



U.S. Office of Surface Mining

News Release



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For Immediate Release

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OSM Announces Open Houses to Gather Public Comments on an Environmental Impact Statement For Rule to Protect Streams

(Washington, D.C.) – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSM) has scheduled a series of open houses to accept public comment on the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for use in writing a new rule to better protect streams from the adverse effects of coal mining.

The nine open houses will allow members of the public an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope of the Stream Protection Rule EIS. These open houses are part of the “scoping” process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA mandates that Federal agencies must involve the public while developing new regulations or other major projects. The open houses will allow members of the public to receive information on the alternatives OSM is considering in developing the Stream Protection Rule EIS. The public may also provide comments on the record about the scope of the EIS. Citizens who are unable to attend but wish to comment may do so by mail or electronic mail.

“These open houses provide interested members of the public an opportunity to comment on what the EIS should cover,” said [OSM Director Joe Pizarchik](#). “Everyone who wants to comment will have a chance to do so,” he added.

The open houses will take place according to the following schedule:

July 19, 2010, 3 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. [Carbondale, IL, Southern Illinois University Student Center](#)
July 20, 2010, 3 p.m. – 8 p.m. [Evansville, IN, Holiday Inn Conference Center North](#)
July 20, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Fairfield, TX, Fairfield Elementary School](#)
July 22, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Birmingham, AL, Embassy Suites Birmingham – Hoover](#)
July 26, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Hazard, KY, Hazard Community College](#)
July 27, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Beckley, WV, Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center](#)
July 27, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Farmington, NM, Farmington Civic Center](#)
July 28, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Morgantown, WV, Mylan Park](#)
July 29, 2010, 3 p.m. – 9 p.m. [Gillette, WY, Campbell County Library](#)

Handouts:
[Code of Conduct](#)
[Comment Form](#)

OSM will publish public notices in local newspapers where the meetings are scheduled to take place, and it will also post updated information as it becomes available via [Twitter](#) and on the OSM web site.

Interested parties may submit comments via email to sra-eis@osmre.gov. Comments will also be accepted via U.S. mail, hand delivery, or courier to:

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Administrative Record
Room 252–SIB
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240.

For instant updates on the Stream Protection Rule and other items of interest, follow OSM on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OSMRE or visit the OSM home page at www.osmre.gov.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSM's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

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