

consultation with each State regulatory authority with an approved program, how enforcement of the new requirements will be accomplished. As discussed in the April 6, 1995, **Federal Register** (60 FR 17498) and as reiterated below, enforcement could be accomplished by State, OSM, or joint State and OSM enforcement of the requirements, or by a State after it has amended its program.

(1) *State program amendment process.* If the State's promulgation of regulatory provisions that are counterpart to 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) is imminent, the number and extent of underground mines that have operated in the State since October 24, 1992, is low, the number of complaints in the State concerning section 720 of SMCRA is low, or the State's investigation of subsidence-related complaints has been thorough and complete so as to assure prompt remedial action, then OSM could decide not to directly enforce the Federal provisions in the State. In this situation, the State would enforce its State statutory and regulatory provisions once it has amended its program to be in accordance with the revised SMCRA and to be consistent with the revised Federal regulations. This program revision process, which is addressed in the Federal regulations at 30 CFR Part 732, is commonly referred to as the State program amendment process.

(2) *State enforcement.* If the State has statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to all of the requirements of the above-described Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) and the State has authority to implement its statutory and regulatory provisions for all underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992, then the State would enforce its provisions for these operations.

(3) *Interim direct OSM enforcement.* If the State does not have any statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2), then OSM would enforce in their entirety 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) for all underground mining activities conducted in the State after October 24, 1992.

(4) *State and OSM enforcement.* If the State has statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to some but not all of the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) and the State has authority to implement its provisions for all underground mining activities conducted after October 24,

1992, then the State would enforce its provisions for these operations. OSM would then enforce those provisions of 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) that are not covered by the State provisions for these operations.

If the State has statutory or regulatory provisions in place that correspond to some but not all of the requirements of the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) and if the State's authority to enforce its provisions applies to operations conducted on or after some date later than October 24, 1992, the State would enforce its provisions for these operations on and after the provisions' effective date. OSM would then enforce 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) to the extent the State statutory and regulatory provisions do not include corresponding provisions applicable to all underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992; and OSM would enforce those provisions of 30 CFR 817.41(j) and 817.121(c)(2) that are included in the State program but are not enforceable back to October 24, 1992, for the time period from October 24, 1992, until the effective date of the State's rules.

As described in items (3) and (4) above, OSM could directly enforce in total or in part the applicable Federal regulatory provisions until the State adopts and OSM approves under 30 CFR Part 732, the State's counterparts to the required provisions. However, as discussed in item (1) above, OSM could decide not to initiate direct Federal enforcement but rather to rely instead on the 30 CFR Part 732 State program amendment process.

In those situations where OSM determined that direct Federal enforcement was necessary, the ten-day notice provisions of 30 CFR 843.12(a)(2) would not apply. That is, when on the basis of a Federal inspection OSM determined that a violation of 30 CFR 817.41(j) or 817.121(c)(2) existed, OSM would issue a notice of violation or cessation order without first sending a ten-day notice to the State.

Also under direct Federal enforcement, the provisions of 30 CFR 817.121(c)(4) would apply. This regulation states that if damage to any noncommercial building or occupied residential dwelling or structure related thereto occurs as a result of earth movement within an area determined by projecting a specified angle of draw from the outermost boundary of any underground mine workings to the surface of the land (normally a 30 degree angle of draw), a rebuttable presumption exists that the permittee caused the damage.

Lastly, under direct Federal enforcement, OSM would also implement the new definitions at 30 CFR 701.5 of "drinking, domestic or residential water supply," "material damage," "non-commercial building," "occupied dwelling and structures related thereto," and "replacement of water supply" that were adopted with the new underground mining performance standards.

OSM would enforce 30 CFR 817.41(j), 817.121(c)(2) and (4), and implement the definitions at 30 CFR 701.5 for operations conducted after October 24, 1992.

C. Enforcement in Arkansas

Arkansas Program Activity, Requirements, and Enforcement

By letter to Arkansas dated December 15, 1994, OSM requested information from Arkansas that would help OSM decide which approach to take in Arkansas to implement the requirements of section 720(a) of SMCRA, the implementing Federal regulations, and/or the counterpart Arkansas program provisions (Administrative Record No. AR-542). By letter dated January 30, 1995, Arkansas respond to OSM's request (Administrative Record No. AR-543).

Arkansas stated that one underground coal mine was active in Arkansas after October 24, 1992. Arkansas indicated that its existing State law and its regulations at Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Code (ASCMRC) Sections 779.17, 780.21(e), 783.17, 784.14, 784.20(c), 816.54, and 816.124-U(b) and (c) are adequate State counterparts to section 720(a) of SMCRA and the implementing Federal regulations. Arkansas did not indicate when the existing State counterpart provisions went into effect. However, Arkansas did indicate that it had not received any citizen complaints alleging subsidence-caused structural damage or water supply loss or contamination as a result of underground mining operations conducted after October 24, 1992.

On May 31, 1995, OSM confirmed with Arkansas that one underground coal mine was active after October 24, 1992, and that no citizen complaints alleging subsidence-caused material damage or water supply loss or contamination as a result of this operation had been received by Arkansas (Administrative Record No. AR-553). Arkansas stated its intention to actively pursue and promulgate regulations conforming to the Federal regulations once it receives a 30 CFR Part 732 notification from OSM.