

ROUTINE USES OF RECORDS MAINTAINED IN THE SYSTEM, INCLUDING CATEGORIES OF USERS AND THE PURPOSES OF SUCH USES:

Disclosures outside the Department of the Interior (Department) may be made to: (1) Another Federal agency to enable that agency to respond to an inquiry by the individual to whom the record pertains; (2) The Department of Justice, or to a court, adjudicative, or other administrative body, or to a party in litigation before a court or adjudicative or administrative body, when: (a) One of the following is a party to the proceeding or has an interest in the proceeding: (i) The Department or any component of the Department; (ii) Any Departmental employee acting in his or her official capacity; (iii) Any Departmental employee acting in his or her individual capacity where the Department or the Department of Justice has agreed to represent the employee; or (iv) The United States, when the Department determines that the Department is likely to be affected by the proceeding; and (b) The Department deems the disclosure to be: (i) Relevant and necessary to the proceedings; and (ii) Compatible with the purpose for which we compiled the information; (3) The appropriate Federal, State, tribal, local, or foreign governmental agency that is responsible for investigating, prosecuting, enforcing, or implementing a statute, rule, regulation, order, or license, when we become aware of an indication of a violation or potential violation of the statute, rule, regulation, order, or license; (4) A congressional office in response to an inquiry to that office by the individual to whom the records pertain.

POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORING, RETRIEVING, ACCESSING, RETAINING, AND DISPOSING OF RECORDS IN THE SYSTEM:

STORAGE:

Maintained in manual file folders and on electronic media.

RETRIEVABILITY:

Records are indexed by Bureau of Reclamation-assigned document control number and data field codes which identify property characteristics.

SAFEGUARDS:

In accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR 2.51.

RETENTION AND DISPOSAL:

In accordance with approved retention and disposal schedules.

SYSTEM MANAGER(S) AND ADDRESS:

Realty Officer, Attn: MP-450, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Inquiries regarding the existence of records should be addressed to the Regional Director, Attn: MP-450, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. A written, signed request stating that the requestor seeks information concerning records pertaining to him/her is required. See 43 CFR 2.60.

RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURES:

Same as Notification above. See 43 CFR 2.63.

CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

Written petitions for amendment should be sent to the System Manager. See 43 CFR 2.71.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Individuals on whom records are maintained, county recorder, title companies, and appraisers.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Notice of Proposed Information Collection

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is announcing its intention to request approval for the collection of information for 30 CFR part 800, Bond and insurance requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations under regulatory programs.

DATES: Comments on the proposed information collection must be received by August 23, 1999, to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to John A. Trelease, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, 1951 Constitution Ave, NW, Room 210—SIB, Washington, DC 20240. Comments may also be submitted electronically to jtrelease@osmre.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request a copy of the information collection request, explanatory information and related forms, contact John A. Trelease, at (202) 208-2783.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

regulations at 5 CFR part 1320, which implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), require that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8 (d)). This notice identifies an information collection activity that OSM will be submitting to OMB for extension. This collection is contained in 30 CFR part 800, Bond and insurance requirements for surface coal mining and reclamation operations under regulatory programs.

OSM has revised burden estimates, where appropriate, to reflect current reporting levels or adjustments based on reestimates of burden on respondents. OSM will request a 3-year term of approval for this information collection activity.

Comments are invited to: (1) The need for the collection of information for the performance of the functions of the agency; (2) the accuracy of the agency's burden estimates; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the information collection burden on respondents, such as use of automated means of collection of the information. A summary of the public comments will accompany OSM's submission of the information collection request to OMB.

This notice provides the public with 60 days in which to comment on the following information collection activity:

Title: Bond and Insurance Requirements for Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations Under Regulatory Programs—30 CFR 800.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0043.

Summary: The regulations at 30 CFR part 800 primarily implement section 509 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act), which requires that persons planning to conduct surface coal mining operations first post a performance bond to guarantee fulfillment of all reclamation obligations under the approved permit. The regulations also establish bond release requirements and procedures consistent with section 519 of the Act, liability insurance requirements pursuant to section 507(f) of the Act, and procedures for bond forfeiture should the permittee default on reclamation obligations.

Bureau Form Number: None.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Description of Respondents: Surface coal mining and reclamation permittees and State regulatory authorities.

Total Annual Responses: 16,974.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 188,736 hours.

Dated: June 17, 1999.

Richard G. Bryson,

Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.

[FR Doc. 99-15933 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Proposed Abandoned Mine Land Research Projects

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

ACTION: Notice of application for grant funding; public comment period on request to fund the Abandoned Mine Land Research Projects.

