

Authorization to Proceed (ATP)

Elizabeth Adams Slide HP
Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Project
based on Categorical Exclusion (CX)
Letcher County, Kentucky

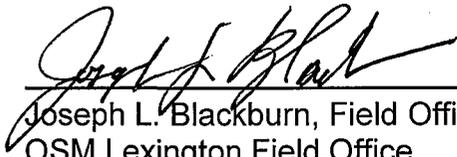
The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has completed a review of the April 9, 2012 request for ATP with construction activity on the Elizabeth Adams Slide HP AML Reclamation Project by the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML). OSM 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-004204-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).

- LFO recommends that you follow the stringent erosion and sediment control plan included in the project proposal to minimize sedimentation.
- Please provide OSM with any other comments, recommendations or permits that are obtained from the consultation agencies regarding this project for our records.

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 in the near future 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