



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

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## Memorandum

To: Glenda H. Owens  
Acting Director, OSMRE

From: Katharine S. MacGregor   
Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

Subject: Actions to Reduce Burdens on Production of Energy Resources

Thank you for your list of recommended actions in response to Executive Order 13783 and Secretarial Order 3349. I understand that you have taken steps to review these actions with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) member states, and that working groups will be established to address several of these issues. In addition, the Department has committed to take immediate actions on the following two guidance/policy documents:

1. July 27, 2016, OSMRE Director policy memorandum to staff titled, *A More Complete Enforcement of SMCRA and Its Implementing Regulations*, providing direction on the enforcement of the existing regulations related to violations of the Clean Water Act caused by SMCRA-permitted operations.
2. August 5, 2016, OSMRE Director-issued *OSMRE Policy Advisory: Self-Bonding*, directing regulatory authorities to cease the use of new or additional self-bonds until coal production and consumption market conditions reached equilibrium.

The policies articulated in these two guidance/policy documents impose a significant burden on America's coal industry, and collectively are in direct conflict with SMCRA's concept of cooperative Federalism. Therefore, in support of this administration's goal of ending the war on coal by rebuilding a healthy and viable coal industry, and restoring the primacy role of state programs implementing SMCRA, I am hereby rescinding each of these guidance/policy documents, effective immediately.

Please ensure that rescission of these guidance/policy documents is conveyed to OSMRE staff and the IMCC member states.