface Mining.

30 CFR Part 890 is proposed to be amended as follows.

1. By revising Section 890.11(a) to read as follows:

SECTION 890.11 - APPLICATIONS FOR ALLOTMENTS AFTER THE FIRST YEAR.

(a) After the first fiscal year, in order to obtain subsequent allotments an institute shall submit to the Assistant Director a request for an annual allotment (in six copies) containing information and materials on Standard Form 424 to supplement any previously submitted application as may be needed to make it currently applicable and to reaffirm eligibility. Such requests shall be submitted on or before April 1 to be considered for grants commencing on or after July 1 of the same calendar year.

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2. By amending Section 890.21(a)(3) to read as follows:

SECTION 890.21 - GRANTS AMENDMENTS

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(a) * * *

(3) Commencement and completion dates for the segment of the program covered by the grant and for major phases of the program to be completed during the grant period. Allotment grants shall commence on July 1 and shall complete on June 30 of the following year.

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