

the non-consumptive use portion of the proposed regulations. The Commission reserves the right to limit oral testimony in the interest of time. Written comments submitted at or before the hearing will also be accepted and made a part of the hearing record. All written comments should be submitted by March 9, 1995.

Copies of the latest version of the proposed rules and a responsiveness document explaining why changes were made are available upon request to the Commission at 1721 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA. 17102-2391, 717/238-0423. Written comments may be submitted to and further information obtained from Richard A. Cairo, General Counsel/Secretary, at the same address and phone number.

Dated: February 3, 1995.

Paul O. Swartz,

Executive Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 756

Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AMLR) Plan

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

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

SUMMARY: OSM is announcing receipt of a proposed amendment to the Navajo Nation AMLR plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Navajo Nation plan") under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*) (SMCRA). The proposed amendment consists of the addition of interim program coal site provisions to the Navajo Nation's AMLR Code of 1987. The amendment is intended to revise the Navajo Nation plan to be consistent with SMCRA, and to improve operational efficiency.

DATES: Written comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., m.s.t., March 13, 1995. If requested, a public hearing on the proposed amendment will be held on March 7, 1995. Requests to present oral testimony at the hearing must be received by 4:00 p.m., m.s.t., February 27, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed or hand delivered to Thomas E. Ehmett at the address listed below.

Copies of the Navajo Nation plan, the proposed amendment, and all written comments received in response to this document 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 contacting OSM's Albuquerque Field Office.

Thomas E. Ehmett, Acting Director,
Albuquerque Field Office, Office of
Surface Mining Reclamation and
Enforcement, 505 Marquette Avenue,
NW., Suite 1200, Albuquerque, New
Mexico 87102;

The Navajo Nation, P.O. Box 308,
Window Rock, Arizona 86515,
Telephone: (602) 871-4941.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Thomas E. Ehmett, Telephone: (505)
766-1486.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background on Title IV of SMCRA

Title IV of SMCRA established an AMLR for the purposes of reclaiming and restoring lands and waters adversely affected by past mining. The program is funded by a reclamation fee levied on the production of coal. Lands and waters eligible for reclamation under Title IV are those that were mined or affected by mining and abandoned or inadequately reclaimed prior to August 3, 1977, and for which there is no continuing reclamation responsibility under State, Federal, Tribal, or other laws.

Title IV provides for State and Tribal submittal to OSM of an AMLR plan. The Secretary of the Interior adopted regulations at 30 CFR 870 through 888 that implement Title IV of SMCRA. Under these regulations, the Secretary reviewed the plans submitted by States and Tribes and solicited and considered comments of State and Federal agencies and the public. Based upon the comments received, the Secretary determined whether a State or Tribe had the ability and necessary legislation to implement the provisions of Title IV. After making such a determination, the Secretary decided whether to approve the State or Tribe program. Approval granted the State or Tribe exclusive authority to administer its plan.

Ordinarily, under section 405 of SMCRA, a State or Tribe must have an approved surface mining regulatory program prior to submittal of an AMLR plan to OSM. However, on July 11, 1987, the President signed a supplemental appropriations bill (Pub. L. 100-71) that authorized the Crow and Hopi Tribes and Navajo Nation to adopt

AMLR programs without approval of Tribal surface mining regulatory programs.

Upon approval of a State's or Tribe's plan by the Secretary, the State or Tribe may submit to OSM, on an annual basis, an application for funds to be expended by that State or Tribe on specific projects that are necessary to implement the approval plan. Such annual requests are reviewed and approved by OSM in accordance with the requirements of 30 CFR Part 886.

II. Background on the Navajo Nation Plan

On May 16, 1988, the Secretary of the Interior approved the Navajo Nation plan. General background information on the Navajo Nation plan, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and the approval of the Navajo Nation plan can be found in the May 16, 1988, **Federal Register** (53 FR 17186). Approval of the Navajo Nation plan is codified at 30 CFR 756.13. Subsequent actions concerning the Navajo Nation plan and plan amendments can be found at 30 CFR 756.14.

III. Proposed Amendment

By letter dated January 12, 1995, the Navajo Nation submitted the proposed amendment to its plan pursuant to SMCRA (administrative record No. NA-227). The Navajo Nation submitted the proposed amendment at its own initiative and in response to the final rule **Federal Register** notice acknowledging that the Navajo Nation would amend its AMLR Code of 1987 to provide for the reclamation of interim program coal sites (59 FR 49178, 48181, finding No. 1(f), September 27, 1994; administrative record No. NA-225). The Navajo Nation proposes to add new language to its Code at section 404(b) to provide:

Lands and waters also eligible for reclamation on the Navajo Nation are those which were damaged and abandoned after August 3, 1977 by coal mining processes if the Director finds in writing that:

(1) They were mined for coal or affected by coal mining processes; and

(2) The mining occurred and the site was left in either an unreclaimed or inadequately reclaimed condition between August 4, 1977 and September 18, 1984; or

(3) The mining occurred and the site was left in either an unreclaimed or inadequately reclaimed condition between August 4, 1977 and ending on November 5, 1990, and that the surety of the mining operator became insolvent during such period and as of November 5, 1990, funds immediately available from proceedings relating to such insolvency or from any financial guarantee or other source are not sufficient to provide