



Citizens Coal Council - Working Together for Justice in the Coalfields

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TAKE ACTION! The Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar announced through Secretarial Order: No. 3315, plans to bury the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) into the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Department of the Interior Secretary Salazar needs to hear from citizens living in every coal-impacted region of the country! He needs to know that attempts to bury the OSM into the BLM is **illegal** per Section 201 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

Coalfield citizens around the country are concerned with the Secretary's plan, and we need your help in speaking out against this illegal merger!

Here are just a few reasons why all of us should be concerned with the Secretary's plans:

- The Secretary's decision to merge OSM into BLM was ill-conceived and ignored the decision-making precludes scrutiny, oversight and public participation.
- The OSM was established by Congress as an independent entity answerable directly to the Secretary of Interior – the Secretary of Interior's proposal to end OSM's independence should be rejected.
- Inherent conflicts exist between the regulatory OSM and BLM's coal development duties and their cross pollination is expressly forbidden by SMCRA.
- The Secretary does not have the executive power to bury the OSM within the BLM without Congressional action.

What you can do:

- Plan to attend one of the many [OSM/BLM Stakeholder Meetings](#) on the proposed consolidation that are scheduled from January 17th to January 31st. Arrive early and submit verbal comments in opposition to this merger. Please see [suggested Talking Points](#).
- If you cannot attend in person, submit written comments through the Department of Interior website by clicking [here](#).
- Forward the OSMRE Watch Blog link (osmrewatch.com) to your friends, neighbors and networks and ask them to get involved.

Director Pizarchik (OSM) & Director Abbey (BLM) are required to provide a written report to the Secretary on February 15, 2012 based on stakeholder input and consultation. The report will also include any proposed modifications to the Order.

Additional information can be found by [clicking here](#).