Indiana on July 1, 1999. We approve the rules that Indiana proposed with the provision that they be published in identical form to the rules submitted to and reviewed by OSM and the public.

To implement this decision, we are amending the Federal regulations at 30 CFR Part 914, which codify decisions concerning the Indiana program. We are making this final rule effective immediately to expedite the State program amendment process and to encourage Indiana to bring its program into conformity with the Federal standards. SMCRA requires consistency of State and Federal standards.

For reasons discussed in finding III.A., we are also amending 30 CFR Part 914 by removing the approval of an amendment that Indiana submitted on December 7, 1994.

VI. Procedural Determinations

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) exempts this rule from review under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

Executive Order 12988

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, 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 since 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 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on State regulatory programs and program amendments 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.

National Environmental Policy Act

This rule does not require an environmental impact statement since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on 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 has determined 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 corresponding 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. Therefore, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously published by OSM will be implemented by the State. 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 corresponding Federal regulations.

Unfunded Mandates

OSM has determined and certifies under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1502 *et seq.*) that this rule will not impose a cost of $100 million or more in any given year on local, state, or tribal governments or private entities.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 914

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: October 6, 1999.

Brent Wahlquist,

Regional Director, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 30 CFR part 914 is amended as set forth below:

PART 914—INDIANA

1. The authority citation for part 914 continues to read as follows:

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

2. Section 914.15 is amended in the table by removing the entry for ''Original amendment submission date'' of December 7, 1994, and by adding a new entry in chronological order by ''Date of final publication'' to read as follows:

§ 914.15 Approval of Indiana regulatory program amendments.

* * * * *

Original amendment submission date	Date of final publication	Citation/description
*	*	*
July 1, 1999	October 26, 1999	310 IAC 12–8–4.1; –8.1.

[FR Doc. 99–27846 Filed 10–25–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–05–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Parts 924

[SPATS No. MS–015–FOR]

Mississippi Regulatory Program

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

ACTION: Final rule; approval of amendment.

SUMMARY: The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is approving an amendment to the Mississippi regulatory program (Mississippi program) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Mississippi proposed revisions to regulations concerning formal hearings; bond release; hydrologic balance; cessation orders; formal review of citations; definitions; areas where mining is prohibited or limited; performance bonds; pre-blasting surveys; permitting; inspections; coal exploration; qualified laboratories; disposal of excess spoil; coal mine waste impounding structures; backfilling and grading; roads; and coal preparation plant performance standards. The State also proposed to correct typographical errors and make other non-substantive revisions. Mississippi intends to revise its program to be consistent with the corresponding Federal regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 26, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arthur W. Abbs, Director, Birmingham Field Office, Office of Surface Mining,

135 Gemini Circle, Suite 215, Homewood, Alabama 35209. Telephone: (205) 290–7282. Internet: aabbs@balgw.osmre.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

I. Background on the Mississippi Program

On September 4, 1980, the Secretary of the Interior approved the Mississippi program. You can find background information on the Mississippi program, including the Secretary's findings and the disposition of comments, in the September 4, 1980, **Federal Register** (45 FR 58520). You can find later actions on the program at 30 CFR 924.10, 924.15, 924.16, and 924.17.

II. Submission of the Proposed Amendment

By letter dated July 1, 1999 (Administrative Record No. MS–0373), Mississippi sent us an amendment to its program under SMCRA. Mississippi sent the amendment in response to required program amendments at 30 CFR 924.16(f)–(h), (j), (k), (m), and (n). The amendment also included changes made at Mississippi's own initiative. Mississippi proposed to amend the Mississippi Surface Coal Mining Regulations.

We announced receipt of the amendment in the July 26, 1999, **Federal Register** (64 FR 40326). 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 proposed amendment. The public comment period closed on August 25, 1999. Because no one requested a public hearing or meeting, we did not hold one.

III. Director's Findings

Following, under SMCRA and the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 732.15 and 732.17, are our findings concerning the amendment. Any revisions that we do not discuss below concern minor wording changes, or revised cross-references and paragraph notations to reflect organizational changes resulting from this amendment.

A. Non-Substantive Revisions and Correction of Typographical Errors

1. Mississippi assigned an incorrect section number (Section 5343.) to its regulatory provisions for ''Use of Explosives: Pre-blasting Survey.'' Mississippi proposed to change this incorrect section number to Section 5349.

