

ARKANSAS POLLUTION CONTROL
AND ECOLOGY COMMISSION

LOCATION - SUBJECT

Regulation No. 20

The Arkansas Surface Coal
Mining and Reclamation Code

Docket No. 97-007-R

MINUTE ORDER NO. 97 - 43

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On September 5, 1997, The Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology ("Department") filed a Petition to Amend Regulation No. 20, The Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Code ("Petition"). The Petition has been designated as Docket No. 97-007-R.

The Commission's Regulations Committee met on September 18, 1997 to review the Petition. Having considered the Petition, the Regulations Committee recommends the Commission institute a rulemaking proceeding to consider adopting the proposed revisions to Regulation No. 20.

1. The Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology ("Department") shall file an original and two (2) copies of all materials required under this Minute Order.

2. Persons submitting written public comments shall submit their written comments to the Department. Within ten (10) business days following the adoption or denial of the proposed rule, the Department shall deliver the originals of all comments to the Commission Secretary.

3. A public hearing shall be conducted during the week of October 20, 1997 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The exact date, time and location of the public hearing will be determined by the Department's Public Affairs Office.

4. The period for receiving all written comments shall conclude ten (10) business days after the date of the public hearing pursuant to Regulation No. 8, Part 3, Section 3.2.3, unless an extension of time is granted.

5. The Department shall file, not later than November 26, 1997, a Statement of Basis and Purpose as required by Regulation No. 8, Part 3, Section 3.6.2(1), (2) and (3).

6. The Department shall file, not later than November 26, 1997, a proposed Minute Order deciding this matter.

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7. The Department shall seek review of the proposed rule from the Joint Interim Committee on Public Health and Welfare and/or from the Joint Interim Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

8. The Regulations Committee will consider this matter at its December meeting. Members of the Regulations Committee may ask questions of the Department and any person that made oral or written comments. The Regulations Committee will make a recommendation to the Commission.

9. At its regularly scheduled December meeting, the presentation of oral statements and legal arguments shall be regulated as follows:

- a. The Chair of the Commission will permit members of the public to make a statement to the Commission. No more than three (3) minutes will be allowed for each statement. The period for statements will close at the end of one (1) hour, or sooner if all interested persons have completed their statements. The Chair in his discretion, may extend the one (1) hour public comment period.
- b. At the discretion of the Chair, an attorney representing one or more individuals, a corporation or other legal entity may be permitted five (5) minutes in which to address the Commission.
- c. Department legal counsel or other designated Department employee will be permitted ten (10) minutes in which to address the Commission.
- d. At the conclusion of all comments, the Chairman will call on each Commissioner for the purpose of asking the attorneys or persons sponsoring comments who are present, any questions they may have. Attorneys will not be permitted to respond or ask follow-up questions of any person questioned by a Commissioner.

