



Office of the Chief  
Records Officer for the  
U.S. Government

***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

October 21, 2021

Mr. Patrick Dege  
Department of the Interior  
Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement  
MS: SIB-146  
1951 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Dege,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received your notification of unauthorized disposition of records from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). Your notification indicated that on September 22, 2021, the OSMRE had a file server outage that impacted the Washington, DC headquarters office; Lexington, Kentucky Applicant Violator System office; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania office; and Alton, Illinois office.

NARA understands that even though the file server was brought back on-line on September 27, 2021, the OSMRE has identified that data stored on the failed file server between July 5, 2021 and September 27, 2021 was lost, and that the OSMRE is unclear of the total extent of which records were lost, but have begun surveying users to determine what records are part of the loss.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting that the OSMRE provide a final report within 30 calendar days that includes, as applicable: a complete description of the records affected; a statement of what safeguards have been put into place (or will be put into place) to prevent any future unauthorized disposition of records, and any actions taken to attempt to restore or reconstruct the affected records. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence N. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

LAURENCE BREWER  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government

cc: David Alspach, [david\\_alspach@ios.doi.gov](mailto:david_alspach@ios.doi.gov)



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***Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.***

December 6, 2021

Mr. Patrick Dege  
Department of the Interior  
Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement  
MS: SIB-146  
1951 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Dege,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received your final report regarding your recent notification of the unauthorized disposition of records from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). Your notification indicated that on September 22, 2021, the OSMRE had a file server outage that impacted the Washington, DC headquarters office; Lexington, Kentucky Applicant Violator System office; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania office; and Alton, Illinois office.

Your report indicates that there were 134 user accounts potentially affected, and of those, 125 user accounts were able to reinstate all missing files, and only 9 users reported file losses that were unrecoverable. Of the 9 users that reported a loss of files, the majority of the files were draft or preliminary versions. The resulting loss of data was confined to data revised or created between July 5, 2021 and September 21, 2021.

NARA understands that OSMRE has exhausted all efforts to recover or reestablish the lost files and are now focusing on shoring up OSMRE's data backup strategy processes and updating the IT infrastructure to prevent further loss of documentation.

Based on the information in your report, OSMRE has satisfied the requirements of 36 CFR 1230.14(a) and this matter is now closed. If you have any concerns, please contact me at [laurence.brewer@nara.gov](mailto:laurence.brewer@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurence R. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

LAURENCE BREWER  
Chief Records Officer  
for the U.S. Government

cc: David Alspach, [david\\_alspach@ios.doi.gov](mailto:david_alspach@ios.doi.gov)