

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission will hold a public hearing at Little Rock April 1, 2002, to receive comments on proposed changes to Commission Regulation No. 20, which governs surface coal mining operations in Arkansas. The hearing will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality's Building D, 8101 Interstate 30.

Authority to adopt such regulations is found in Arkansas Statute 15-58-202.

The proposed changes are for the purpose of adopting and implementing recent revisions to the federal surface coal mining program, which is administered in Arkansas by the ADEQ, under authority delegated by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The proposed revisions are needed to keep the Arkansas surface coal mining program in compliance with the federal program.

Proposed revisions to Regulation No. 20 include new or clarified definitions of terms; changes to criteria for areas where surface coal mining is prohibited or limited; provisions for regulatory exceptions for existing operations; changes in provisions involving mining in the buffer zones of public roads and occupied dwellings; criteria for providing public notice of permit applications; and criteria for permit decisions.

Excerpts of Regulation No. 20 which show the proposed revisions are available for public inspection at the ADEQ's Customer Service Division in the agency's Little Rock office in Building D, 8101 Interstate 30, on the ADEQ's Internet web site at [www.adeq.state.ar.us](http://www.adeq.state.ar.us), and at ADEQ information depositories located in public libraries at Arkadelphia, Batesville, Blytheville, Camden, Clinton, Crossett, El Dorado, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Harrison, Helena, Hope, Hot Springs, Jonesboro, Little Rock, Magnolia, Mena, Monticello, Mountain Home, Pocahontas, Russellville, Searcy, Stuttgart, Texarkana, and West Memphis; in campus libraries at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and the University of Central Arkansas at Conway; and in the Arkansas State Library located on the State Capitol grounds at Little Rock.

Oral and written statements will be accepted at the public hearing, but written comments are preferred in the interests of accuracy. In addition, written and electronic mail comments on the proposed revisions will be considered if received no later than 4:30 p.m. April 15, 2002. Written comments should be sent to Doug Szenher, Customer Service Division, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 8913, Little Rock, AR 72219-8913. Electronic mail comments should be sent to the following Internet address: [reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:reg-comment@adeq.state.ar.us).

Dated this 27th day of February, 2002,

Richard A. Weiss, Interim Director  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality