

E.O. 12988—Civil Justice Reform

This direct final rule complies with the requirements of E.O. 12988. Among other things, this rule:

(a) Meets the criteria of section 3(a) requiring that all regulations be reviewed to eliminate errors and ambiguity and be written to minimize litigation;

(b) Meets the criteria of section 3(b)(2) requiring that all regulations be written in clear language and contain clear legal standards.

E.O. 13175—Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

The Department of the Interior strives to strengthen its government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes through a commitment to consultation with Tribes and recognition of their right to self-governance and Tribal sovereignty. The Department evaluated this direct final rule under E.O. 13175 and the Department's consultation policies and determined that it has no substantial, direct effects on federally recognized Indian tribes and that consultation under the Department's Tribal consultation policies is not required. The rule merely revises the Federal regulations to remove unnecessary regulatory language.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain new or materially revised information collection requirements, and a submission to the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) is not required.

National Environmental Policy Act

This direct final rule does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A detailed statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) is not required because this rule is covered by a categorical exclusion applicable to regulatory functions “that are of an administrative, financial, legal, technical, or procedural nature.” 43 CFR 46.210(i). In addition, the Department has determined that this rule does not involve any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 that would require further analysis under NEPA.

E.O. 13211—Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use

This direct final rule is not a significant energy action as defined in E.O. 13211. Therefore, a Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

Adam G. Suess,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

List of Subjects in 43 CFR Part 3730

Administrative practice and procedure, Mines, Public lands—mineral resources, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surety bonds.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Bureau of Land Management amends 43 CFR part 3730 as follows:

PART 3730—PUBLIC LAW 359; MINING IN POWERSITE WITHDRAWALS: GENERAL

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3730 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 22 *et seq.*; 30 U.S.C. 28f–k; 30 U.S.C. 621–625; 43 U.S.C. 1201; 43 U.S.C. 1740; 43 U.S.C. 1744.

Subpart 3738—[Removed]

■ 2. Remove subpart 3738.

[FR Doc. 2025–13753 Filed 7–21–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4331–29–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****43 CFR Part 3820**

[Docket No. BLM–2025–0011; PO #4820000251; Order #02412–014–004–047181.0]

RIN 1004–AF06

Rescission of Regulations Regarding Prospecting Within National Forest Wilderness for the Purpose of Gathering Information About Mineral Resources

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Direct final rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This direct final rule rescinds a portion of the Bureau of Land Management's regulations that address prospecting for mineral resources on National Forest System lands.

DATES: The final rule is effective on September 22, 2025, unless significant adverse comments are received by

August 21, 2025. If significant adverse comments are received, notice will be published in the **Federal Register** before the Effective Date either withdrawing the rule or issuing a new final rule that responds to significant adverse comments.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter the Docket Number “BLM–2025–0011” and click the “Search” button. Follow the instructions at this website.
- **Mail, Personal, or Messenger Delivery:** U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5646, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: 1004–AF06.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kirk Rentmeister, National Mining Law Program Lead, telephone: 775–435–5514; email: krentmei@blm.gov.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

For a summary of the final rule, please see the abstract description of the document in Docket Number BLM–2025–0011 on www.regulations.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Interior's (Department) regulations governing mineral prospecting within National Forest System lands are contained in 43 CFR 3823.1(a) and (b). Paragraph (a) authorizes prospecting for minerals within National Forest System lands under the terms set out in the regulation. Paragraph (b) directs those persons wishing to conduct activities under paragraph (a) to review the regulations of the United States Forest Service applicable to the lands within which such activities would be undertaken. The Department is rescinding these regulations as they are unnecessary and duplicative of the regulations issued by the United States Forest Service that can be found at 36 CFR 228.15.

The Department has determined that this reason, independently and alone, justifies rescission of 43 CFR 3823.1. The Department has no interest in maintaining a rule that is needlessly duplicative of other existing regulations.

The Department is issuing this rule as a direct final rule. Although the

Administrative Procedure Act (APA, 5 U.S.C. 551–559) generally requires agencies to engage in notice and comment rulemaking, section 553 of the APA provides an exception when the agency “for good cause finds” that notice and comment are “impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” *Id.* section 553(b)(B). The Department has determined that notice and comment are unnecessary because this rule is noncontroversial; of a minor, technical nature; involves little agency discretion; and is unlikely to receive any significant adverse comments. Significant adverse comments are those that oppose the rescission of the rule and raise, alone or in combination, (1) reasons why the rescission of the rule is inappropriate, including challenges to the rescission’s underlying premise; or (2) serious unintended consequences of the rescission. A comment recommending an addition to the rule will not be considered significant and adverse unless the comment explains how this direct final rule would be ineffective without the addition.

