Authorization to Proceed (ATP)

Michael Ochs Drainage
Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Project
based on Categorical Exclusion (CX)
Perry County, Kentucky

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed a review of the January 2, 2013 request for ATP with construction activity on the Michael Ochs Drainage AML Reclamation Project 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) # KY-004229-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".

- Please be mindful that trees that fit the ideal habitat for the Indiana bat are not cut for this project. LFO agrees with DAML assertion that the healthy yellow poplar and beech trees observed on the project site are not habitat trees, but any other tree cutting that is required, the trees that are being considered for cutting should be reviewed by DAML staff for Indiana bat habitat.

- 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.

Robert Evans, Acting Field Office Director
OSM Lexington Field Office

2/8/13  Date
**UNited STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
Office Of Surface Mining Reclamation And Enforcement  
ABANDONED MINE LANDS  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CERTIFICATION AND DETERMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State: Kentucky</th>
<th>PA: KY 4229 SGA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name: Michael Ochs Drainage AML Reclamation Project</td>
<td>Project Description: Close an open mine entry and construct drainage controls.</td>
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### 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 [x] Yes [ ] |

### II. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR EXCEPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Will the project have any of the following:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A significant adverse effect on public health or safety?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An adverse effect on any of the following unique geographic characteristics? If ‘yes,’ check the ones that apply:</td>
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<tr>
<td>[ ] Parks (state, local or National)</td>
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<td>[ ] Recreation or Refuge Lands</td>
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<tr>
<td>[ ] Wilderness Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Ecologically Significant or Critical Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Prime Farmlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly controversial environmental effects?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A precedent for future action or a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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 [  ]

- [ ] Topography
- [  ] Historic and Cultural
- [  ] Land Use (includes prime farmland)
- [  ] Recreation
- [  ] Soils
- [  ] Air Quality
- [  ] Vegetation (includes wetlands)
- [  ] Noise
- [  ] Hydrology
- [  ] Other (includes socio-economics)
- [  ] Fish and Wildlife

IV. ATTACH CONSULTATION LETTERS AND A LOCATION MAP

V. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

Signature:  
Date: 1/02/2013

Name and Title: Robert F. Scott, 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:  
Date: 2/18/13

Name and Title: Robert S. Evans, Acting Field Office Director