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county in which an operation is located, and at the OSM Albuquerque Field Office.

§ 903.702 Exemption for coal extraction incidental to the extraction of other minerals.

Part 702 of this chapter, *Exemption for Coal Extraction Incidental to the Extraction of Other Minerals*, applies to any person who conducts coal extraction incidental to the extraction of other minerals for purposes of commercial use or sale.

§ 903.707 Exemption for coal extraction incidental to government-financed highway or other construction.

Part 707 of this chapter, *Exemption for Coal Extraction Incidental to Government-Financed Highway or Other Construction*, applies to surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

§ 903.736 Permit fees.

Section 736.25 of this chapter, *Permit fees* applies to any person who makes application for a permit to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Arizona.

§ 903.761 Areas designated unsuitable for surface coal mining by act of Congress.

Part 761 of this chapter, *Areas Designated by Act of Congress*, applies to surface coal mining operations.

§ 903.762 Criteria for designating areas as unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

Part 762 of this chapter, *Criteria for Designating Areas Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations*, applies to surface coal mining operations.

§ 903.764 Process for designating areas unsuitable for surface coal mining operations.

Part 764 of this chapter, *State Processes for Designating Areas Unsuitable for Surface Coal Mining Operations*, pertaining to petitions, initial processing, hearing requirements, decisions, data base and inventory systems, public information, and regulatory responsibilities, applies to surface coal mining op-

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erations beginning June 24, 1996, one year after the effective date of this program.

§ 903.772 Requirements for coal exploration.

(a) Part 772 of this chapter, *Requirements for Coal Exploration*, applies to any person who conducts coal exploration. For those applications where § 772.12 of this chapter applies, the requirements of paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section shall apply in place of § 772.12(c) (1) and (3) and § 772.12(d)(1) of this chapter.

(b) The applicant, upon receipt of notification from the regulatory authority of the submission of an administratively complete application for an exploration permit, must:

(1) Publish one public notice of the filing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county of the proposed exploration area; and

(2) Provide proof of this publication to the regulatory authority within one week of publication.

(c) Any person having an interest which is or may be adversely affected, shall have the right to file written comments within 30 days after the notice is published.

(d) The regulatory authority shall act upon an administratively complete application for a coal exploration permit and any written comments within 15 days from the close of the comment period unless additional time is necessary due to the number or complexity of the issues. The regulatory authority may approve a coal exploration permit only if based upon a complete and accurate application.

§ 903.773 Requirements for permits and permit processing.

(a) Part 773 of this chapter, *Requirements for Permits and Permit Processing*, applies to any person who applies for a permit for surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

(b) The Secretary will coordinate, to the extent practicable, his/her responsibilities under the following Federal laws with the relevant Arizona laws to avoid duplication:

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Federal law	State law
(1) Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq	A.R.S. Title 49, Art. 2, Sec 221–225; A.R.S Title 49, Art. 3, Sec 241–251; A.R.S Title 49, Art. 10, Sec 361–363; A.R.S Title 49, Art. 11, Sec 371–381.
(2) Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq	A.R.S. Title 49.
(3) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 3251, et seq.	A.R.S. Title 49, sections 921–932.
(4) National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq ..	A.R.S. Title 49, section 104.
(5) Archeological and Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 469 et seq.	Arizona Antiquities Act—A.R.S. Title 41 secs. 821, 841–846, 861, 862, 865, 1352.
(6) National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq	A.R.S. Title 13 Secs. 3702, 3702.1; Title 41 secs. 511, 511.04, 821, 861, 862, 1352; Title 44 sec. 123.
(7) Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.	A.R.S. Sections 49–101, 201 and 371.
(8) Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq	A.R.S. Title 17 Section 231A.2 Arizona Admin. Code Title 18 Chapter 10, Article 1.
(9) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 661–667.	
(10) Noise Control Act, 42 U.S.C. 4903.	
(11) Bald Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 668–668(d)	A.R.S. Title 17 Section 235.

(c) No person may conduct coal exploration operations that result in removal of more than 250 tons of coal in one location or surface coal mining and reclamation operations:

(1) Without a permit issued by the Secretary as required under 30 CFR part 772 or 773; and

(2) Without permits, leases and/or certificates required by the State of Arizona, including, but not limited to the following:

(i) Municipal planning statutes (A.R.S. Section 9–461 to 9–462.01); County planning and zoning statutes (A.R.S. Sections 11–322 *et seq.*, 11–803, 11–808, 11–821);

(ii) Statutes governing perfection and recordation of mining claims (A.R.S. Section 27–201 to 27–210);

(iii) Statutes requiring mineral exploration permits (A.R.S. Section 27–251 to 27–256);

(iv) Solid waste and air pollution discharge permits, installation and operation permits required for equipment causing air pollution and water pollution discharge permits (A.R.S. Title 49);

(v) Mineral prospecting permits for State lands (A.R.S. Section 37–231);

(vi) Permits for discharge into or use of State waters and permits for secondary use of reservoir waters (A.R.S. Title 45).