2. Mississippi proposed to correct typographical errors and to make other non-substantive revisions in the following sections: Section 105. Definitions; Section 407. Contents of Application for Exemption; Section 413. Conditions of Exemption and Right of Inspection and Entry; Section 1105. Areas Where Mining is Prohibited or Limited; Section 2103. Permit Requirements for Exploration Removing More Than 250 Tons of Coal, or Occurring on Lands Designated as Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations; Section 2105. Coal Exploration Compliance Duties; Section 2313. Permit Term Information; Section 3113. Review of Permit Applications; Section 3121. Permit Terms; Section 3509. Permit Renewals: Completed Applications; Section 3713. Qualified Laboratories; Section 5359. Disposal of Excess Spoil: General Requirements; Section 5377. Coal mine waste: Impounding structures; Section 5391. Backfilling and Grading: General Grading Requirements; Section 5393. Backfilling and grading: Thin Overburden; Section 53111. Roads: General; Section 5703. Steep Slopes: Backfilling and grading: Steep slopes; and Section 5903. Coal Preparation Plants: Performance Standards.

Correction of these typographical errors and other non-substantive revisions clarify the existing regulations. These revisions are no less effective than the Federal regulations and will not negatively impact the effectiveness of the Mississippi regulations.

B. Revisions to Mississippi's Regulations that are Required at 30 CFR 924.16

1. Section 3301. Formal Hearing

In accordance with the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 775.11(b)(2) and 43 CFR 4.1367, we required the State to add provisions at section 3301(b) that pertain to temporary relief concerning permit decisions. Mississippi revised paragraph (b) to read as follows:

> Any party may file a petition for temporary relief from the Permit Board's action in conjunction with the filing of the request for a formal hearing or at any time before a final decision is issued by the Permit Board after a formal hearing.

We find that the provision at section 3301(b) is consistent with and no less effective than the counterpart Federal regulations at 30 CFR 775.11(b)(2) and 43 CFR 4.1367. Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(f).

2. Section 4501. Procedures for Seeking Release of Performance Bond

Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (c) to clarify that Federal, State, and local governmental agencies which have special expertise with respect to any environmental, social, or economic impact involved in the coal mining operation are allowed to file written objections to the proposed bond release and to request public hearings. We find that the provision at section 4501(c) is consistent with and no less effective than the counterpart Federal regulation at 30 CFR 800.40(f) and no less stringent than section 519(f) of SMCRA. Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(g).

3. Section 5333. Hydrologic Balance: Surface- and Ground-Water Monitoring

Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (b)(3)(A) to require the operator to demonstrate that the coal mining operation has minimized disturbance to the hydrologic balance in the permit and adjacent areas. We find that the provision at section 5333 is substantively identical to and is no less effective than the counterpart Federal regulation at 30 CFR 816.41(e)(3)(i). Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(h).

4. Section 6501. Cessation Orders

Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (c)(4) to replace a reference to § 53–9–69 with a reference to § 6509. We find that the provision at section 6501(c)(4) is substantively the same as and no less effective than the counterpart Federal regulation at 30 CFR 843.11(c)(4). Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(j).

5. Section 6511. Formal Review of Citations

a. At paragraph (a), Mississippi proposed to add a requirement that the Commission notify parties in writing of the time and place of the hearing at least five working days before the hearing date. We find that the provision at section 6511(a) is consistent with and no less stringent than section 525(a)(2) of SMCRA and no less effective than the Federal regulation at 43 CFR 4.1167. Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(k). Mississippi also proposed to revise paragraph (a) to require interested parties to request formal reviews within

30 days of the date of the Commission, the Executive Director, or the Executive Director's authorized representative took the action that is being contested during the formal review. We are approving this revision because it is consistent with and no less stringent than section 525(a)(1) of SMCRA.

b. Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (1)(1) by changing the reference room § 6511(e) to § 6511(a). We find that the provision at section 6511(1)(1) is substantively identical to and no less effective than the counterpart Federal regulation at 43 CFR 4.1186(a)(1). Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(m).

c. Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (n)(9) to read as follows:

(9) Any party desiring to appeal a decision of the Commission granting or denying an application for expedited review may appeal to and seek relief from the appropriate chancery court pursuant to § 53–9–77.