Procedural Matters

Executive Order (E.O.) 12866—Regulatory Planning and Review and E.O. 13563—Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review

E.O. 12866 provides that the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will review all significant rules. OIRA has determined that this rule is not significant.

E.O. 13563 reaffirms the principles of E.O. 12866, while calling for improvements in the Nation’s regulatory system to promote predictability, reduce uncertainty, and use the best, most innovative, and least burdensome tools for achieving regulatory ends. E.O. 13563 directs agencies to consider regulatory approaches that reduce burdens and maintain flexibility and freedom of choice for the public where these approaches are relevant, feasible, and consistent with regulatory objectives. E.O. 13563 emphasizes further that agencies must base regulations on the best available science and that the rulemaking process must allow for public participation and an open exchange of ideas. The Department developed this rule in a manner consistent with these requirements.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA, 5 U.S.C. 601 through 612) requires an agency to prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis for all rules unless the agency certifies that the rule will not have a

significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The RFA applies only to rules for which an agency is required to first publish a proposed rule. *See* 5 U.S.C. 603(a) and 604(a). As the Department is not required to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking for this direct final rule, the RFA does not apply.

Congressional Review Act

This rule is not a major rule under the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 804(2). Specifically, the direct final rule: (a) will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; (b) will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; and (c) will not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

This rule does not impose an unfunded mandate on State, local, or Tribal governments, or the private sector, of more than \$100 million per year. The rule does not have a significant or unique effect on State, local, or Tribal governments, or the private sector. The rule merely revises the Federal regulations to remove an obsolete provision that is no longer used. Therefore, a statement containing the information required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is not required.

E.O. 12630—Governmental Actions and Interference With Constitutionally Protected Property Rights

This rule does not result in a taking of private property or otherwise have regulatory takings implications under E.O. 12630. The rule rescinds an obsolete regulatory provision; therefore, the rule will not result in private property being taken for public use without just compensation. A takings implication assessment is therefore not required.

E.O. 13132—Federalism

Under the criteria of section 1 of E.O. 13132, this rule does not have sufficient federalism implications to warrant the preparation of a federalism summary impact statement. This rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various

levels of government. A federalism summary impact statement is not required.

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- (a) Meets the criteria of section 3(a) requiring that all regulations be reviewed to eliminate errors and ambiguity and be written to minimize litigation;
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E.O. 13175—Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments

The Department of the Interior strives to strengthen its government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes through a commitment to consultation with Tribes and recognition of their right to self-governance and Tribal sovereignty. The Department evaluated this direct final rule under E.O. 13175 and the Department’s consultation policies and determined that it has no substantial, direct effects on federally recognized Indian tribes and that consultation under the Department’s Tribal consultation policies is not required. The rule merely revises the Federal regulations to remove unnecessary regulatory language.

Paperwork Reduction Act

OMB previously approved the information collection activities contained in the existing regulations and assigned OMB Control Number 1004–0114. This rule does not impose any new or materially revised information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), and a submission to the Office of Management and Budget under the Paperwork Reduction Act is not required.

National Environmental Policy Act

This direct final rule does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. A detailed statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) is not required because this rule is covered by a categorical exclusion applicable to regulatory functions “that are of an administrative, financial, legal, technical, or procedural nature.” 43 CFR 46.210(i). In addition, the Department has determined that this rule does not

involve any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 that would require further analysis under NEPA.

E.O. 13211—Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use

This direct final rule is not a significant energy action as defined in E.O. 13211. Therefore, a Statement of Energy Effects is not required.

List of Subjects in 43 CFR Part 3820

Mines, National forests, Public lands—mineral resources, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Wilderness areas.

Adam G. Suess,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management.

For the reasons stated in the preamble, the Bureau of Land Management amends 43 CFR part 3820 as follows:

PART 3820—AREAS SUBJECT TO SPECIAL MINING LAWS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3820 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 22 *et seq.*; 43 U.S.C. 1201; 43 U.S.C. 1740; 62 Stat 162.

