

of this chapter, "San Antonio Valley" is a term of viticultural significance.

(b) *Approved Maps.* The appropriate maps for determining the boundary of the San Antonio Valley viticultural area are ten United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 scale topographic maps. They are titled:

(1) Hames Valley, California, 1949, photorevised 1978;

(2) Tierra Redonda Mountain, California, 1949, photorevised 1979;

(3) Bradley, California, 1949, photorevised 1979;

(4) Bryson, California, 1949, photorevised 1979;

(5) Williams Hill, California, 1949, photorevised 1979;

(6) Jolon, California, 1949;

(7) Alder Peak, California, 1995;

(8) Bear Canyon, California, 1949, photoinspeted 1972;

(9) Cosio Knob, California, 1949, photorevised 1984; and

(10) Espinosa Canyon, California, 1949, photorevised 1979.

(c) *Boundary.* The San Antonio Valley viticultural area is located in Monterey County, California. The boundary of the San Antonio Valley viticultural area is as described below:

(1) The beginning point is at the southeast corner of section 14, T23S, R9E, on the Hames Valley map;

(2) From the beginning point, proceed southeast in a straight line for approximately 5 miles across sections 24 and 25, T23S, R9E, and sections 30, 31, and 32, T23S, R10E, and section 5, T24S, R10E, to the southeast corner of section 5, on the Tierra Redonda Mountain map; then

(3) Continue southeast in a straight line for approximately 3.25 miles through sections 9, 16, 15, and 22, T24S, R10E, to the mid-point of the eastern boundary of section 22 on the Bradley map; then

(4) Proceed straight south for approximately 2.5 miles along the eastern boundary line of sections 22, 27, and 34, T24S, R10E, to the Monterey-San Luis Obispo County line; then

(5) Follow the Monterey-San Luis Obispo County line west for approximately 7.0 miles, back onto the Tierra Redonda Mountain map, to the southwest corner of section 34, T24S, R9E; then

(6) Proceed northwest in a straight line for approximately 17 miles, crossing sections 33, 32, 29, 30, and 19, T24S, R9E, and sections 24, 13, 14, 10, 9, and 4, T24S, R8E, on the Bryson map, section 5, T24S, R8E in the southwest corner of the Williams Hill map, section 32, T23S, and sections 23, 22, 15, and 16, T23S, R7E, on the Jolon map, to an 1,890-foot peak located approximately

2,100 feet west of section 8, T23S, R7E; then

(7) Continue northwest in a straight line for approximately 9 miles, crossing the Alder Peak map between Milpitas Grant and Stony Valley, and sections 9, 4, and 5, T22S, R6E, on the Bear Canyon map, to a 2,713-foot peak located in section 5, T22S, R6E; then

(8) Proceed east-northeast in a straight line for approximately 3.9 miles, passing onto the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation and crossing the San Antonio River, to a 2,449-foot peak on the Hunter Liggett Military Reservation; then

(9) Proceed northeast in a straight line for approximately 2.5 miles, crossing Mission Creek, across sections 30 and 29, T21S, R7E, on the Cosio Knob map to the 2,530-foot peak of Cosio Knob; then

(10) From Cosio Knob, proceed east-southeast in a straight line for approximately 9.5 miles across sections 29, 28, 27, 26, 35, and 36, T21S, R7E, sections 31 and 32, T21S, R8E, and sections 5, 4, 3, and 2, T22S, R8E, on the Espinosa Canyon map, to a 1,811-foot peak located in section 2; then

(11) Proceed southeast in a straight line for approximately 10.4 miles across sections 2, 11, 12, and 13, T22S, R8E, and sections 18 and 19, T22S, R9E, on the Espinosa Canyon map, sections 19, 30, 29, 32, and 33, T22S, R9E, on the northwest corner of the Williams Hill map, and sections 4, 3, 10, 11, and 14, T23S, R9E, on the Hames Valley map, to the beginning point at the southeast corner of section 14, T23S, R9E.

Signed: March 6, 2006.

John J. Manfreda,
Administrator.

Approved: March 16, 2006.

Timothy E. Skud,
Deputy Assistant Secretary, (Tax, Trade, and Tariff Policy).

[FR Doc. E6-8854 Filed 6-7-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-31-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 925

[Docket No. MO-038-FOR]

Missouri Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Final rule; approval of amendment.

SUMMARY: We, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), are approving an amendment to the Missouri regulatory program (Missouri program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). Previously we substituted direct Federal enforcement for portions of the Missouri program. Missouri regained full authority for its program on February 1, 2006. Missouri proposed to amend its approved regulatory program and submitted a temporary emergency regulatory program rule (emergency rule) to revise Missouri's regulations regarding bonding of surface coal mining and reclamation operations. The emergency rule will allow Missouri to transition from a "bond pool" approach to bonding to a "full cost bond" approach in a timely manner. Missouri proposed to revise its program to improve operational efficiency.

DATES: *Effective Date:* June 8, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew R. Gilmore, Chief, Alton Field Division. Telephone: (618) 463-6460. E-mail: ifomail@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background on the Missouri Program
- II. Submission of the Amendment
- III. OSM's Findings
- IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments
- V. OSM's Decision
- VI. Procedural Determinations

I. Background on the Missouri Program

Section 503(a) of the Act permits a State to assume primacy for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations on non-Federal and non-Indian lands within its borders by demonstrating that its State program includes, among other things, "a State law which provides for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations in accordance with the requirements of this Act * * *; and rules and regulations consistent with regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this Act." See 30 U.S.C. 1253(a)(1) and (7). On the basis of these criteria, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Missouri program on November 21, 1980. You can find background information on the Missouri program, including the Secretary's findings, the disposition of comments, and conditions of approval, in the November 21, 1980, **Federal Register** (45 FR 77017). You can also find later actions concerning the Missouri program and program amendments at 30 CFR 925.10, 925.12, 925.15, and 925.16.

II. Submission of the Amendment

Previously we substituted direct Federal enforcement for portions of the Missouri program. Missouri regained full authority for its program on February 1, 2006. By letter dated October 31, 2005, Missouri submitted an emergency rule to amend its approved regulatory program under SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*) (Administrative Record No. MO-665). The purpose of the emergency rule is to revise Missouri's regulations regarding bonding of surface coal mining and reclamation operations to allow Missouri to transition from a "bond pool" approach to bonding to a "full cost bond" approach in a timely manner. The amendment will also improve operational efficiency. The emergency rule became effective in Missouri on January 1, 2006. Missouri has indicated that, in the near future, it will submit a permanent regulatory program rule (permanent rule) regarding its bonding regulations and that this rule will contain regulatory language that is substantially identical to the language in this emergency rule. If Missouri submits the permanent rule with language that has the same meaning as the emergency rule, we will publish a final rule and Missouri's permanent rule will become part of the Missouri program.

We announced receipt of the amendment in the November 29, 2005, **Federal Register** (70 FR 71425). In the same document, we opened the public comment period and provided an opportunity for a public hearing or meeting on the adequacy of the

amendment. We did not hold a public hearing or meeting because no one requested one. The public comment period ended on December 29, 2005. We did not receive any comments.

During our review of the amendment, we identified concerns about types of bonds, and criteria and schedule for release of reclamation liability. We notified Missouri of these concerns by telephone and E-mail on November 23 and 29, 2005 (Administrative Record Nos. MO-665.2, MO-665.3, and MO-665.11), and on December 2 and 8, 2005 (Administrative Record Nos. MO-665.5 and MO-665.7).

Missouri responded by E-mail on November 23, 2005, and December 21, 2005, by sending us a revised amendment (Administrative Record Nos. MO-665.2, MO-665.3, and MO-665.10). Because the additional information and/or revisions merely clarified certain provisions of Missouri's amendment, we did not reopen the public comment period.

III. OSM's Findings

Following are the findings we made concerning the amendment under SMCRA and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 732.15 and 732.17. We are approving the amendment as described below. Any revisions that we do not specifically discuss below concern nonsubstantive wording or editorial changes.

A. Minor Revisions to Missouri's Regulations

Missouri's definition for "regulatory authority," found at 10 CSR [Code of

State Regulations] 40-8.010(82), means the Land Reclamation Commission (commission), the director, or their designated representatives and employees unless otherwise specified in the State's rules. Missouri proposed to replace the words "commission" or "regulatory authority" with the word "director" in the following regulations: 10 CSR 40-7.011(2)(A), (3)(C), (4)(B), (6)(B)1., 5., 6., and 7., (6)(C)1. and 8., (6)(D)2., and (6)(D)2.B, 3.B, 3.B(I) and 5.C; and 10 CSR 40-7.041(1)(A), (B)1. and (B)2. Missouri proposed to improve operational efficiency by specifying that the director is to perform certain duties. We find that the substitution of the word "director" for the words "commission" or "regulatory authority" will not render Missouri's regulations less effective than the Federal regulations because in accordance with Missouri's definition for regulatory authority, the director is a regulatory authority as is the commission and the certain duties specified in the regulations cited above are not duties reserved solely for the commission according to section 444.810 of Missouri's surface coal mining law. Therefore, we are approving these revisions.

