

Office of Surface Mining

**TABLE 2
EMERGENCY RECLAMATION PROJECTS**

	1997 Projects		1978-1996 Projects		Total
	Federal	State	Federal	State	
Alabama	0	13	10	15	38
Arkansas	0	0	1	6	7
California	0	0	3	0	3
Colorado	1	0	90	0	91
Illinois	0	10	51	167	228
Indiana	0	15	94	42	151
Iowa	3	0	15	0	18
Kansas	0	41	270	339	650
Kentucky	58	0	621	0	679
Maryland	3	0	11	0	14
Michigan	0	0	9	0	9
Missouri	0	0	6	0	6
Montana	0	0	7	11	18
Navajo Tribe	0	0	6	0	6
New Mexico	0	0	15	0	15
North Dakota	0	2	15	3	20
Northern Cheyenne Tribe	0	0	2	0	2
Ohio	0	33	190	113	336
Oklahoma	1	0	43	0	44
Pennsylvania	153	0	1,511	0	1,664
Rhode Island	0	0	1	0	1
Southern Ute Tribe	0	0	1	0	1
Tennessee	1	0	11	0	12
Texas	1	0	5	0	6
Virginia	0	11	30	53	94
Washington	3	0	38	0	41
West Virginia	0	53	179	372	604
Wyoming	0	0	38	0	38
Total	224	178	3,273	1,121	4,796

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1994. In 1989, the Office of Surface Mining established a policy that provided federal share funds (in addition to formula-based allocations) to states and tribes with emergency programs.

The Office of Surface Mining spent \$18.4 million on emergency reclamation projects in 1997. States spent \$8 million on emergency reclamation projects in 1997.

Of the 511 potential emergencies referred by Office of Surface Mining field offices, 212 resulted in a declaration of emergency, 58 were determined to be not of an emergency nature, 196 were considered not related to coal mining or were reclaimed by the landowner, and 45 were still under investigation at the close of the year on September 30, 1997. Non-emergency mining-related complaints were referred to the states for consideration as high-priority abandoned mine land grant projects.

Table 3 summarizes Office of Surface Mining Abandoned Mine Land reclamation project obligations.

Non-Emergency Program

Under Sections 402 and 407 of the Surface Mining Law, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to expend Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund monies for non-emergency reclamation of high-priority problems that present an extreme danger to the public. A non-emergency is defined in 30 CFR 870.5 as “a condition that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to persons, property, or the environment and to which persons or improvements on real property are currently exposed.”

Until 1980, when states and Indian tribes began to receive approval of their abandoned mine land programs, all reclamation was administered by the Office of Surface Mining. However, as state and tribal programs were approved and the states and tribes assumed responsibility for correcting abandoned mine land problems, the Office of Surface Mining has greatly reduced its direct participation in the non-emergency portion of the program and during 1997 initiated seven non-emergency projects in Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, and Washington. Table 4 summarizes emergency and non-emergency abandoned coal mine reclamation project accomplishments through 1997.

The Abandoned Mine Land Fund also is used to reclaim some problems created by non-coal mines. To be eligible for funding, a non-coal project must be a Priority 1 (threat to health and safety) or the state or Indian tribe must certify it has addressed all known coal-related abandoned mine land problems. Non-coal reclamation project accomplishments are included in Table 4.

Post-Surface Mining Law Reclamation

As authorized in the 1997 appropriations, federal civil penalties collected under Section 518 of the Surface Mining Law were used to reclaim lands mined and abandoned after August 3, 1977. In 1997, the Office of Surface Mining funded seven reclamation projects costing a total of \$512,860 in Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, and Virginia. An additional \$77,039 in unobligated funds will be carried over for use in 1998 reclamation projects.



We collect reclamation fees on coal extracted at all active mines