

ORDER NO. 3228

SIGNATURE DATE: April 10, 2001

Subject: Delegation - Patenting of Mining Claims

Sec. 1 Purpose. The purpose of this Order is to delegate the Secretary's authority to sign Mineral Entry Final Certificates and mineral patents under the authority of the Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

Sec. 2 Background. This action streamlines the processing of mineral patent applications. It also will help the Department meet the congressional 5-year action plan. Under the 5-year action plan, the Department must make a final determination by September 30, 2001, regarding ninety percent of the applications that are excepted from the patent funding moratorium.

Sec. 3 Authority. This Order is issued under the authority of Section 2 of the Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended.

Sec. 4 Delegation. The Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management (Assistant Secretary) is hereby authorized to exercise all of the authority of the Secretary to sign Mineral Entry Final Certificates and mineral patents under the Mining Law of 1872. The Assistant Secretary may redelegate this authority to the Director, Bureau of Land Management. No other redelegation by the Assistant Secretary or the Director, Bureau of Land Management is authorized.

Sec. 5 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded or revoked, whichever comes first. In the absence of the foregoing actions, the provisions of this Order will expire and be considered obsolete on December 31, 2001.

/s/ Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

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