

(f) "person" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, or other business organization;

(g) "State" includes a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam; and

(h) "State plan" or "plan" means the whole or any portion or segment thereof.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDING

SEC. 3. The Congress finds and declares—

(a) That extraction of minerals by surface mining is a significant and essential industrial activity and contributes to the economic potential of the Nation;

(b) That there are surface mining operations in the Nation that burden and adversely affect commerce by destroying or diminishing the availability of land for commercial, industrial, recreational, agricultural, and forestry purposes, by causing erosion and landslides, by contributing to floods and the pollution of waters, by destroying fish and wildlife habitat and impairing natural beauty, by counteracting efforts to conserve soil, water, and other natural resources, by destroying or impairing the property of citizens, and by creating hazards dangerous to life and property;

(c) That regulation by the Secretary and cooperation by the States as contemplated by this Act are appropriate to prevent and eliminate such burdens and adverse effects;

(d) That, because of the diversity of terrain, climate, biologic, chemical, and other physical conditions in mining areas, the establishment on a nationwide basis of uniform regulations for surface mining operations and for the reclamation of surface mined areas is not feasible;

(e) That the initial responsibility for developing, authorizing issuing, and enforcing regulations for surface mining operations and for the reclamation of surface mined areas should rest with the States; and

(f) That it is the purpose of this Act to provide a nationwide program to prevent or substantially reduce the adverse effects to the environment from surface mining, to assure that adequate measures will be taken to reclaim surface mined areas after operations are completed, and to assist the States in carrying out such a program.

MINES SUBJECT TO ACT

SEC. 4. After the effective date of this Act, each surface mine, the products of which enter commerce or the operations of which affect commerce, and the surface mined area thereof shall be subject to this Act.

FEDERAL AND STATE COOPERATION

SEC. 5. (a) In furtherance of the policy of this Act, the Secretary is authorized, whenever he determines that it would effectuate the purposes of this Act, to cooperate with appropriate State agencies in developing and administering State plans for the regulation of surface mines and the reclamation of surface mined areas, consistent with the provisions of section 7 of this Act, and to cooperate and consult with other Federal agencies in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(b) In cooperating with appropriate State agencies under this Act, the Secretary may provide such agency (1) technical and financial assistance in planning and otherwise developing an adequate State plan for the regulation of surface mines and the reclamation of surface mined areas, (2) technical assistance and training, including necessary curricular and instructional materials, and financial and other aid for administration and enforcement of such a plan; and (3) assistance in preparing and maintaining a continuing inventory of surface mined areas and active mining operations within the State for the evaluation of current and future needs and the effectiveness of mining and reclamation regulatory measures.

(c) The amount of any grant the Secretary may make to any State to assist them in meeting the total cost of the cooperative program in each State shall not exceed 50 per centum of such cost: *Provided*, That such payment shall not be made for more than three years unless a State plan has been submitted and approved by the Secretary and thereafter such payment shall be contingent at all times upon the administration of the State program in a manner which the Secretary deems adequate to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

(d) The appropriate State agency with which the Secretary may cooperate under this Act shall be a single agency designated by the State to have responsibility