We find that the provision at section 6511(n)(9) is consistent with and no less effective than the counterpart Federal regulation at 43 CFR 4.1187(f). Therefore, we are approving this revision and removing the required program amendment at 30 CFR 924.16(n).

C. Revisions to Mississippi's Regulations That the State Made at Its Own Initiative

1. Section 105. Definitions

Mississippi proposed to revise the definition for performance bond to read as follows:

Performance Bond—a surety bond, collateral bond, letter or letters of credit, or self-bond, or a combination thereof, by which a permittee assures faithful performance of all the requirements of the act, these regulations, this program and the requirements of the permit and reclamation plan.

In the above definition for performance bond, Mississippi added ''letter or letters of credit.'' We are approving this revision because a letter or letters of credit is a form of collateral bond in accordance with the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 800.21(b). Therefore, Mississippi's definition of performance bond is no less effective than the Federal definition of performance bond at 30 CFR 701.5.

2. Section 1105. Areas Where Mining Is Prohibited or Limited

Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (c) to read as follows:

(c) on any lands which will adversely affect any publicly owned park or any place included on the National Register of Historic Places, unless approved jointly by the Permit Board and the federal, state or local agency with jurisdiction over the park or place;

Mississippi is clarifying that the Mississippi Environmental Quality Permit Board (Permit Board) and not the Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality (Commission) is the State entity which must along with certain other government agencies jointly approve surface coal mining operations on any lands which will adversely affect any publicly owned park or any place included on the National Registry of Historic Places. Therefore, we are approving this revision because it is substantively the same as the counterpart Federal regulation at 30 CFR 761.11(c).

3. Section 3119. Permit Approval and Denial Actions

Mississippi proposed to add new paragraph (b)(2) to read as follows:

(2) Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this Section, no time limit under the act or this Section requiring the Permit Board to act shall be considered expired from the time the Permit Board requests further information under § 3113(d) until the final decision of the Permit Board.

Mississippi's proposed new regulation pertains to decisions regarding permit issuance. Mississippi proposed that time limits imposed by its Act or this section of its regulations will not expire during a certain time period if the Permit Board requests, from permit applicants, information on current violations by those permit applicants. The time period runs from the time the Permit Board requests the information until the time the Permit Board makes its final decision on the permit.

If a current violation exists, section 3113(d) of the Mississippi regulations mandates that the Permit Board require the applicant or the person who owns or controls the applicant to submit certain information to the Permit Board before it can issue a permit. This requirement is substantively identical to the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 773.15(b)(1) (i)–(ii). Also, section 3113(b) states that the Permit Board shall not issue a permit if any surface coal mining and reclamation operation owned or controlled by the applicant or any person who owns or controls the applicant is currently in violation of the State Act, Federal Act, any corresponding State or Federal regulations, a State program, or any Federal or State law, rule, or regulation pertaining to air or water environmental protection. This regulation is substantively the same as the counterpart Federal regulation at 30 CFR 773.15(b)(1).

Although, we do not have a counterpart Federal regulation or statute to Mississippi's proposed new regulation and in light of the provisions in the State regulations at sections 3113 (b) and (d) and the Federal regulations at CFR 773.15 (b) and (b)(1) (i)–(ii), it makes sense that any corresponding time frames imposed during the permit approval process must be adjusted accordingly. The adjustments are necessary because of the time that will be required for the State to make the request to applicants for information on current violations and because of the time that will be required for the applicant to receive the request and to respond to it. Therefore, we are approving the addition of this new proposed regulation because it is not inconsistent with the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 773.15 (b) and (b)(1) (i)–(ii).

4. Section 4310. Form of the Performance Bond

Mississippi proposed to add the language ''a letter or letters of credit'' to the list of acceptable forms of performance bond at new paragraph (4). Mississippi also redesignated old paragraph (4) as new paragraph (5). We are approving the revision because a letter or letters of credit is a form of collateral bond in accordance with the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 800.21(b).

5. Section 4303. Terms and Conditions of the Bond

Paragraph (g) of this section pertains to letters of credit. Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (g)(6) by replacing the term ''indemnity agreement'' with the term ''letter of credit.'' We are approving this revision because Mississippi is merely identifying the form of indemnity agreement which, in this particular regulation, is a letter of credit.

