

October 31, 1991

POLICY STATEMENT NO. PS-4

**Probable Hydrologic Consequences (PHC) Determinations**

WHEREAS:

Recognizing that, in the preamble to the regulations promulgated on September 19, 1988, at 30 CFR 780.21(f) and 784.14(e), the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) interprets the PHC determination apply to all activities authorized under the permit for the permit and adjacent areas, and that the PHC determination need not consider those activities that may occur during the life of the mine that would be authorized under future permitting activities; additional surface mining activities that could impact the hydrologic regime authorized under the initial permit or future permitting actions would require a new PHC determination, thus making the PHC determination "spatial" rather than "temporal".

THEREFORE:

It is hereby declared to be the Policy of the Office that the determination of Probable Hydrologic Consequences made in accordance with LSMR 2523 be spatial in nature, rather than temporal.

This Policy Statement adequately reflects the policy of the Office with respect to surface mining of coal and lignite, and this Policy Statement is hereby included in the approved Louisiana Regulatory Program.

Issued this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1991 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.