

FEDERAL REGISTER: 46 FR 31258 (June 15, 1981)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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

30 CFR Parts 700, 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) and 46 FR 23924 (April 29, 1981), are further postponed until August 14, 1981 and August 15, 1981 (see below) to allow OSM additional time to analyze the voluminous comments received from the public on whether the rules should be modified, issued or suspended indefinitely pending the outcome of further rulemaking. The regulations deal with the two-acre exemption, the prime farmland grandfather exemption and prime farmland definition of OSM's initial and permanent regulatory programs.

DATES: The new effective date for 30 CFR 716.7(a) and (b) as published on January 22, 1981, is August 14, 1981. The new effective date of 30 CFR 716.7(a)(2) and 785.17(a) as published on January 23, 1981, and 30 CFR 700.11(b) as published on January 23, 1981, is August 15, 1981.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edward Johnson or LeRoy deMoulin, (202) 343-5261 (prime farmland) or Stan Zeccolo, (202) 343-5365 (two-acre exemption), Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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 29, 1981). Voluminous comments have been received from the public during the comment period which ended on May 9, 1981. A deferral of effective dates for an additional 80 days will 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.

Dated: June 10, 1981.

Andrew V. Bailey, Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement .

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