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# Interstate Mining Compact Commission

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GREGORY E. CONRAD

October 10, 2007

Dear State Representatives:

I am enclosing a CD that contains OSM regulations currently in force, Federal Register Notices for both Proposed and Final Rules, and a section-by-section history of changes to the Final Rules. In one place, you have the ability to read OSM's rationale for a particular rule, track the changes from Proposed to Final versions of the Rules, determine what version of a Rule was in force at a particular time, and trace the Rule changes backward or forward in time and then read OSM's preamble for any of those versions of the Rule.

The CD was prepared using Microsoft WORD in order to provide a familiar format that will be easy to navigate.

The CD menu will list the following folders and files:

- Current Rules in Effect
- Federal Register Final Rule Notices
- Federal Register Proposed Rule Notices
- Regulation History (REGHIS)
- Federal Register Final Rule Index
- Federal Register Proposed Rule Index

The contents and organization of these folders and files is described below:

### Current Rules in Effect Folder

- Organized by Subchapter
- Subchapters A – S
- Subchapters T-900 – T-955
- Current through June 30, 2007

### Federal Register Final Rule Notices Folder

- Organized by year: 1977 – 2006
- Within a year, each Federal Register Notice is a separate file
- Each Notice contains the preamble to and the text of the final rule
- Includes Notices for Parts 700 – 887

### Federal Register Proposed Rule Notices Folder

- Organized by year: 1977 – 2007
- Within a year, each Federal Register Notice is a separate file
- Each Notice contains the preamble of and the text of the proposed rule
- Includes Notices for Parts 700 – 887

*Incoming of General OSM*

*Copied disc to:  
p:\groups\coal\WP\OSM rules*

**Regulation History (REGHIS) Folder**

Organized by Subchapter: A – S; T-900 – T-955

Contains FINAL RULE information only for each section

Cites and dates for Federal Register Final Rule Notice

Provides a short description of the contents of the Notice, e.g.,

Section added

Paragraph (x) suspended

Paragraph (x) reinstated

Section revised

Section redesignated xxx.xx

Incorporates Section xxx.xx

Incorporated into Section xxx.xx

Section removed

**Federal Register Final Rule Index File**

Lists the cite and date for the Final Rule Notice published in the Federal Register

Includes Federal Register Notices from 1977 through June 30, 2007

Each listing may include Federal Register cites and dates for any or all of the following Notices:

Corrections to the Final Rule

Proposed Rules that preceded that Final Rule

Earlier versions of Final Rules and their Proposed Rules

Suspended Rules

Reinstated Rules

Withdrawn Rules

Removed Rules

Includes Notices for Parts 700 – 887

**Federal Register Proposed Rule Index File**

Lists the cite and date for the Proposed Rule Notice published in the Federal Register

Includes Federal Register Notices from 1977 through June 30, 2007

Each listing may include Federal Register cites and dates for any or all of the following Notices:

Corrections to the Proposed Rule

Final Rules that followed the Proposed Rule

Earlier versions of Final Rules and their Proposed Rules

Suspended Rules

Reinstated Rules

Withdrawn Rules

Includes Notices for Parts 700 – 887

As an example, if I want to research the history of 30 CFR 773.11 (Review of Compliance History), I would follow these steps:

1. Check the language of the section currently in force. I would open the *Current Rules in Effect* folder. If I did not know that Sec. 773.11 falls under Subchapter G, I could begin by looking up the section in the *Program Rule Index* File by using the FIND feature listed on the EDIT drop-down list. Then I would open the *Subchapter G* file and scroll down to Part 773 and then to Sec. 773.11.

2. Check the history of the section. I would open the *Regulation History (REGHIS)* Folder, click on the *Subchapter G* file and scroll down to Sec. 773.11. Here, I would find the list of the Federal Register Notices in which the various versions of the Final Rules were published. The *REGHIS* entry would tell me

that the language of the current section originated with the December 19, 2000 (65 FR 79582) issue of the Federal Register. The Federal Register cites and dates for the earlier versions of the section are also listed.

3. Read the relevant Federal Register Notices. There are several ways to continue.

a. To retrieve the Federal Register Notice for the December 19, 2000 Final Rules, I can open the *Federal Register Final Rule Notices* Folder, click on the *2000 – Final Rule Notices* File and open the *2000 – 65 FR 79582* File. The preamble to the Final Rules provides an explanation of the changes to the Final Rule, the rationale behind the changes, includes the cite and date for the Proposed Rules Notice that preceded the Final Rules Notice as well as information about earlier Notices, and prints the text of the Final Rules.

b. I can continue back in time, switching to the *Federal Register Proposed Rule Notices* Folder, using the cite and date listed in the Final Rule Notice, to retrieve the June 7, 2000 (65 FR 36097) Notice from the *2000 – Proposed Rules* File.

c. Alternatively, I can check the *Federal Register Final Rule Index* File by using the FIND feature on the EDIT drop-down list and entering "December 19, 2000". The *Index* lists all of the Parts revised by that Notice and relevant prior Final Rules and Proposed Rules Notices.

To retrieve Proposed Rule and Final Rule Notices published in the Federal Register after June 30, 2007, go directly to the Government Printing Office Internet site: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html> will take you to the Federal Register Home Page.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this material, you may contact me directly:

Phone: 202.686.9138  
E-mail: [jzscall@aol.com](mailto:jzscall@aol.com)

Sincerely,

*Joyce Zweben Scall*

COALEX Researcher

Encl.  
CC: OSM