

Authorization to Proceed (ATP)

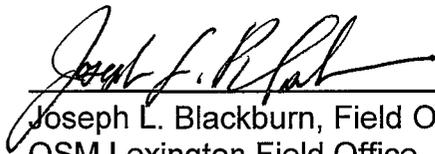
**Mud Creek- Harold Refuse
Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Enhancement Project
based on Categorical Exclusion (CX)
Floyd County, Kentucky**

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed a review of the May 23, 2012, request for ATP with construction activity on the Mud Creek-Harold Refuse AML Enhancement 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 under PA# KY-002983-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. We recommend that appropriate consideration be given to the recommendations and comments provided in the response letters from the consultation agencies. Please give special attention to the following recommendation (s).

- With the exception of trees directly impacted by the AML problem, there is no purposeful removal of standing trees larger than 5 inches diameter at breast height or standing snags with loose bark that are 9 inch or greater diameter at breast height and at least 10 feet in height, during the period of April 1 to November 15, and provided the activity does not occur in "Known Indiana Bat Habitat". Be sure that the access road preparation follows appropriate precautions in light of this requirement. If significant tree removal is needed for access, please provide the staff at the Kentucky Field Office of the U S Fish and Wildlife Service a copy of the habitat assessment and any other justification and await their response. This is in line with the established MOA that is in place for tree removal at this time. Please forward OSM a copy of the response.
- Please follow all appropriate provisions included in the DAML Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan guidance document throughout the construction activity at this site.

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.



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



Date