

## Authorization to Proceed (ATP)

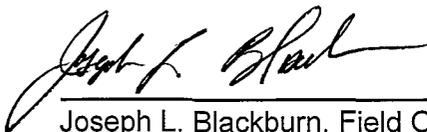
Josh Feltner Maintenance  
Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Project  
based on Environmental Assessment (EA)  
Knott County, Kentucky

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed a review of the February 17, 2012, request for ATP with construction activity on the Josh Feltner Maintenance AML Reclamation project, prepared by the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML). OSM found that the appropriate request documents were submitted and/or referenced in the ATP documents of the previously approved Josh Feltner Slide AML Reclamation 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Construction Grant project (previously authorized on February 7, 2008 (with a final State inspection on January 27, 2010) and appear to support the need for the proposed maintenance construction activity. OSM confirmed that the required information for this project has previously been included in the AML Inventory System, and no current update is needed at this time. A pre-approval field inspection of the proposed project was deemed unnecessary since no unique characteristics warranting special field verification were noted and it was not selected for field verification under the EY 2012 Performance Agreement.

OSM reviewed the previous EA prepared by DAML documenting the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review of this project. OSM determined that the previous EA adequately discusses the environmental issues and impacts associated with the construction of the project. Based on the analysis in the EA, I have determined that reclamation of this abandoned mine site would not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, I conclude that no environmental impact statement is necessary. As a result, I have referenced the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Josh Feltner Slide ATP.

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 5-11-20D.3 of the Federal Assistance Manual and my signature on this ATP notification document, DAML is authorized to proceed with construction activity for this maintenance 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

2/22/2012

Date