withdrawal, and the reasons for the withdrawal, to the original requestor.

Dated: February 17, 1995.
William B. Schultz,
Deputy Commissioner for Policy.
[FR Doc. 95–4690 Filed 2–24–95; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 902

Alaska Permanent Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; public comment period and opportunity for public hearing on proposed program amendment.

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing the receipt of a proposed amendment to the Alaska permanent regulatory program (hereinafter, the "Alaska program") under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.) (SMCRA). The proposed amendment consists of revisions to rules pertaining to fees, adoption by reference, general permitting requirements, permit application information requirements, environmental resource information requirements, reclamation and operation plan, processing of permit applications, permitting for special categories of mining, exploration, small operator assistance program, bonding, performance standards, inspection and enforcement, and general provisions. The amendment is intended to revise the Alaska program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations, clarify ambiguities, and improve operational efficiency. The amendment consists of proposed changes to the Alaska program as required by Part 902.16 of the Code of Federal Regulations and program deficiency letters dated November 1, 1989, February 7, 1990, and January 15,

DATES: Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., m.s.t. March 29, 1995. If requested, a public hearing on the proposed amendment will be held on March 24, 1995. Requests to present oral testimony at the hearing must be received by 4:00 p.m., m.s.t. on March 14, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or hand delivered to Guy Padgett at the address listed below. Copies of the Alaska program, the proposed amendment, and all written comments received in response to this notice will be available for public review at the addresses listed below during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Each requester may receive one free copy of the proposed amendment by contracting OSM's Casper Field Office. Guy Padgett, Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and

Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Casper Field Office, 100 East B Street, Room 2128, Casper, WY 82601–1918, (307) 261–5776

Mr. Jules Tileston, Director, Division of Mining and Water Resources, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, 3601 C Street, Suite 800, Anchorage, Alaska 99503–5935, (907) 762–5163

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Guy Padgett, Director, Telephone: (307) 261–5776.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Background on the Alaska Program

On March 23, 1983, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Alaska program as administered by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. General background information on the Alaska program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and conditions of approval of the Alaska program can be found in the March 23, 1983, Federal Register (48 FR 12274). Subsequent actions concerning Alaska's program and program amendments can be found at 30 CFR 902.15 and 902.16.

II. Proposed Amendment

By letter dated January 26, 1995 and FAX transmittals dated February 13 and 14, 1994 (Administrative Record No. AK IV-01), Alaska submitted proposed Amendment IV to its permanent program pursuant to SMCRA (SPATS AK-004-FOR). Alaska's proposed Amendment IV consists of: changes to the Alaska program as required by 30 CFR Part 902.16; changes in response to program deficiency letters from OSM dated November 1, 1989, February 7, 1990, and January 15, 1993; and changes to Alaska's own initiative. The provisions of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) that Alaska proposes to revise are: 11 AAC 05.010(a)(9) and 11 AAC 90.011, fees; 11 AAC 90.001, adoption of rules by reference; 11 AAC 90.002, responsibilities; 11 AAC 90.003, interim permits; 11 AAC 90.023, identification of interests and compliance information; 11 AAC 90.025, authority to enter and ownership information; 11 AAC 90.045(a), geology description; 11 AAC

90.049, surface water information; 11 AAC 90.083(b), reclamation plan requirements, roads; 11 AAC 90.097, transportation facilities; 11 AAC 90.099, placement of coal mine waste in underground workings; 11 AAC 90.117, processing of permit applications; 11 AAC 90.125, commissioner's findings; 11 AAC 90.126, improvidently issued permits; 11 AAC 90.127, permit conditions; 11 AAC 90.129, permit revisions and renewals; 11 AAC 90.149, alluvial valley floors; 11 AAC 90.163, exploration that substantially disturbs or is conducted in areas designated unsuitable for mining; 11 AAC 90.173, eligibility for small operator assistance; 11 AAC 90.207, self-bonding provisions; 11 AAC 90.321, hydrologic balance; 11 AAC 90.323, water quality standards; 11 AAC 90.325, diversions and conveyance of flow; 11 AAC 90.327, stream channel diversions; 11 AAC 90.336, impoundment design and construction; 11 AAC 90.337, impoundment inspection; 11 AAC 90.341, underground mine discharges; 11 AAC 90.345, surface and ground water monitoring; 11 AAC 90.375, public notice of blasting; 11 AAC 90.391, disposal of excess spoil or coal mine waste; 11 AAC 90.401, coal mine waste, refuse piles; 11 AAC 90.407, coal mine waste, dams and embankments; 11 AAC 90.409, coal mine waste, return to underground workings; 11 AAC 90.423, protection of fish and wildlife; 11 AAC 90.443, backfilling and grading; 11 AAC 90.457, Revegetation success standards; 11 AAC 90.491, construction and maintenance of roads and other transportation and support facilities; 11 AAC 90.601, inspections; 11 AAC 90.613, cessation orders, 11 AAC 90.901, applicability; 11 AAC 90.902, exception for coal extraction incidental to the extraction of other minerals; 11 AAC 90.907, public participation; and 11 AAC 90.911, definitions.

Specifically, Alaska proposes to:

- —Revise 11 AAC 05.010(a)(9) and 90.011 to move the regulatory requirements for permit fees to the fee provisions for the whole department, and to set a fee for incidental boundary revisions;
- —Revise 11 AAC 90.002 and delete 90.003, to eliminate provisions for continued operation or exploration under interim permits;
- Repeal and readopt 11 AAC 90.023 to clarify and add requirements for identification of ownership and control interests and compliance histories;
- Revise 11 AAC 90.025 to require ownership information for owners, lessees, and purchasers of record of