B. Revisions to Missouri's Regulations That Have the Same Meaning as the Corresponding Provisions of the Federal Regulations

The State regulations listed in the table below contain language that is the same as or similar to the corresponding sections of the Federal regulations.

Topic	Missouri regulation (10 CSR)	Federal counterpart regulation (30 CFR)
Requirement to File a Bond	40-7.011(2)(B)	800.11(d).
Bond Amounts	40-7.011(4)	800.14(a) and (b).
Changing Bond Amounts	40-7.011(5)	800.15.
Personal Bonds Secured by Letters of Credit ...	40-7.011(6)(C)2.	800.21(b)(2).
Definition for "Parent Corporation"	40-7.011(6)(D)1.F.	800.23(a).
Self-Bonding	40-7.011(6)(D)2., (6)(D)2.B., (6)(D)2.D.(I) through (III), (6)(D)3., and (6)(D)6.	800.23(b), (b)(2), (b)(4)(i) through (iii), (c), and (f).
Criteria and schedule for release of reclamation liability.	40-7.021(2)(B)5. and 6.	800.40(c).

Because the above State regulations have the same meaning as the corresponding Federal regulations, we find that they are no less effective than the Federal regulations.

C. 10 CSR 40-7.011 Bond Requirements

1. 10 CSR 40-7.011(1) Definitions

a. Missouri proposed to revise its definition for personal bond in paragraph (1)(C) to read as follows:

Personal bond means an indemnity agreement in a sum certain executed by the permittee as principal which is supported by negotiable certificates of deposit or irrevocable letters of credit which may be drawn upon by the director if reclamation is not completed or if the permit is revoked prior to completion of reclamation.

The Federal definition for collateral bond found at 30 CFR 800.15(b) means an indemnity agreement in a sum certain executed by the permittee as principal which is supported by one or

more of the following: a cash account; negotiable bonds of the United States, a State, or municipality; negotiable certificates of deposit; irrevocable letters of credit; a perfected, first-lien security interest in real property; or other investment-grade rated securities having a rating of AAA, AA, or A or an equivalent rating issued by a nationally recognized securities rating service. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.50 provides for the regulatory authority to forfeit bonds and use funds collected

from bond forfeiture to complete the reclamation plan or portion thereof, on the permit area or increment to which bond coverage applies.

Missouri has chosen to limit the vehicles that support an indemnity agreement to negotiable certificates of deposit and irrevocable letters of credit. Missouri also provides that the director may use funds from personal bonds if reclamation is not completed or if the permit is revoked before the completion of reclamation. We are, therefore, approving Missouri's definition for personal bond because it is no less effective than the above Federal regulations.

b. Missouri proposed to revise its definition for Phase I bond in paragraph (1)(D) to read as follows:

Phase I bond means performance bond conditioned on the release of sixty percent (60%) of the bond upon the successful completion of Phase I reclamation of a permit area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

There is no Federal definition for Phase I bond, however, the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.40(c) states that the regulatory authority may release all or part of the bond for the entire permit area or incremental area if the regulatory authority is satisfied that all the reclamation or a phase of the reclamation covered by the bond or portion thereof has been accomplished in accordance with specific schedules for reclamation of Phases I, II, and III. The schedule for Phase I reclamation, found at 30 CFR 800.40(c)(1), involves the operator completing the backfilling, re-grading (which may include the replacement of topsoil), and drainage control of a bonded area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. When this schedule is complete, the regulatory authority may release 60 percent of the bond. We are approving Missouri's definition for Phase I bond because it is no less effective than the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.40(c)(1).

2. 10 CSR 40-7.011(6) Types of Bonds

a. 10 CSR 40-7.011(6)(A) Surety bonds.

Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (6)(A)8. regarding surety bonds. This paragraph inappropriately refers to a "bank" or "bank charter" when the subject matter of this paragraph pertains to a surety company. Missouri proposed to delete the language that refers to a "bank" or "bank charter." Also, Missouri proposed to correct the incorrect reference citation, 10 CSR 40-7.031(A)(6), so that it correctly reads 10 CSR 40-7.031(1)(F)2. We are approving Missouri's revisions regarding the

deletion of the terms "bank" and "bank charter" because they are inappropriately included in this paragraph that pertains only to surety companies. We are also approving the correction of the incorrect reference citation.

Finally, Missouri proposed that, upon the incapacity of the surety because of bankruptcy or insolvency, or suspension or revocation of its license, the permittee must promptly notify the director. Upon this notification, the director must issue a notice of violation (NOV) against the operator who is without bond coverage specifying that the operator must replace the bond in no more than 90 days. If the NOV is not abated in accordance with the schedule, a cessation order must be issued requiring immediate compliance with 10 CSR 40-3.150(4), Cessation of Operations—Permanent.

