

FEDERAL REGISTER: 50 FR 51559 (December 18, 1985)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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

30 CFR Parts 701, 780, 784

Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations Permanent Regulatory Program;
Probable Hydrologic Consequences and Cumulative Hydrologic Impact of Mining

ACTION: Availability of draft guidance documents.

SUMMARY: Section 507(b)(11) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) requires that a permit application for a surface coal mining operation contain a determination of the probable hydrologic consequences (PHC) of the operations. The regulatory authority, pursuant to the requirements of sections 507(b)(11) and 510(b)(3) of SMCRA, must conduct a cumulative hydrologic impact assessment (CHIA) of all anticipated mining in the area, and make a finding that the proposed coal mining operation has been designed to prevent material damage to the hydrologic balance outside the permit area prior to issuing a permit.

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has developed draft guidelines that provide an understanding of the statutory and regulatory requirements relative to PHC and CHIA and that suggest procedures which may be utilized by permit applicants and State regulatory authorities in the preparation of PHCs and CHIAs, respectively. In order to make the guidelines more useful to surface coal mine permit applicants and regulatory authorities, OSM is soliciting specific suggestions and comments particularly with respect to the sources of hydrologic and geologic information and the applicability and adequacy of coverage of relevant concerns.

DATE: Written comments must be received before 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time on April 17, 1986.

ADDRESS: Administrative Record, Office of Surface Mining, Room 5315L 1951 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allen Perry, Division of Reclamation Technology, Office of Surface Mining, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20240, Telephone: 202/343-1514.

Dated: December 10, 1985.

Brent Wahlquist, Assistant Director, Program Operations.

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