

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
CONTINGENCY PLAN FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

The mission of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is to carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in cooperation with the States and Tribes. OSM's primary objectives are to 1) ensure that coal mine surface activities are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, 2) assure that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and 3) address the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

Services and programs that will remain operational:

- Abandoned Mine Land Emergency declarations if requested by States.
- Federal Abandoned Mine Land emergencies.
- Citizen Complaints – alleged violation or imminent harm on active coal mine sites.
- Federal regulation of active coal mine sites – imminent danger to health, safety, and environmental damage.

Services and programs that would be ceased:

- Federal oversight of active coal mines.
- Federal oversight of abandoned coal mines.
- Federal regulation and inspections of coal mines, primarily in Tennessee and on Indian Lands—except in emergency situations.
- Federal review and issuance of coal mining permits, permit revisions and mine plans reviews.
- Technical Assistance to States and Tribes.
- Technical Training sponsored by OSM.
- Access to information provided to States and Industry via websites, such as the Applicant Violator System, Abandoned Mine Land Inventory, technical software applications (TIPS).