



U·S· DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
DIRECTIVES SYSTEM

Subject Number:

TSR-8

Transmittal Number:

434

Date: 3/31/88

Subject: Transportation and Handling of Abandoned Coal Mine Refuse Piles

Approval: 

Acting
Title: Director

1. Purpose. This directive provides policy with respect to the transportation and handling of abandoned coal mine refuse piles.

2. Definitions.

a. Abandoned mine refuse pile. A surface deposit of coal mine waste as defined in 30 CFR 701.5 which does not meet the definition of coal as defined in 30 CFR 700.5 or for which the ash content as a whole exceeds 50 percent on a dry weight basis.

3. Policy.

a. Concept. The transportation or handling of abandoned refuse piles that is associated with the extraction of coal, unless it is related to an Abandoned Mine Lands project, is considered a "surface coal mining operation" under section 701(28) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

The transportation or handling of abandoned refuse piles that is not associated with coal extraction is not considered a "surface coal mining operation" under section 701(28) of SMCRA.

b. Responsibilities. Regulatory authorities are responsible for determining whether the transportation and handling of abandoned coal mine refuse piles is a surface coal mining operation. In instances where State regulatory authorities make such determinations they will be reviewed by OSMRE through normal oversight procedures.

4. Reporting Requirements. None

5. References. None

6. Effect on Other Documents. None

7. Contact. Division of Technical Services, (202) 343-1480.