6. Section 4701. General

Mississippi proposed to revise paragraph (a) to read as follows:

(a) Except as in compliance with § 4701(b), the Commission shall proceed to cause the forfeiture of all or part of a bond or other collateral accepted pursuant to Chapter 43 for any permit where required or authorized by § 4705.

Mississippi is clarifying that it can proceed to forfeit in whole or in part, not just bonds, but other collateral accepted according to Chapter 43. Form, Condition and Terms of Performance Bonds and Liability Insurance. Mississippi is also clarifying that the forfeiture will occur unless it decides to

withhold forfeiture according to section 4701(b). We are approving this revision because it is consistent with and no less effective than the Federal regulations at 30 CFR 800.50 (a), (a)(1) and (2).

IV. Summary and Disposition of Comments

Public Comments

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

Federal Agency Comments

Under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(i), we requested comments on the amendment from various Federal agencies with an actual or potential interest in the Mississippi program (Administrative Record No. MS–0376). We received comments from two agencies.

Comment 1: In a letter dated July 30, 1999, the Mine Safety and Health Administration stated that it had no comments regarding the amendment (Administrative Record No. MS–0377).

Response: No response is necessary.

Comment 2: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a letter dated August 18, 1999, stated that the proposed amendment should specify all measures in the International System of Units (SI) in lieu of the inch-pound (IP) system (Administrative Record No. MS–0379).

Response: The appropriateness of Mississippi's use of the IP system is not at issue in this rulemaking because the State did not propose any changes pertaining to measures. In addition, the Federal regulations at 30 CFR Part 700 to end do not require states to specify measures in the SI.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(ii), we are required to get a written agreement from the 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 Mississippi proposed to make in this amendment pertain to air or water quality standards. Therefore, we did not ask the EPA to agree on the amendment.

Under 30 CFR 732.17(h)(11)(i), we requested comments on the amendment from the EPA (Administrative Record No. MS–0377). The EPA did not respond to our request.

State Historical 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 July 19, 1999, we requested comments on Mississippi's amendment (Administrative Record No. MS–0377), but neither responded to our request.

V. Director's Decision

Based on the above findings, we approve the amendment as sent to us by Mississippi on July 1, 1999. We approve the regulations that Mississippi proposed with the provision that they be published in identical form to the regulations sent to and reviewed by OSM and the public.

To implement this decision, we are amending the Federal regulations at 30 CFR Part 924, which codify decisions concerning the Mississippi program. We are making this final rule effective immediately to expedite the State program amendment process and to encourage Mississippi to bring its program into conformity with the Federal standards. SMCRA requires consistency of State and Federal standards.

VI. Procedural Determinations

Executive Office 12866

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) exempts this rule from review under Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

Executive Order 12988

The Department of the Interior has conducted the reviews required by section 3 of Executive Order 12988 (Civil Justice Reform) and has determined that, to the extent allowed by law, 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 since each such 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 30 CFR 730.11, 732.15, and 732.17(h)(10), decisions on State regulatory programs and program amendments 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.

National Environmental Policy Act

This rule does not require an environmental impact statement since section 702(d) of SMCRA (30 U.S.C. 1292(d)) provides that agency decisions on 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 has determined 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 corresponding 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. Therefore, this rule will ensure that existing requirements previously published by OSM will be implemented by the State. 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 corresponding Federal regulations.

Unfunded Mandates

OSM has determined and certifies under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1502 *et seq.*) that this rule will not impose a cost of $100 million or more in any given year on local, state, or tribal governments or private entities.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 924

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Dated: October 4, 1999.

Brent Wahlquist,

Regional Director, Mid-Continent Regional Coordinating Center.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 30 CFR Part 924 is amended as set forth below:

PART 924—MISSISSIPPI

1. The authority citation for Part 924 continues to read as follows:

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

2. Section 924.15 is amended in the table by adding a new entry in chronological order by ''Date of final publication'' to read as follows:

§ 924.15 Approval of Mississippi regulatory program amendments.

* * * * *

Original amendment submission date	Date of final publication	Citation/description
*	*	* * * * *
July 1, 1999	October 26, 1999.	Sections 105; 407; 413; 1105 (c)–(d); 2103; 2105; 2313; 3113; 3119; 3121; 3301(b); 3509; 3713; 4301; 4303(g)(6); 4501(c); 4701(a); 5333(b)(3)(A); 5349; 5359; 5377; 5391; 5393; 53111; 5703; 5903; 6501(c)(4); 6511 (a), (l)(1), & (n)(9).