The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.16(e)(2) sets forth a requirement that upon the incapacity of a bank or surety company by reason of bankruptcy or insolvency, or suspension or revocation of a charter or license, the permittee must be deemed to be without bond coverage and must promptly notify the regulatory authority. When the regulatory authority receives the notification, it must notify the operator in writing to replace the bond in a period not to exceed 90 days. If the operator does not provide an adequate bond, the operator must cease mining and immediately begin reclamation operations in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

We are approving the above revision because it is no less effective than the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.16(e)(2).

b. 10 CSR 40-7.011(6)(B) Personal bonds secured by certificates of deposit.

i. Missouri proposed to revise paragraphs (6)(B)2., 4., 6., and 7. regarding personal bonds secured by certificates of deposit. Paragraph (6)(B)4. refers to banks or savings and loan companies issuing the certificates of deposit, while paragraphs (6)(B)2., 6., and 7 only refer to banks issuing certificates of deposit. Missouri proposed to revise these paragraphs to make them consistent with paragraph (6)(B)4. Missouri also proposed to remove the term "Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC)" from this paragraph because the FSLIC was abolished and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) now insures savings and loan companies. We are approving these revisions because the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.21(a)(4) implies that banks or savings and loan companies are

acceptable sources for certificates of deposit by its reference to certificates of deposits insured by the FDIC or the FSLIC.

ii. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (6)(B)4. by adding that permittees may not submit, from a single bank or savings and loan company, certificates of deposit totaling more than the maximum insurable amount as determined by the FDIC. We are approving this revision because the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.21(a)(4) contains the provision that an individual certificate of deposit cannot be accepted in an amount that is greater than the maximum insurable amount as determined by the FDIC.

iii. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (6)(B)7. by changing the number of days that an operator has for replacing bond coverage from 60 to 90 days if the operator is without bond because of a bank's or savings and loan company's insolvency or bankruptcy or suspension or revocation of its charter or license. Missouri also proposed to add a requirement to paragraph (6)(B)7. that prohibits an operator from resuming mining operations until after the director has determined that an acceptable bond has been posted. We are approving the revision because the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.16(e) provides that the operator must replace the bond in a period not to exceed 90 days and that the operator must not resume mining operations until the regulatory authority has determined that an acceptable bond has been posted.

c. 10 CSR 40-7.011(6)(C) Personal bonds secured by letters of credit.

i. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (6)(C)4. as follows:

The letter of credit shall be issued by a bank authorized to do business in the United States. If the issuing bank is located in another state, a bank located in Missouri must confirm the letter of credit. Confirmations shall be irrevocable and on a form provided by the director;

The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.21(b)(1) requires letters of credit to be issued by a bank organized or authorized to do business in the United States. Therefore, we are approving Missouri's proposed revision because it is no less effective than the Federal regulation.

ii. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (6)(C)9. to require the bond to have a mechanism by which a bank must give prompt notice to the director and the permittee of any action filed alleging the insolvency or bankruptcy of the bank or permittee or alleging any violations which would result in the suspension or revocation of the bank's charter or license to do business.

Missouri also proposed that upon the incapacity of any bank by reason of insolvency or bankruptcy or suspension or revocation of its charter or license, the permittee shall be deemed to be without bond and the director must, upon notification of the incapacity, issue an NOV to the operator who is without bond. The NOV must specify a period not to exceed 90 days in which to replace the bond coverage. In addition, if the NOV is not abated in accordance with the abatement schedule, a cessation order must be issued requiring the immediate compliance with 10 CSR 40–3.150(4) Cessation of Operations—Permanent and the mining operations must not resume until the director has determined that an acceptable bond has been posted.

The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.16(e)(1) requires the bond to have a mechanism for a bank or surety company to promptly notify the regulatory authority and the permittee of any action filed alleging the insolvency or bankruptcy of the bank, surety company, or permittee or alleging any violations which would result in the suspension or revocation of the bank's or surety company's charter or license to do business. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.16(e)(2) deems the permittee to be without bond coverage upon the incapacity of the bank or surety company by reason of insolvency or bankruptcy or suspension or revocation of its charter or license and requires the permittee to promptly notify the regulatory authority of the incapacity. The regulatory authority upon this notification must notify, in writing, the operator who is without bond coverage, to replace bond coverage in a period not to exceed 90 days. If an adequate bond is not posted, the operator must (1) Cease mining, (2) comply with 30 CFR 816.132 or 30 CFR 817.132, Cessation of Operations: Permanent, and (3) immediately begin reclamation operations in accordance with the reclamation plan.