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing its receipt of a grant application from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Abandoned Mine Land Division (AMLDD). Wyoming is requesting \$225,000 from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to pay for research in the area of abandoned and active coal mine land reclamation as a public facility project that will benefit a community impacted by coal mining activities.

This notice describes when and where the Wyoming abandoned mine land (AML) program and the grant application for funding the Abandoned Coal Mine Land Research Program are available for you to read. It also sets the time period during which you may send written comments on the request to us.

DATES: We will accept written comments until 4 p.m., m.s.t., July 23, 1999.

ADDRESSES: You should mail or hand-deliver written comments to Guy V. Padgett, Casper Field Office Director, at the address shown below. You may read Wyoming's grant application for this proposed project during normal business hours Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) at the same address. Also, we will send one free copy of the grant application to you if you contact OSM's Casper Field Office.

Guy V. Padgett, Director, Casper Field Office, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Federal Building, Rm. 2403, 1000 East "B" Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601-1918

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Guy V. Padgett, Telephone: (307) 261-6555.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on Title IV of SMCRA

Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) established an Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AMLR) program. The purpose of the AMLR program is to reclaim and restore lands and waters that were adversely affected by past mining. The program is funded by a reclamation fee paid by active coal mining operations. Lands and waters eligible for reclamation under Title IV are primarily those that were mined, or affected by mining, and abandoned or inadequately reclaimed before August 3, 1977, and for which there is no continuing reclamation responsibility under State, Federal, or other laws.

Title IV of SMCRA allows States to submit AMLR plans to us. We, on behalf of the Secretary, review those plans and consider any public comments we receive about them. If we determine that a State has the ability and necessary legislation to operate an AMLR program, the Secretary can approve it. The Secretary's approval gives a State exclusive authority to put its AMLR plan into effect.

Once the Secretary approves a State's AMLR plan, the State may annually apply to us for money to fund specific projects that will achieve the goals of its approved plan. We follow the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR parts 874, 875, and 886 when we review and approach such applications.

II. Background on the Wyoming AMLR Plan

The Secretary of the Interior approved Wyoming's AMLR plan on February 14, 1983. You can find background information on the Wyoming AMLR program, including the Secretary's findings and our responses to comments, in the February 14, 1983, **Federal Register** (48 FR 6536). Wyoming changed its plan a number of times since the Secretary first approved it. In 1984, we accepted the State's certification that it addressed all known coal-related impacts in Wyoming that were eligible for funding under its program. As a result, the State may now reclaim low priority non-coal reclamation projects. You can read about the certification and OSM's acceptance in the May 25, 1984, **Federal Register** (49 FR 22139). At the same time, we also accepted Wyoming's proposal that it will ask us for funds to reclaim any additional coal-related problems that occur during the life of the Wyoming AML program as soon as it becomes aware of them. In the April 13, 1992, **Federal Register** (57 FR

12731), we announced our decision to accept other changes in Wyoming's plan that describe how it will rank eligible coal, non-coal, and the facility projects for funding. Those changes also authorized the Governor of Wyoming to elevate the priority of a project based upon the Governor's determination of need and urgency. They also expanded the State's ability to construct public facilities under section 411 of SMCRA. We approved additional changes in Wyoming's plan concerning noncoal lien authority and contractor eligibility that improve the efficiency of the State's AML program. That approval is described in the February 21, 1996, **Federal Register** (61 FR 6537).

Once a State certifies that it has addressed all remaining abandoned coal mine problems, and the Secretary concurs, then it may request funds to undertake abandoned noncoal mine reclamation, community impact assistance, and public facilities projects under sections 411 (b), (e), and (f), of SMCRA.

State law and regulations that apply to the proposed Abandoned Coal Mine Land Research Program funding request include Wyoming Statute 35-11-1202 and Wyoming Abandoned Mine Land Regulations, Chapter VII, of the Wyoming Abandoned Mine Program.

III. Wyoming's Request To Fund the Cost of the Abandoned Coal Mine Land Research Program

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality submitted to us a grant application dated December 21, 1998. In that application, Wyoming asked for \$225,000 to pay for the cost of an applied research program focusing on reclamation techniques. The Governor of Wyoming certified the need and urgency to fund this applied research program prior to completing the State's remaining inventory of non-coal reclamation work, as allowed by section 411(f) of SMCRA. That certification says the project is in a community impacted by coal mining activities. The applied research program is the result of a 1989 agreement between the University of Wyoming and the Abandoned Mine Land Division of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Through agreement, the research office of the University of Wyoming will administer the program. Annually, the University will solicit research proposals. A technical review committee will review and rank proposals and recommend the best proposals for funding. The program is intended to stimulate applied research and demonstration projects related to underground and surface mine reclamation techniques, in order