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Office of Surface Mining, Bureau of Land Management Schedule Meetings with Stakeholders on Proposed Consolidation

WASHINGTON -- [The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSM) and the [Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) will hold a series of meetings around the country soliciting input on the proposed consolidation of OSM within BLM.

The outreach is part of an effort directed by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to gather input from stakeholders on the proposal to combine the strengths of both bureaus to continue Interior's efforts to improve government. This is consistent with the Secretary's plan to not move forward with a potential consolidation without full coordination and input of employees, members of Congress, states, tribes, industry, representatives of communities affected by coal production and other interested parties.

These meetings will include discussions on how best to maintain OSM's status as an independent bureau with regulatory responsibilities under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, while exploring ways to integrate some administrative functions of both entities. The meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

Tuesday, January 17, 2012, St. Louis, Missouri

Location: Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel
9801 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012, Washington, Pennsylvania

Location: Pennsylvania National Guard Armory
125 Goodridge Lane

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 19, 2012, Charleston, West Virginia

Location: West Virginia National Guard Armory
1703 Coonskin Drive
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, January 20, 2012, Knoxville, Tennessee (new location added)

Location: Pellissippi State College Auditorium
10915 Hardin Valley Road
Time: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 23, 2012, Billings, Montana

Location: BLM Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, Denver, Colorado

Location: BLM Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO
Time: 1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 25, 2012, Flagstaff, Arizona

Location: Highlands Fire District
2838 Kona Trail
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 26, 2012, Window Rock, Arizona

Location: Navajo Nation Museum
Arizona Highway 264 & Post Office Loop Rd
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Monday, January 30, 2012, Washington, D.C.

Location: South Interior Building Auditorium
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Secretary Salazar has directed the Directors of OSM and BLM and other Interior officials to report by February 15, 2012 on the consultations with the bureaus' employees, Congressional committees, and interested parties, such as tribes, state regulatory officials, industry, and representatives of communities affected by coal mining. For stakeholders who are unable to attend the meetings in person, Interior has set up a website to accept comments from the public. For more information or to submit comments, visit <http://www.doi.gov/bureaus/blm-osm/consolidation.cfm>.

For instant updates on OSM, follow OSM on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OSMRE or visit the OSM home page at www.osmre.gov. To see more on BLM, visit www.blm.gov.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSM's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

The BLM manages more land – over 245 million acres – more than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the Nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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