We are approving Missouri's revisions because they are no less effective than the above Federal regulations.

d. 10 CSR 40–7.011(6)(D) Self-Bonding.

i. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (6)(D)8. by changing the time period for replacing bond from 60 days to 90 days if the financial conditions of the permittee or third-party guarantors change so that they no longer satisfy the requirements for being able to post self bonds. Missouri also proposed that if the bond is not replaced in accordance with the schedule set by the director, the operator must immediately begin to

conduct reclamation operations in accordance with the reclamation plan.

The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.23(g) provides that if the financial conditions of the applicant, parent, or non-parent corporate guarantor change so that the criteria for being able to post self bonds are not met, the permittee must immediately notify the regulatory authority and must post an alternative form of bond within 90 days. If the permittee does not post the alternate bond, the operator must cease mining operations and immediately begin to conduct reclamation operations in accordance with the reclamation plan.

We are approving Missouri's revision because it is no less effective than the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.23(g).

3. 10 CSR 40–7.011(7) Replacement of Bonds

Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (7)(A). This paragraph allows permittees to replace existing surety or personal bonds with other surety or personal bonds. Missouri proposed to add self bonds so that permittees may replace existing surety or personal or self bonds with other surety or personal or self bonds.

The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.30(a) provides that the regulatory authority may allow a permittee to replace existing bonds with other bonds that provide adequate coverage.

We are approving Missouri's revision because it is no less effective than the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.30(a).

D. 10 CSR 40–7.021(2) Criteria and Schedule for Release of Reclamation Liability

1. Missouri proposed to revise paragraphs (2) and (2)(E). Paragraph (2) reads as follows:

(2) Criteria and Schedule for Release of Reclamation Liability. Except as described in subsection (2)(E), reclamation liability shall be released in three (3) phases.

Missouri proposed to delete the phrase, "Except as described in subsection (2)(E)," so that revised paragraph (2) reads as follows:

(2) Criteria and Schedule for Release of Reclamation Liability. Reclamation liability shall be released in three (3) phases.

Paragraph (2)(E) reads as follows:

(E) All bonding liability may be released in full from undisturbed areas when further disturbances from surface mining have ceased. No bonding shall be released from undisturbed areas before Phase I liability applying to adjacent disturbed lands is released, except that the commission may approve a separate bond release from an area of undisturbed land if the area is not excessively small and can be separated from

areas that have been or will be disturbed by a distinct boundary, which can be easily located in the field and which is not so irregular as to make record keeping unusually difficult. The permit shall terminate on all areas where all bonds have been released.

Missouri proposed to delete all the language in this paragraph except the last sentence, so that revised paragraph (2)(E) reads as follows:

(E) The permit shall terminate on all areas where all bonds have been released.

The Federal regulations that pertain to the requirement for releasing Phase I, II, and III performance bonds are found at 30 CFR 800.40(c), however, there are no direct Federal counterpart regulations to 10 CSR 40–7.021(2) and (2)(E). The language being removed from 10 CSR 40–7.021(2) references 10 CSR 40–7.021(2)(E) and both of these paragraphs pertain to the full release of bond, under certain conditions, from undisturbed areas where further disturbance from surface mining have ceased. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.15(c) allows bond adjustments which involve undisturbed land and states that these adjustments are not considered bond release subject to the procedures of 30 CFR 800.40. We are approving the removal of the language from 10 CSR 40–7.021(2) and (2)(E) because the removal of this language is not inconsistent with and will not render Missouri's regulations less effective than the Federal regulations.

2. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (2)(A) regarding the criteria for release of Phase I liability. Paragraph (2)(A) reads as follows:

(A) An area shall qualify for release of Phase I liability upon completion of backfilling and grading, topsoiling, drainage control and initial seeding of the disturbed area. Phase I bond shall be retained on unreclaimed temporary structures, such as roads, siltation structures, diversions and stockpiles, on an acre for acre basis.

Missouri proposed to delete the phrase, "on an acre for acre basis," from the last sentence of this paragraph.

The Federal counterpart regulation is found at 30 CFR 800.40(c)(1) and provides that Phase I reclamation is complete after the operator completes the backfilling, regrading (which may include the replacement of topsoil), and drainage control of the bonded area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. We are approving the deletion of the above phrase from Missouri's regulation because it will not render the State regulation less effective than the Federal counterpart regulation.

3. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (2)(B)4. regarding the criteria for qualifying for release of Phase II liability to read as follows:

4. A plan for achieving Phase III release has been approved for the area requested for release and the plan has been incorporated into the permit;

There is no direct Federal counterpart regulation for paragraph (2)(B)4. However, the Federal regulation at 30 CFR 784.13(a) requires each application to contain a plan for the reclamation of the lands within the proposed permit area. Missouri's proposed regulation is no less effective than the above Federal regulations and we are approving it.

4. Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (2)(D) regarding bond release by deleting the language and replacing it with new language and by adding new paragraphs 1. through 3. to read as follows:

(D) Bonds release.

1. Phase I—After the operator completes the backfilling, grading, topsoiling, drainage control, and initial seeding of the disturbed area in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, the director shall release 60 percent of the bond for the applicable area.

2. Phase II—After vegetation has been established on the regraded mined lands in accordance with the approved reclamation plan, the director shall release an additional amount of bond. When determining the amount of bond to be released after successful vegetation has been established, the director shall retain that amount of bond for the vegetated area which would be sufficient to cover the cost of reestablishing vegetation if completed by a third party and for the period specified for in 10 CSR 40-7.021(1)(B) for reestablishing vegetation.

3. Phase III—After the operator has completed successfully all surface coal mining and reclamation activities, the director shall release the remaining portion of the bond, but not before the expiration period specified for the period of liability in 10 CSR 40-7.021(1)(B).

The Federal counterpart regulations are found at 30 CFR 800.40(c)(1) through (c)(3) and set forth the criteria for releasing bond based upon the three phases of reclamation. We are approving Missouri's proposed revision because it is substantively the same as the Federal counterpart regulations.

E. 10 CSR 40-7.031 Permit Revocation, Bond Forfeiture and Authorization To Expend Reclamation Fund Monies

Missouri proposed to revise paragraph (2) regarding the procedures for permit suspension or revocation and paragraph (4) regarding declaration of permit revocation. More specifically, Missouri proposed to revise paragraphs (2)(E)1. and (4), and to delete paragraphs

(2)(E)2.C and D in order to remove provisions related to the Missouri Coal Mine Land Reclamation Fund. Missouri also proposed to add new paragraphs (4)(A) through (B)2. to specify what monies the director may use for reclamation purposes for bonds forfeited before January 1, 2006, and for those forfeited on or after January 1, 2006.

The Federal regulations at 30 CFR 800.11(a) through (d) set forth the provisions for a permit applicant to file, with the regulatory authority, a bond or bonds for performance that is conditioned upon the faithful performance of all the requirements of the Act, the regulatory program, the permit, and the reclamation plan. The regulations also include a "full cost bond" bonding system. The Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.11(e) provides that we may approve an alternative bonding system as part of a State program. The previously approved Missouri Coal Mine Land Reclamation Fund is a "bond pool" fund that is part of Missouri's alternative bonding system and is used to complete reclamation on permit sites for which the permits have been revoked and the associated bonds have been forfeited. Missouri proposed to terminate its alternative bonding system and to adopt a "full cost bond" bonding system effective January 1, 2006. With this transition to a "full cost bond" bonding system, Missouri proposed that only permit sites whose bonds have been forfeited before January 1, 2006, are eligible to have monies expended from the "bond pool" fund for the purpose of completing reclamation of the sites. Missouri also proposed that permit sites whose bonds have been forfeited on or after January 1, 2006, are eligible to have monies expended from the forfeited "full cost bonds" for the purpose of completing reclamation of the sites. We are approving Missouri's revisions as they are no less effective than the Federal regulations because permit sites under the alternative bonding system and the "full cost bond" bonding system have funds available for reclaiming coal mining and reclamation sites whose bonds have been forfeited.

Finally, Missouri proposed to add new paragraphs (4)(B)1. and 2. to read as follows:

1. In the event the estimated amount forfeited is insufficient to pay for the full cost of reclamation, the operator shall be liable for remaining costs. The director may complete or authorize completion of reclamation of the bonded area and may recover from the operator all costs of reclamation in excess of the amount forfeited.

2. In the event the amount of performance bond forfeited is more than the amount

necessary to complete reclamation, the unused funds shall be returned by the director to the party from whom they were collected.

The Federal counterpart regulations are found at 30 CFR 800.50(d)(1) and (2). We are approving Missouri's revisions because they are substantively identical to the Federal regulations.

IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments

Public Comments

We asked for public comments on the amendment, but did not receive any.