(d) In addition to the requirements of part 773 of this chapter, the following permit application review procedures apply:

(1) Any person applying for a permit must submit at least five copies of the

application to OSM’s Western Support Center (WSC) in Denver, Colorado.

(2) WSC shall review an application for administrative completeness and acceptability for further review, and notify the applicant in writing of the findings. WSC may:

(i) Reject a flagrantly deficient application, notifying the applicant of the findings;

(ii) Request additional information required for completeness, stating specifically what information must be supplied; or

(iii) Determine the application administratively complete and acceptable for further review.

(3) When WSC determines the application to be administratively complete, it will notify the applicant. Upon such notification, the applicant must publish the public notice required by § 773.6(a)(1) of this chapter.

(4) A representative of WSC may visit the proposed permit area if necessary to determine whether the operation and reclamation plans are consistent with actual site conditions. WSC will provide the applicant advance notice of the time of the visit.

(5) In determining the completeness of an application, WSC will consider whether the information provided in the application is adequate for OSM to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4322. If necessary, WSC may require specific additional information from the applicant as any environmental review progresses.

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(e) In addition to the information required by subchapter G of this chapter, WSC may require an applicant to submit supplemental information to ensure compliance with applicable Federal laws and regulations other than the Act and 30 CFR chapter VII.

(f) In making a decision on an application, the regulatory authority shall

review any written comments or objections it has received and the records of any informal conference or hearing it has held on the application. The regulatory authority shall issue a written decision in accordance with the timeframes in the following table:

If * * *	And * * *	Then a written decision shall be issued * * *
OSM has not prepared an EIS	An informal conference has not been held.	Within 60 days of the close of the comment period.
OSM has not prepared an EIS	An informal conference has been held.	Within 60 days of the conclusion of the informal conference (unless additional time is needed because of the number or complexity of the issues).
OSM has prepared an EIS	No earlier than 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of availability of the final EIS in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(g) OSM will consider withholding information from public disclosure under § 773.6(d) of this chapter if the applicant labels the information confidential and submits it separately from the rest of the application.

(1) If the applicant submits information identified as confidential, the notice required by § 773.6(a)(1) of this chapter shall state this and identify the type of information that the applicant has submitted.

(2) OSM shall determine the qualification of any application information labeled confidential within 10 days of the last publication of the notice required under § 773.6(a)(1) of this chapter, unless additional time is necessary to obtain public comment or in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

[60 FR 18716, Apr. 12, 1995, as amended at 65 FR 79671, Dec. 19, 2000]

§ 903.774 Revision; renewal; and transfer, assignment, or sale of permit rights.

(a) Part 774 of this chapter, *Revision; Renewal; and Transfer, Assignment, or Sale of Permit Rights*, applies to any such actions involving surface coal mining and reclamation operations permits, except as specified in this section.

(b) No revision to an approved mining or reclamation plan shall be effective until reviewed and approved by WSC.

(c) Any significant revision to the approved mining or reclamation plan shall be subject to the public notice

and hearing provisions of §§ 903.773(d)(3) and 773.6(b) and (c) of this chapter before it is approved and implemented. Any revision to an approved reclamation plan that may have the potential to adversely affect the achievement of reclamation and the post-mining land use is a significant permit revision. In addition, WSC will consider the following factors, as well as other relevant factors, in determining the significance of a proposed revision:

- (1) Changes in production or recoverability of the coal resource;
- (2) Environmental effects;
- (3) Public interest in the operation, or likely interest in the proposed revision; and
- (4) Possible adverse impacts from the proposed revision on fish or wildlife, endangered species, bald or golden eagles, or cultural resources.

(d) The regulatory authority will approve or disapprove non-significant permit revisions within a reasonable time after receiving a complete and accurate revision application. Significant revisions and renewals shall be approved or disapproved under the provisions of § 903.773(f).

(e) Any person having an interest that is or may be adversely affected by a decision on the transfer, assignment, or sale of permit rights, may submit written comments on the application to WSC. Comments may be submitted within 30 days of either the publication of the newspaper notice required by § 774.17(b)(2) of this chapter, or receipt