Subpart 3823—Prospecting, Mineral Locations, and Mineral Patents Within National Forest Wilderness

§ 3823.1 [Removed and Reserved]

■ 2. Remove and reserve § 3823.1.

[FR Doc. 2025–13777 Filed 7–21–25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Part 225

[Docket No. FRA–2024–0034]

RIN 2130–AC98

Accident/Incident Investigation Policy for Gathering Information and Consulting With Stakeholders

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule; withdrawal.

SUMMARY: FRA is withdrawing the direct final rule titled “Federal Railroad Administration Accident/Incident Investigation Policy for Gathering Information and Consulting with Stakeholders,” (the Rule) which was published on October 1, 2024.

DATES: Effective July 22, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Huggins, Supervisory Railroad Security Specialist, Office of Railroad Safety, FRA, telephone: 202–465–6922 or email: ricky.huggins@dot.gov; or Senya Waas, Senior Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, FRA, telephone: 202–875–4158 or email: senyaann.waas@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On October 1, 2024, FRA published the Rule in the **Federal Register** amending 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 225.31, in accordance with section 22417 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to create a standard process for investigators to use during accident and incident investigations conducted under that section.¹ This process was to be used to determine when it was appropriate to collect information and the appropriate method for gathering that information about an accident or incident under investigation from railroad carriers, contractors or employees of railroad carriers, or representatives of employees of railroad carriers, and others, as determined relevant by the Secretary. The process was also to be used to determine when it was appropriate to consult with railroad carriers, contractors or employees of railroad carriers, or representatives of employees of railroad carriers, and others, as determined relevant by the Secretary, for technical expertise on the facts of the accident or incident under investigation. See Public Law 117–58, section 22417, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 748.

The Rule generated two adverse, substantive comments. Accordingly, as described in more detail below, FRA has decided to withdraw the Rule.

II. Reasons for Withdrawal

FRA is withdrawing the Rule, which took effect on November 15, 2024. FRA received two adverse, substantive comments which opposed the Rule. There were no comments submitted in support of the Rule.²

Commenters objecting to the Rule stated that the Rule was insufficient as it needed to be expanded to include the outside review of accidents/incidents by professionals, such as physicists or

highly qualified industrial engineers, as independent reviews of findings.

Commenters also alleged that FRA’s outreach to the Class I railroads was limited and insufficient, and nonexistent to short line railroads. As such, it was the position of the commenters that FRA did not account fully for how the Rule would affect the railroad industry in the following ways: (1) FRA’s “catch-all” provision for determining which accidents trigger the information gathering and stakeholder consultation requirements is vague and fails to implement the IIJA mandate properly; (2) FRA’s description of “stakeholders” fails to implement the IIJA mandate properly; (3) FRA fails to explain substantive regulatory changes in 49 CFR 225.31(a); (4) loopholes allow for information to be shared with third parties during an investigation; (5) it is unclear how FRA’s web-based document sharing site will protect against the disclosure of confidential information; (6) there are no protections against post-investigation disclosures of confidential information; (7) the identity of a stakeholder should not be kept confidential from other stakeholders; (8) FRA’s investigation policy would create untenable conflicts with NTSB practice in situations where NTSB and FRA conduct overlapping investigations; (9) FRA limits improperly the basis for restricting stakeholder access to an accident site; (10) FRA does not have the authority to grant a stakeholder “virtual” access to railroad property; (11) the investigation policy will result in undue delays in clearing accident sites; (12) FRA adopts an incident command model but fails to provide details on its structure and tasks; and (13) FRA underestimates the cost of compliance of the new regulation.

Given the extent of the commenters’ substantive issues with the Rule, FRA is withdrawing the Rule.

III. Regulatory Impact and Notices

A. Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

FRA has evaluated this final rule in accordance with E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review (58 FR 51735, Oct. 4, 1993), and DOT Order 2100.6B, Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking (Mar. 10, 2025). The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866.

FRA is amending its Accident/ Incident Regulations, covering reporting, classification, and

¹ 89 FR 79767. A correction to the Rule was published on October 28, 2024 (89 FR 85450).

² As stated in the Rule: “If FRA receives an adverse, substantive comment on any of the provisions, it will publish in the **Federal Register** a timely withdrawal, informing the public that the direct final rule will not take effect.” 89 FR 79767 at 79768.