

of General Incoming

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement Applicant/Violator System Office 2679 Regency Road Lexington, Kentucky 40503

July 1, 2008

Ms. Angela Nance Utah Department of Natural Resources and Energy Division of Oil, Gas & Mining 1594 W. North Temple, Suite 121 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

Dear Ms. Nance:

Every regulatory authority is responsible for prompt and accurate regulatory program data entry and maintenance in the Applicant/Violator System (AVS). This includes entering application and permit records, and violation information. The AVS has numerous uses and you play a critical role in ensuring your data is current and entered accurately so the system remains beneficial for everyone.

We need your help by participating in a data entry study to verify that each state has correctly reflected their issued permits in the AVS. We generated a list of application records from the AVS that reflects an "Undergoing Review" status for the period of one year or longer. We are enclosing a list of your states pending application records that meet that criterion. Please review this list to determine the status of these applications and update the AVS to reflect the correct permitting action of still undergoing review, withdrawn or issued. We would like to complete this project by August 29, 2008. If you need help from our office in making the AVS updates we are happy to offer assistance. If your review reveals that some of the application records are still undergoing review, please let us know so that we can mark them off our list of concerns.

Each week OSM personnel reviews all permit transactions entered into AVS by the regulatory authorities. Any newly-issued or transferred permit that has the potential to produce coal is then entered into OSM's Fee Billing and Collection System. This process initiates the collection of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fees and notification of the requirement to submit Coal Reclamation Fee Report, OSM-1 forms, to report tonnage for proper payment of AML fees. If permit records are not entered into AVS in a timely manner then companies may not report this tonnage. Eventually those companies are identified through audit. Depending on the time lapse since the reporting deadline they may face significant interest and penalty charges in addition to owing the fees. Therefore, it is important to enter permit data into AVS within 30 days after you have approved permit issuance.

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Thank you for participating in this worthwhile data study. If you have any questions or need any assistance to complete this project please contact me at (859) 260-3928.

Sincerely,

Linda Keene

Program Analyst

DOI/OSMRE/AVS

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Enclosure

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