



NEWS RELEASE

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Extends Public Comment Period on Petition Regarding Self-Bonding for Coal Mines

Washington, DC – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](http://www.osmre.gov) (OSMRE), is extending the public comment period by 30 days on a petition asking it to amend its regulations on financial assurances to prevent coal companies with a history of financial insolvency, and their subsidiaries, from using “self-bonding” as a means to ensure disturbed lands are restored after surface mining operations are completed.

OSMRE’s decision to lengthen the public comment period on the petition, submitted by Wild Earth Guardians, was reached after the National Mining Association requested a 60-day extension.

Interested parties will now have until July 20, 2016 to weigh in on the rulemaking petition.

States and tribes, stakeholders and the public are asked to comment on the merits of the petition, the regulatory changes it suggests, and whether other changes, beyond what the petitioners have proposed, should be made. OSMRE also requests an explanation of what those changes should be and why they should be made.

To read the electronic version of the petition and provide comments, please visit www.regulations.gov and search for [Docket ID: OSM-2016-0006](#). For U.S. Mail or hand/courier delivery, please address comments to Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Room 252 SIB, 1951 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20240, Attn: Docket ID OSM-2016-0006.

To read the May 18, 2016 news release that originally announced the self-bonding rulemaking petition and public comment period please visit <http://www.osmre.gov/resources/newsroom/news/2016/051816.pdf>.

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