

The Land Reclamation Report

Interior approves funding for mine projects

Projects in various states have received federal monies for mining and reclamation contracts from the Department of the Interior.

The Water and Power Resources Service has awarded \$11 million to a California construction firm for work on the Southern Nevada Water Project. This entails construction of flow control facilities, tanks, and a chlorination station.

Joan M. Davenport, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Energy and Minerals, has approved a mine expansion plan on some 6,680 acres of land in northern Colorado which will produce 31.2 million tons of steam coal over the next eight years.

Along with approval of this construction, the Interior has committed money to some reclamation projects. These include:

- An abandoned coal mine site that is causing air pollution in western Il-

linois at an estimated cost of over \$450,000.

- A \$2.4 million project to reclaim the abandoned Zayre strip mine and coal refuse bank in Wilkes-Barre Township, PA, and

- A plan to reclaim some 219 acres of abandoned coal mine lands in the Little Kyger Creek watershed in Gallia County, OH.

OSM gives statement on reclamation funds

The Office of Surface Mining has issued the Final Environmental Statement (FES) on the proposed use of the federal portion of fees collected from active coal operations to reclaim abandoned coal mine lands.

The FES examines five possible approaches for the allocation of the

20 percent federal share of the fees collected.

The preferred alternative is based on a goal-oriented approach which directs funds toward the most extensive abandoned mine land problems and toward those which most affect people.

Other alternatives are:

- Funding eligible projects in the order received, regardless of the location.

- Allocating funds based on the percentage each state or Indian tribe contributes to the fee collection system.

- Allocating based on the percentage of national historic coal production from a given area.

- Allocating on a state's or tribe's share of the Abandoned Mine Lands problems nationwide.

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