



**U · S · DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
DIRECTIVES SYSTEM**

Subject Number:

INE-29

Transmittal Number:

365

Date: 8/25/87

Subject: Inspectable Units Inventory

Approval:

John D. Christensen

Title: Director

1. PURPOSE. This directive establishes the minimum Field Office requirements for maintenance of the inspectable units inventories in both primacy and Federal program States.

2. DEFINITIONS.

a. Inspectable Unit. A surface coal mining and reclamation operation or a coal exploration operation for which an inspection obligation exists under the State program counterpart to 30 CFR 840.11(a), (b), or (c) or under 842.11(c) where OSMRE is the regulatory authority. Section 517(c) of the Act assigns inspection obligations to surface coal mining and reclamation operations covered by each permit. However, a series of permits may be consolidated to comprise a single inspectable unit provided the regulatory authority can demonstrate that each component permit has met a required inspection frequency. For instance, several contiguous permits or types of permitted facilities issued to the same permittee may for all practical purposes, constitute the same surface coal mining and reclamation operation.

b. Inspectable Unit List (IUL). A comprehensive list, series of lists or a computer data base management system containing all inspectable units defined above and any other mining operations as determined necessary by the Field Office Director to evaluate State programs, administer Federal programs, and meet the informational needs of the agency.

3. POLICY/PROCEDURES.

a. Policy. Field Offices shall establish information exchange systems with each primacy State for the purpose of maintaining an IUL which is consistent with the inspectable unit records maintained by each State to administer and enforce its approved program. In lieu of this requirement, Field Offices may share the inspectable units database or any portion maintained by a State provided such data base is accurate, readily accessible, and capable of providing the minimum information required in this directive.

b. Procedures.

(1) Each inspectable unit in an IUL shall be identified by the following data base fields. Those designated optional are preferred but not required.

- (a) Permittee/person
- (b) State or Federal program permit number(s) or unpermitted operation reference number
- (c) Interim or permanent program
- (d) Permit expiration date
- (e) Permitted acreage, including incidental boundary revisions if available.
- (f) OSMRE stratum (KY, PA, TN, WV only)
- (g) County name or FIPS code
- (h) Federal/Indian lands permit
- (i) MSHA identification number (optional)
- (j) Type Facility
 - 1 Surface
 - 2 Underground
 - 3 Other facility not permitted or located with surface or underground operations above.
 - 4 Coal exploration permits
 - 5 Notice of intent to explore
- (k) Operation Status
 - 1 Active (optional)
 - 2 Inactive (optional)
 - 3 Abandoned without bond
 - 4 Forfeiture in progress

(2) IUL's shall be maintained and periodically updated on a computer data base management system or otherwise in a manner capable of sorting and generating accurate numerical summaries of any combination of required fields listed above.

(3) Inspectable units shall be removed from the IUL when jurisdiction under the regulatory program is terminated, such as after final bond release, after the bond has been forfeited and collected, or after an alternative enforcement case is closed under the applicable regulatory program. Inspectable units removed from the IUL shall be maintained on separate list(s) by removal category for historical or special study purposes. Such records shall be maintained and disposed in accordance with the OSMRE Records Management Manual.

(4) A list of surface mining operations exempt under section 528 of the Act shall be maintained by each Field Office for monitoring purposes unless a State regulatory authority maintains an accurate list which is readily available to the Field Office.

(5) By July 31 of each year, all Field Offices, including those administering Federal programs, shall provide their Assistant Director for Field Operations an updated numerical summary of inspectable units for each State using the form transmitted with this directive. The Assistant Directors for Field Operations shall compile these summaries and forward a copy to the Assistant Director for Program Policy within 30 days thereafter.

4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

a. Field Office Directors shall provide a report for each State within their jurisdiction to their respective Assistant Director for Field Operations by July 31 of each year. This report shall contain a compilation of numerical summaries established in the attached form.

b. Assistant Directors for Field Operations shall provide a compilation of the reports in section 4.a. above to the Assistant Director, Program Policy no later than August 31.

5. REFERENCES. None.

6. EFFECTS ON OTHER DOCUMENTS. Supersedes memorandum entitled "Inspectable Units List - Bond Forfeitures" from the Assistant Director, Program Operations and Inspection, dated July 27, 1984.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE. Upon issuance.

8. CONTACT. Chief, Branch of Inspection and Enforcement,
(202) 343-4295.

