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(d) For coal lease modification applications involving lands in the National Forest System, BLM will submit the lease modification application to the Secretary of Agriculture for consent, for completion or consideration of an environmental assessment, for the attachment of appropriate lease stipulations, and for making any other findings prerequisite to lease issuance.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 67 FR 63567, Oct. 15, 2002]

Subpart 3435—Lease Exchange

§ 3435.0-1 Purpose.

The objective of these regulations is to provide methods for exchange of coal resources when it would be in the public interest to shift the impact of mineral operations from leased lands or portions of leased lands to currently unleased lands to preserve public resource or social values, and to carry out Congressional directives authorizing coal lease exchanges.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982]

§ 3435.0-3 Authority.

(a) These regulations are issued under the authority of the statutes cited in § 3400.0-3 of this title.

(b) These regulations primarily implement:

(1) Section 3 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 203);

(2) Section 510(b)(5) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 U.S.C. 1260(b)(5));

(3) Section 1 of the Act of October 30, 1978 (92 Stat. 2073);

(4) Section 1 of the Act of October 19, 1980 (94 Stat. 2269); and

(5) Section 4 of the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness Act of 1980 (94 Stat. 2272).

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982]

§ 3435.1 Coal lease exchanges.

Where the Secretary determines that coal exploration, development and mining operations would not be in the public interest on an existing lease or preference right lease application or portions thereof, or where the Congress has authorized lease exchange for a

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class or list of leases, an existing lease or preference right lease application may be relinquished in exchange for:

(a) Leases where the Congress has specifically authorized the issuance of a new coal lease;

(b) The issuance of coal lease bidding rights of equal value;

(c) A lease for a mineral listed in subpart 3526 of this title by mutual agreement between the applicant and the Secretary; and

(d) Federal coal lease modifications;

or

(e) Any combination of the above.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982]

§ 3435.2 Qualified exchange proponents: Limitations.

(a) Any person who holds a Federal coal lease, or a preference right lease application that has been found to meet the commercial quantities requirements of §§ 3430.1 and 3430.5 of this title on lands described in § 3435.1 of this title is qualified to ask the Secretary to initiate an exchange.

(b) Except for leases qualified under subpart 3436 of this title, the Secretary may issue a new coal lease in exchange for the relinquishment of outstanding leases or lease applications only in those cases where the Congress has specifically authorized such exchanges.

(c) The Secretary shall evaluate each qualified exchange request and determine whether an exchange is in the public interest.

(d) Any modification of a coal lease in an exchange under this subpart shall be subject to the limitations in §§ 3432.1(a), 3432.2(b) and 3432.3(a) of this title.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982]

§ 3435.3 Exchange procedures.

§ 3435.3-1 Exchange notice.

(a) The Secretary shall initiate exchange procedures by notifying in writing a Federal coal lessee or preference right lease applicant that consideration of an exchange of mineral leases or other coal lease interests is appropriate. The notification may be on the Secretary's initiative or in response to a request under § 3435.2 of this title.

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(b) The exchange notice shall also be provided to the Governor of the affected State(s) concurrent with notice to the lessee or preference right lease applicant stating why the Secretary believes an exchange may be in the public interest.

(c) The exchange notice shall contain a description of the leased lands or lands under preference right lease application being considered for exchange. These lands may include all or part of an existing lease or preference right lease application.

(d) The exchange notice may contain a description of the lands for which the Secretary would grant an exchange lease or lease interest. If a coal lease modification would be granted by exchange, the lands shall be selected from those lands found acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing under § 3420.1 of this title; and

(e) The notice shall contain a request that the lessee or preference right lease applicant indicate whether he is willing to negotiate an exchange.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982; 48 FR 37656, Aug. 19, 1983]

§ 3435.3-2 Initial response by lessee or lease applicant.

(a) The lessee or preference right lease applicant wishing to negotiate an exchange shall so reply in writing. The reply may include a description of the lands on which the lessee or lease applicant would accept an exchange lease or coal lease modification.

(b) A reply to the exchange notice by a lessee or preference right lease applicant indicating willingness to enter into an exchange shall also indicate willingness to provide the geologic and economic data needed by the Secretary to determine the fair market value of the lease or lease application to be relinquished. The lessee or preference right lease applicant shall also indicate willingness to provide any geologic and economic data in his possession that will help the Secretary to determine the fair market value of the potential Federal lease exchange tract or tracts.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982]

§ 3435.3-3 Agreement to terms.

(a) If both parties wish to proceed with the exchange, the authorized officer and the lessee or preference right lease applicant shall negotiate an exchange consistent with § 3435.1 of this title. The authorized officer shall consult with the regional coal team prior to initiation of such negotiations and shall consult again prior to finalization of the negotiated exchange.

(b) Land proposed for lease in exchange for, or for inclusion in, an existing lease or preference right lease application shall be subject to leasing under Group 3400 or 3500 of this title as appropriate, and any coal lands shall have been found to be acceptable for further consideration for leasing under § 3420.1 of this title.

[44 FR 42628, July 19, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982; 48 FR 37656, Aug. 19, 1983]

§ 3435.3-4 Determination of value.

The value of the land to be leased, or added by lease modification, or of the bidding rights to be issued in exchange shall, to the satisfaction of the lessee or lease applicant and the Secretary, be equal to the estimated fair market value of the lease or lease application to be relinquished.

§ 3435.3-5 Notice of public hearing.

After the lessee or lease applicant and the Secretary agree on an exchange proposal, notice of the exchange proposal shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and in at least 1 newspaper of general circulation in each county or equivalent political subdivision where both the offered and selected lands are located. The notice shall announce that, upon request, at least 1 public hearing shall be held in a city or cities located near each tract involved. The notice shall also contain the Secretary's preliminary findings why the proposed exchange is in the public interest. Any notice of the availability of a draft environmental assessment or environmental impact statement on the exchange may be used to comply with this section.

[47 FR 33144, July 30, 1982]