

Applicant/Violator System Office System Advisory Memorandum



SAM # 13 DATE: October 3, 2016

Subject: BEGINNING and ENDING DATES

This System Advisory Memorandum provides operational guidance regarding beginning and ending dates in the Applicant/Violator System. This SAM replaces previous SAM # 14, "Beginning and Ending Dates" dated March 1, 2013.

This SAM discusses the importance of entering and maintaining accurate and up-to-date beginning and ending dates in the AVS. It also describes the data that relies on the accuracy of beginning and ending dates.

Beginning and Ending Dates in the AVS

Regulatory authorities must be able to rely on the accuracy of beginning and ending dates in the AVS data when conducting eligibility determinations, research, investigations, and other actions to determine potential liability for environmental obligations and establish time frames for such liability or other statutory responsibility.

In the AVS, beginning and ending dates are used to establish:

- the start and end of relationships within a business entity's organizational structure;
- the completion of a business name change or merger; and,
- the duration of operator and contractor work on a mining and reclamation site.

If no beginning date is shown for a relationship, then the date may be unknown or the association may extend back to the beginning of any surface coal mining operation conducted by the business entity. If no ending date is shown for a relationship, then the association is assumed to be on-going and has not ended. Also, you may see some entities in AVS that reflect a begin date of 01/01/1901. As part of a system redesign effort in 2006 any existing entity in the system without a begin date had to have a numeric value populated in that data field. We chose to populate these blank beginning dates with 01/01/1901 which allowed us to transfer the data into the newly redesigned system.

The AVS references beginning and ending dates to determine whether permit applicants are associated with entities who have uncorrected or unabated violations and/or debts. Ending dates are especially critical because they establish the date after

which no additional liability or responsibility may be attributed to the relationship.

Proper Documentation

Documentation is critical to many regulatory processes, including permit eligibility determinations, research, investigations, and enforcement actions. Documentation of beginning and ending dates by a regulatory authority also becomes important when a person challenges an ownership or control listing in the AVS or a regulatory finding of ownership or control. No beginning or ending date should be entered or changed in the AVS without credible supporting documentation.

If you have questions concerning beginning and ending dates, please contact your AVS User Assistance Liaison at 1.800.643.9748. Additional information may also be found on our website, at <https://avss.osmre.gov>.

Signed: Stephanie L. Varvell

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