Federal Agency Comments

On November 10, 2005, and December 13, 2005, under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(i) and section 503(b) of SMCRA, we requested comments on the amendment from various Federal agencies with an actual or potential interest in the Missouri program (Administrative Record Nos. MO-665.1 and MO-665.9). We did not receive any comments.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Concurrence and Comments

Under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(ii), we are required to get a written concurrence from EPA for those provisions of the program amendment that relate to air or water quality standards issued under the authority of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*) or the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*). None of the revisions that Missouri proposed to make in this amendment pertain to air or water quality standards. Therefore, we did not ask EPA to concur on the amendment.

On November 10, 2005, and December 13, 2005, under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(i), we requested comments on the amendment from EPA (Administrative Record Nos. MO-665.1 and MO-665.9). EPA did not respond to our request.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)

Under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(4), we are required to request comments from the SHPO and ACHP on amendments that may have an effect on historic properties. On November 10, 2005, and December 13, 2005, we requested comments on Missouri's amendment (Administrative Record No. MO-665.1 and MO-665.9), but neither responded to our request.

V. OSM's Decision

Based on the above findings, we approve the amendment Missouri sent us on October 31, 2005, and as revised on November 23, 2005, and December 21, 2005.

To implement this decision, we are amending the Federal regulations at 30 CFR part 925, which codify decisions concerning the Missouri program. We find that good cause exists under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) to make this final rule effective immediately. Section 503(a) of SMCRA requires that the State's program demonstrate that the State has the capability of carrying out the provisions of the Act and meeting its purposes. Making this rule effective immediately will expedite that process. SMCRA requires consistency of State and Federal standards.

VI. Procedural Determinations

Executive Order 12630—Takings

This rule does not have takings implications. This determination is based on the analysis performed for the counterpart Federal regulations.

Executive Order 12866—Regulatory Planning and Review

This rule is exempted from review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 12988—Civil Justice Reform

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 and has determined that this rule meets the applicable standards of subsections (a) and (b) of that section. However, these standards are not applicable to the actual language of State regulatory programs and program amendments because each program is drafted and promulgated by a specific State, not by OSM. Under sections 503 and 505 of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1253 and 1255) and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on proposed State regulatory programs and program amendments submitted by the States must be based solely on a determination of whether the submittal is consistent with SMCRA and its implementing Federal regulations and whether the other requirements of 30 CFR parts 730, 731, and 732 have been met.

Executive Order 13132—Federalism

This rule does not have Federalism implications. SMCRA delineates the roles of the Federal and State governments with regard to the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations. One of the purposes of SMCRA is to "establish a nationwide program to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations." Section 503(a)(1) of SMCRA requires that State laws

regulating surface coal mining and reclamation operations be "in accordance with" the requirements of SMCRA, and section 503(a)(7) requires that State programs contain rules and regulations "consistent with" regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to SMCRA.

Executive Order 13175—Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

In accordance with Executive Order 13175, we have evaluated the potential effects of this rule on Federally-recognized Indian tribes and have determined that the rule does not have substantial direct effects on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. This determination is based on the fact that the Missouri program does not regulate coal exploration and surface coal mining and reclamation operations on Indian lands. Therefore, the Missouri program has no effect on Federally-recognized Indian tribes.

Executive Order 13211—Regulations That Significantly Affect The Supply, Distribution, or Use of Energy

On May 18, 2001, the President issued Executive Order 13211 which requires agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for a rule that is (1) considered significant under Executive Order 12866, and (2) likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. Because this rule is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866 and is not expected to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy, a Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

National Environmental Policy Act

This rule does not require an environmental impact statement because section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on proposed State regulatory program provisions do not constitute major Federal actions within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain information collection requirements that require approval by OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507 *et seq.*).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Department of the Interior certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*). The State submittal, which is the subject of this rule, is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an economic analysis was prepared and certification made that such regulations would not have a significant economic effect upon a substantial number of small entities. In making the determination as to whether this rule would have a significant economic impact, the Department relied upon the data and assumptions for the counterpart Federal regulations.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This rule: (a) Does not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million; (b) Will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; and (c) Does not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S.-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises. This determination is based upon the fact that the State submittal, which is the subject of this rule, is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an analysis was prepared and a determination made that the Federal regulation was not considered a major rule.

Unfunded Mandates

This rule will not impose an unfunded mandate on State, local, or tribal governments or the private sector of \$100 million or more in any given year. This determination is based upon the fact that the State submittal, which is the subject of this rule, is based upon counterpart Federal regulations for which an analysis was prepared and a determination made that the Federal regulations did not impose an unfunded mandate.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 925

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: April 12, 2006.

Leonard Meier,

Acting Regional Director, Mid-Continent Region.

