

U.S. officials have moved closer to finalizing rules on the disposal of mining waste, a plan environmentalists said **gives mountaintop mining companies more freedom to dump debris** near rivers and streams.

The current rules were put in place in 1983 but needed to be clarified because of conflicting interpretations, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) said in a statement released on Friday.

[More...](#)