
Proposed Rules

Federal Register

Vol. 52, No. 221

Tuesday, November 17, 1987

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Minerals Management Service

30 CFR Parts 202, 203, 206, 212, and 218

Revision of Coal Product Valuation Regulations and Related Topics

AGENCY: Minerals Management Service (MMS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of intent to issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is hereby giving notice that it intends to issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking for coal product value regulations. The purpose of this notice is to advise lessees and other interested persons of the procedures MMS intends to follow before issuing final regulations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis C. Whitcomb, Minerals Management Service, Royalty Management Program Chief, Rules and Procedures Branch Denver Federal Center, Building 85, P.O. Box 25165, Mail Stop 628, Denver, Colorado 80225, telephone number (303) 231-3432, (FTS) 326-3432.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MMS, earlier this year, issued proposed valuation regulations for coal (52 FR 1840, Jan. 15, 1987). Many comments were received during the 90-day public comment period, both in written form and at public hearings. MMS subsequently reopened the comment period on July 9, 1987, for 14 days (52 FR 25887). During the second comment period, MMS received some significant comments from principal interested parties raising issues which merited further consideration and response from the public. Of particular interest was a comment submitted jointly on behalf of the coal and electric utility industries by the National Coal Association, Edison Electric Institute, American Mining Congress, American Public Power Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Western Fuels Association, Inc. The proposal submitted by these parties included a comprehensive, section-by-section set of revisions to the MMS's January proposed rulemaking, including justification for the suggested modifications.

MMS also received a brief response to an industry proposal from Governor Sullivan of Wyoming, which questioned some of the basic concepts in the proposal. In addition, MMS received a comprehensive set of section-by-section comments from Indian representatives.

To allow for further consideration of these significant comments, MMS again reopened the comment period for 60 days (52 FR 29868, August 12, 1987) to give interested persons an opportunity to obtain from MMS copies of the comments described above and then to provide a response for MMS to consider in developing a final rulemaking.

Because of the difficult issues and diversity of comments, MMS has decided to publish a further notice of proposed rulemaking before issuing a final rule.

MMS received many comments during the reopened comment periods, and several comments were received after the last comment period closed. MMS also expects to receive additional comments before the further notice of proposed rulemaking is issued. MMS will include in the rulemaking record all comments received since publication of the proposed regulations on January 15, 1987 and prior to the close of the comment period on the planned further notice of proposed rulemaking. The further notice will be published after MMS has had an opportunity to evaluate the comments it has received to date and to discuss the issues further with the principal affected groups.

Date: November 12, 1987.

William D. Bettenberg,

Director, Minerals Management Service.

[FR Doc. 87-26478 Filed 11-16-87; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-MR-M
