

for all or certain stipulated methods of mining. The unsuitability assessment shall be consistent with any decision of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to designate lands unsuitable or to terminate a designation in response to a petition.

(3) Multiple land use decisions shall be made which may eliminate additional coal deposits from further consideration for leasing to protect other resource values and land uses that are locally, regionally or nationally important or unique and that are not included in the unsuitability criteria discussed in paragraph (e) of this section. Such values and uses include, but are not limited to, those identified in section 522(a)(3) of the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act of 1977 and as defined in 30 CFR 762.5. In making these multiple use decisions, the Bureau of Land Management or the surface management agency conducting the land use planning shall place particular emphasis on protecting the following: Air and water quality; wetlands, riparian areas and sole-source aquifers; the Federal lands which, if leased, would adversely impact units of the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National System of Trails, and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

(4)(i) While preparing a comprehensive land use plan or land use analysis, the Bureau of Land Management shall consult with all surface owners who meet the criteria in paragraphs (gg) (1) and (2) of §3400.0-5 of this title, and whose lands overlie coal deposits, to determine preference for or against mining by other than underground mining techniques.

(ii) For the purposes of this paragraph, any surface owner who has previously granted written consent to any party to mine by other than underground mining techniques shall be deemed to have expressed a preference in favor of mining. Where a significant number of surface owners in an area have expressed a preference against mining those deposits by other than underground mining techniques, that area shall be considered acceptable for further consideration only for development by underground mining tech-

niques. In addition, the area may be considered acceptable for further consideration for leasing for development by other than underground techniques if there are no acceptable alternative areas available to meet the regional leasing level.

(iii) An area eliminated from further consideration by this subsection may be considered acceptable for further consideration for leasing for mining by other than underground mining techniques if:

(A) The number of surface owners who have expressed their preference against mining by other than underground techniques is reduced below a significant number because such surface owners have given written consent for such mining or have transferred ownership to unqualified surface owners; and

(B) The land use plan is amended accordingly.

(f) In its review of cumulative impacts of coal development, the regional coal team shall consider any threshold analysis performed during land-use planning as required by §1610.4-4 of this title and shall apply this analysis, where appropriate, to the region as a whole.

[44 FR 42615, July 19, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 47 FR 33136, July 30, 1982; 50 FR 8626, Mar. 4, 1985; 51 FR 18888, May 23, 1986; 52 FR 46472, Dec. 8, 1987; 64 FR 52242, Sept. 28, 1999]

§ 3420.1-5 Hearing requirements.

After public notice, the Bureau of Land Management or other surface management agency shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed comprehensive land use plan or land use analysis if it involves the potential for coal leasing before it is adopted if such a hearing is requested by any person who is or may be adversely affected by the adoption of the plan. A hearing conducted under part 1600 of this title of this chapter shall fulfill this requirement.

[47 FR 33137, July 30, 1982]

§ 3420.1-6 Consultation with Federal surface management agencies.

Where a Federal surface management agency other than the Bureau of Land Management administers limited areas

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overlying Federal coal within the boundaries of a comprehensive land use plan or land use analysis being prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, or where the Bureau of Land Management manages lands on which coal development may impact land units of other Federal agencies, the Bureau of Land Management shall consult with the other agency to jointly determine the acceptability for further consideration for leasing of the potentially impacted lands the other agency administers or lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management that may impact lands of another agency.

[52 FR 46473, Dec. 8, 1987]

§ 3420.1-7 Consultation with states and Indian tribes.

Before adopting a comprehensive land use plan or land use analysis that makes an assessment of lands acceptable for further consideration for leasing, the Bureau of Land Management or other surface management agency shall consult with the state Governor and the state agency charged with the responsibility for maintaining the state's unsuitability program (43 CFR 3461.4-1). Where a tribal government administers areas within or near the boundaries of a comprehensive land use plan or land use analysis being prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau shall consult with the tribal government.

[44 FR 42615, July 19, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 47 FR 33137, July 30, 1982]

§ 3420.1-8 Identification of lands as acceptable for further consideration.

(a) Identification of lands as acceptable for further consideration for leasing will be made in the adoption of a comprehensive land use plan or land use analysis. Any lands identified as acceptable may be further considered for leasing under § 3420.3 of this title.

(b) Activity planning shall begin with a regional coal team meeting to review market analyses and land-use planning summaries. The market analyses and land-use planning summaries shall be

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available at least 45 days prior to such meeting.

[44 FR 42615, July 19, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 47 FR 33137, July 30, 1982; 51 FR 18888, May 23, 1986]

§ 3420.2 Regional leasing levels.

This section sets out the process to be followed in establishing regional leasing levels. Regional leasing levels shall be established by the Secretary. The Secretary shall particularly rely upon the advice and assistance of affected State Governors in ensuring that leasing levels have properly considered social, environmental and economic impacts and constraints.

(a) The regional coal teams shall be the forum through which initial leasing level recommendations are transmitted to the Secretary. Initial leasing level recommendations shall be developed as follows:

(1) The appropriate Bureau of Land Management State Director on the regional coal team, as designated by the regional coal team chairperson, shall prepare a broadly stated range of initial leasing levels for the region. This range of initial leasing levels must be based on information available to the State Director including: land use planning data; the results of the call for coal resource information held under § 3420.1-2 of this subpart; the results of the call for expressions of leasing interest held under § 3420.3-2 of this subpart; and other considerations. The State Director will consider comments received from the public in writing and at hearings, and input and advice from the Governors of the affected States regarding assumptions, data, and other factors pertinent to the region;

(2) This initial range of leasing levels shall be made available to the other members of the regional coal team for review and comment. This review shall be designed to ensure consideration of relevant social, environmental and economic factors of which the Secretary should be aware in setting leasing levels;

(3) Governors of affected States shall be requested by the regional coal team chairperson to provide comments and