

Authorization to Proceed (ATP)

Allan Hollen Group
Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Project
based on Categorical Exclusion (CX)
Clay & Leslie Counties, Kentucky

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed a review of the December 27, 2011, request for ATP with construction activity on the Allan Hollen Group 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 for PA# KY-003427-SGA, KY-003962-SGA, KY-004165-SGA & KY-004166-SGA.

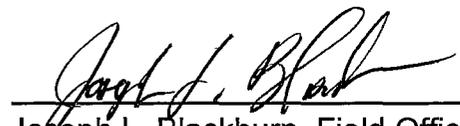
OSM reviewed the Categorical Exclusion Determination (CX) NEPA environmental review document prepared by the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands for the AML reclamation project. We have determined that the currently proposed activity requested is adequately considered in the approved CX NEPA environmental 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.

Please give special attention to the following recommendation (s).

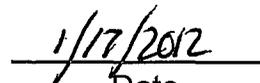
- LFO recommends that a careful review of the trees to be removed at the Kim Cornett and Joe Wilson sites is conducted, to limit any impacts to habitat that could be utilized by the Indiana bat.
- Please use appropriate erosion control methods, as mentioned in the proposal, to limit excessive sedimentation.

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.

The project authorization notice and NEPA review document, with associated pertinent support documents, will be posted for public notification and access on the "Kentucky Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Projects" web page of the Lexington Field Office (LFO) web site of the Appalachia Region web site, specifically at URL address <http://www.arcc.osmre.gov/FOs/LFO/AML/Projects.shtm>.



Joseph L. Blackburn, Field Office Director
OSM Lexington Field Office



Date