

FEDERAL REGISTER: 47 FR 44116 (October 6, 1982)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM)

30 CFR Parts 716 and 785

Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Operations; Initial and Permanent Regulatory Programs;
Prime Farmland Grandfather Exemption

ACTION: Notice of district court decision.

SUMMARY: On September 3, 1982, the District Court for the District of Columbia in Peabody Coal Company vs. Watt et al, Civ. No. 81-0645, 81-0693, 81-2875, and 81-0708 heard oral argument with respect to the final rule imposing an April 3, 1983, prime farmland grandfather cut-off date (*47 FR 32939-32943*, July 30, 1982). In a ruling from the bench, the Court held that the rule was not valid. OSM is providing this notice of the Court's oral decision and will take the necessary regulatory action upon entry of a final written order.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donald F. Smith, Division of Engineering Analysis, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. 20240. 202-343-5954.

Dated: September 30, 1982.

Carson W. Culp, Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

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