

MAR 17 2011

**Authorization to Proceed (ATP)**

Alcoa Fuels Portal Closure  
Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Project  
based on Categorical Exclusion (CX)  
Webster County, Kentucky

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed a review of the March 1, 2011, request for ATP with construction activity on the Alcoa Fuels Portal Closure AML Reclamation Project prepared by the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML).

OSM found that the appropriate request documents were submitted and appear to support the need for the proposed construction activity. OSM confirmed that the required information for this project has been included in the AML Inventory System (AMLIS) for Problem Areas (PA) #s KY-002808-SGA. Updates are not currently in the system due to recent system modifications to the AMLIS; however DAML has agreed to input the appropriate information as soon as it is available.

OSM reviewed the Categorical Exclusion Determination (CX) NEPA environmental review document prepared by the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands for the AML reclamation project. We have determined that the currently proposed activity requested is adequately considered in the approved CX NEPA environmental review document. In addition, the proposed activity conforms with exclusion criteria in 516 DM 2 and 13, does not involve any of the general exceptions in 516 DM 13.5(A)(33) or extraordinary circumstances listed in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, and is excluded from further NEPA compliance. We have prepared and I have signed a CX for this project. We recommend that appropriate consideration be given to the recommendations and comments provided in the response letters from the consultation agencies.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 5-11-20D.3 of the Federal Assistance Manual and my signature on this notification document, DAML is authorized to proceed with the construction activity for this project as described in the ATP request documents submitted by DAML for this project and further conditioned in this notification, and expend Federal funds in accordance with AML grant terms and conditions.

 "Acting For"  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph L. Blackburn, Field Office Director  
OSM Lexington Field Office

3/17/11  
Date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Office Of Surface Mining Reclamation And Enforcement  
ABANDONED MINE LANDS  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

State:     KY     PA: KY 2808 SGA  
Project Name: Alcoa Fuels Portal Closure – AML Small Purchase Project  
Project Description: The project consists of the closure of an open mine portal with a wildlife accessible closure and on-site earthen materials.

I. GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

Does the project type specifically require an EA in 516 DM 6, Appendix 8, as specified in Item I of the attached instructions? No  Yes

II. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR EXCEPTIONS

Will the project have any of the following:

A significant adverse effect on public health or safety? No  Yes

An adverse effect on any of the following unique geographic characteristics? If 'yes,' check the ones that apply: No  Yes

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks (state, local or National)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild or Scenic Rivers                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation or Refuge Lands                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Areas                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Floodplains                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecologically Significant or Critical Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Sole or Principal Drinking Water Aquifers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prime Farmlands                            |  |

Highly controversial environmental effects? No  Yes

Highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks? No  Yes

A precedent for future action or a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? No  Yes

Directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? No  Yes

Adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? No  Yes

Adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species? No  Yes

Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Protection) or The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?

No [x] Yes [ ]

Threaten to violate a Federal, State, Tribal or local law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?

No [x] Yes [ ]

III. RESOURCE IMPACT EXCEPTIONS

Are there any unresolved issues or adverse effects requiring specialized mitigation for any of the following resources? If yes, check the ones that apply.

No [x] Yes [ ]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topography                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic and Cultural            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use (includes prime farmland) | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soils                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation (includes wetlands)     | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (includes socio-economics) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife                  |   |

IV. ATTACH CONSULTATION LETTERS AND A LOCATION MAP

V. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

Signature: Steve Hohmann Date: 3/1/11

Name and Title: Steve Hohmann, Director Division of Abandoned Mine Lands

VI. OSM DETERMINATION

This project conforms with the exclusion criteria in 516 Dm 6, Appendix 8, and is excluded from further NEPA compliance.

This project does not conform with the exclusion criteria in 516 DM 6, Appendix 8, and requires an environmental assessment.

Signature: Joseph L. Blackburn Acting For Date: 3/17/11

Name and Title: Joseph L. Blackburn, Field Office Director