



# United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Reclamation and Enforcement  
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September 15, 1999

To All Interested Parties:

The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) just completed its oversight report entitled, *An Evaluation of Approximate Original Contour and Postmining Land Uses in Virginia*. We released a draft report in June 1999 and requested public comment. The public comment period closed July 2, 1999.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the individuals who took time to comment on our draft report. We received comments from three governmental agencies, one special interest group, and one individual. All of the comments were helpful; however, some requested changes that were beyond the scope of our report. We have included a summation of the comments and our responses in Appendix A.

The initial report contained many facts and information concerning specific mines in Virginia and our findings related to the oversight evaluation. The enclosed report briefly summarizes those findings, and provides our action plan for correcting identified weaknesses and improving the Virginia program. The action plan is included as Appendix B in the report.

For those interested, electronic copies of the our draft report and this report are available on OSM's Web page. The reports may be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.osmre.gov/mtindex.htm>. Upon request additional copies of the enclosed report may be obtained by calling (540) 523-4303, e-mailing us at [ibdye@osmre.gov](mailto:ibdye@osmre.gov), or writing to us at the address above. Again thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Penn, Director  
Big Stone Gap Field Office

Enclosure