§ 924.16 [Amended]

3. Section 924.16 is amended by removing and reserving paragraphs (f), (g), (h), (j), (k), (m) and (n).

[FR Doc. 99–27845 Filed 10–25–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–05–M

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Mailing Online Market Test: Changes in Domestic Classifications and Fees—Final Rule

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule; market test termination.

SUMMARY: This serves notice that the United States Postal Service is terminating the Mailing Online market test on October 29, 1999. The Postal Service originally intended that the test, which began on October 30, 1998, would end at a time tied to action on a Request for a Mailing Online experiment. However, such Request has been delayed. Postal management has made the operational decision to end the market test, in accordance with the Postal Rate Commission's Rules of Practice which specify that market tests ordinarily last only one year. This rule makes conforming changes to the Domestic Mail Manual.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 29, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Lettmann, (202) 268–6261, or Kenneth N. Hollies, (202) 268–3083.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 15, 1998, pursuant to its authority under 39 U.S.C. section 3621, *et seq.*, the Postal Service filed with the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) a Request for a Recommended Decision on a Market Test Classification and Fee Schedule and a Recommended Decision on an Experimental Classification and Fee Schedule for Mailing Online Service. The PRC designated the filing as Docket No. MC98–1 and published a notice of the filing, with a description of the Postal Service's proposals, in the **Federal Register** on July 23, 1998 (63 FR 39600).

The Postal Service's Request to the PRC proposed that the Postal Service be permitted to establish new classifications and fees for Mailing Online, first as a market test and later as an experiment. The market test was to permit assessment of the features and viability of the new service while providing input for PRC and Postal Service consideration of the experiment and perhaps a permanent form of Mailing Online. The market test was to be a limited one involving up to 5,000 customers, starting in Tampa, Florida and the northeastern United States.

On October 7, 1998, the Commission issued its favorable Opinion and Recommended Decision on the market test. The Postal Service Governors voted on October 16, 1998, to accept the Commission's recommendation. Operation of the market test subsequently commenced on October 30, 1998.

On May 3, 1999, the Board of Governors, in Resolution No. 99–5, directed the withdrawal of the request for an experiment in consideration of major changes that had occurred in the structure of the Postal Service's presence on the Internet. These changes rendered inaccurate the factual foundation underlying the earlier request for a Mailing Online experiment.

Accordingly, the market test is being terminated at the end of one year based on operational considerations. This decision also accords with the PRC's Rules of Practice, 39 CFR 3001.162, which specify that market tests ordinarily last only up to one year. The Postal Service is now providing notice that operation of the Mailing Online market test will cease at approximately 1:59 p.m. EST on Friday, October 29, 1999.

Background

Mailing Online is a service that allows postal customers with access to a personal computer and the Internet to transmit electronic documents to a postal Web site for subsequent batching and transmission to a contract printer, who creates and presents the physical mailpieces for entry into the mailstream. Payment for postage and mailpiece preparation is made Online via credit card.

The Postal Service remains committed to Mailing Online and has not abandoned the project despite termination of the market test. Development of the single-channel USPS.com Internet presence continues and activities related to Mailing Online are being closely coordinated, although they are both under development and still being tested. Postal management hopes to ask the Governors to authorize the filing of a new request for a Mailing Online experiment, based upon the USPS.com architecture, in the near future.

Because of the limited scope of the market test, the Postal Service earlier did not solicit comment on its implementation. Similarly, the Postal Service finds no need to solicit comment on its termination.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal Service.

For the reasons discussed above, the Postal Service hereby adopts the following amendments to the Domestic Mail Manual, which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 39 CFR part 111).

PART 111—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Amend the Domestic Mail Manual as follows:

E Eligibility

* * * * *

E110 Basic Standards

1.0 CLASSIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

* * * * *

1.3 Matter Closed Against Postal Inspection

[Revise 1.3 by removing reference to documents created and mailed by means of Mailing Online to read as follows:]

Matter closed against postal inspection must be mailed as First-Class Mail or Express Mail. Electronic documents created for possible