■ For the reasons set out in the preamble, 30 CFR part 925 is amended as set forth below:

PART 925—MISSOURI

■ 1. The authority citation for part 925 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*

■ 2. Section 925.15 is amended in the table by adding a new entry in

chronological order by “Date of final publication” to read as follows:

§ 925.15 Approval of Missouri regulatory program amendments.

* * * * *

Original amendment submission date	Date of final publication	Citation/description
October 31, 2005	June 8, 2006	10 CSR 40–7.011(1)(C) and (D), (2)(A) and (B), (3)(C), (4) and (5), (6)(A)6., 8., & 9., (6)(B)1., 2., & 4. through 7., (6)(C)1. through 4., 8. & 9., (6)(D)1.F., 2., 2.B., 2.D.(I) through (III), 3., 5.C., 6., 8., and (7)(A); 10 CSR 40–7.021(1)(A), (2), (2)(A), (2)(B)3. through 6., (2)(C)2., (2)(D) and (E); 10 CSR 40–7.031(2)(E)1. and 2., (2)(E)2.C. & D., (3)(C), and (4) through (4)(B)2.; and 10 CSR 40–7.041.

[FR Doc. E6–8926 Filed 6–7–06; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 944

[UT–043–FOR]

Utah Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Final rule; approval of amendment.

SUMMARY: We are approving a revised amendment to the Utah regulatory program (the “Utah program”) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). Utah proposed changes to the Utah Administrative Rules concerning permit change, renewal, transfer, sale and assignment, cross sections and maps, processing and approval of extensions to the approved permit area, determining civil penalty amounts, and assessing daily civil penalties. Utah revised its program to clarify and strengthen certain parts of the rules.

DATES: *Effective Date:* June 8, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James F. Fulton, Chief, Denver Field Division; telephone: (303) 844–1400, extension 1424; e-mail address: jfulton@osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background on the Utah Program
- II. Submission of the Proposed Amendment
- III. OSM’s Findings
- IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments
- V. OSM’s Decision
- VI. Procedural Determinations

I. Background on the Utah Program

Section 503(a) of the Act permits a State to assume primacy for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations on non-Federal and non-Indian lands within its borders by demonstrating that its State program includes, among other things, “a State law which provides for the regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations in accordance with the requirements of this Act * * *; and rules and regulations consistent with regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this Act.” See 30 U.S.C. 1253(a)(1) and (7). On the basis of these criteria, the Secretary of the Interior conditionally approved the Utah program on January 21, 1981. You can find background information on the Utah program, including the Secretary’s findings, the disposition of comments, and conditions of approval of the Utah program in the January 21, 1981, **Federal Register** (46 FR 5899). You also can find later actions concerning Utah’s program and program amendments at 30 CFR 944.10, 944.15 and 944.30.

II. Submission of the Proposed Amendment

By letter dated November 28, 2005, Utah sent us an amendment to its program (Administrative Record Number UT–1181) under SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*). We received the amendment on December 28, 2005. Utah sent the amendment to make the changes at its own initiative. The State proposed to revise five sections of its coal rules.

In a revision of Utah Administrative Rule (Utah Admin. R.) 645–301–160, the State proposed to add a heading that reads, “Permit change, renewal, transfer, sale, and assignment.” Following that heading is a proposed reference to procedures to change, renew, transfer, assign, or sell existing coal mining and

reclamation permit rights that are found at Utah Admin. R. 645–303.

The amendment also proposed to change Utah’s permit application requirements for cross sections and maps at Utah Admin. R. 645–301–512.100. This change would allow preparation of certain cross sections and maps by a professional geologist or a qualified, registered, professional land surveyor. The State also proposed editorial changes to this section to make it read more clearly with the proposed substantive revisions described above.

A proposed revision to Utah Admin. R. 645–303–222 would require applications for extensions to the approved permit area to be processed and approved using the procedural requirements of Utah Admin. R. 645–303–226 for review and processing of significant permit revisions. As part of this proposed change, the State also proposed to remove the requirement at Utah Admin. R. 645–303–222 that extensions to the approved permit area, except for incidental boundary changes, be processed and approved as new permit applications and not be approved under Utah Admin. R. 645–303–221 through R. 645–303–228.

Another revision proposed in this amendment would change Utah’s schedule of points and corresponding dollar amounts for civil penalty assessments found at Utah Admin. R. 645–401–330. The proposed revision changed the range of civil monetary penalties from \$10 through \$3,560 to \$22 through \$4,840. It also changed the range of assessed points corresponding to those civil monetary penalties from 1 through 87 points to 1 through 64 points.

Finally, the State’s amendment proposed a change at Utah Admin. R. 645–401–410 that would require an assessment officer to assess a civil penalty for a minimum of two separate