

# PERFORMANCE GOALS AND RESULTS

## A SUMMARY OF GRPA PROGRESS

Following is a summary of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals and results. For a complete report readers should see the Office of Surface Mining 2005 Financial Accountability Report in electronic format on the web ([www.osmre.gov/annualreport/annualreport05.htm](http://www.osmre.gov/annualreport/annualreport05.htm)) or on the 2005 Annual Report CD.

The Office of Surface Mining's mission is to carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Law in cooperation with states and tribes (see Figure 7). The primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines. Since 1977, the abandoned mine reclamation program has addressed safety and environmental hazards in 27

states and three Indian tribes on over 560,000 acres adversely impacted from abandoned coal mined lands. Millions of Americans continue to be at risk from the most serious hazards. The regulatory program involves active, or current, coal mining operations on 4,347,262 acres in 26 states and three Indian tribes.

The annual performance plan emphasizes on-the-ground program accomplishments primarily by our partners, the states and tribes. The Office of Surface Mining activities focus on technical assistance. In addition, the Office of Surface Mining seeks improved management efficiencies through implementation of the President's Management Agenda and Secretary Norton's Citizen-Centered Governance Plan. These initiatives complement the Government Performance and Results Act and focus on program performance in five key management areas: strategic management of human capital,

competitive sourcing, electronic government, financial management, and budget and performance integration.

In carrying out the mandates of the Surface Mining Law, the Office of Surface Mining continues to seek input from state and tribal partners, industry, citizens, and citizen groups. The development of the initial suite of goals and measures was completed after extensive consultations with these partners and stakeholders in the mid-1990s. Starting in 2002 with the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program and continuing in 2004 with the Regulatory Program, the Office of Surface Mining met with the states and tribes to establish new measures which better reflect program performance. This year will be the first time that results will be reported for some of these new measures.

**Figure 7**  
**Mission and vision**

### Mission

Our mission is to carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Law in cooperation with states and tribes. Our primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining and assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

### Vision

- In regulating active coal mining, we will maintain compliance at high levels and ensure that all mines are properly operated and promptly reclaimed to the standards established under the Law. We will emphasize prevention and ensure that long-term environmental problems do not occur. We will ensure that the premining productivity of the land is restored.
- In reclaiming abandoned mine lands, we will aggressively pursue reclamation with a primary emphasis on correcting the most serious problems related to public health, safety, and the general welfare. We will ensure maximum public benefit through the prompt and fair distribution of public funds.
- In cooperating with state regulatory authorities, the primary enforcers of the Surface Mining Law, and with tribes, we will promote a shared commitment to the goals of the Law. We will develop a comprehensive understanding of the fairness, effectiveness, and efficiency of the Surface Mining Law programs. We will provide constructive program reviews, oversight monitoring, and technical assistance that focus on results. We will act independently to protect the public interest in situations of imminent harm or when a state does not implement an approved regulatory program.
- In dealing with those who are affected by mining and reclamation, we will ensure the protection of citizens from abusive mining practices, be responsive to their concerns, and allow them full access to information needed to evaluate the effect of mining on their health, safety, general welfare, and property.
- In our relations with the coal industry, we will have clear, fair, and consistently applied policies and will respect the importance of coal production as a source of our Nation's energy supply.
- In all communications, we will maintain open, courteous, constructive, and timely dialogue and will use information to understand and improve our programs and those of our state and tribal partners.
- In demonstrating leadership in mining and reclamation, we will promote the development of the highest quality technical information and research and will seek the transfer of technology to those who would benefit.
- In meeting our responsibilities, we will be a diverse, competent, innovative, and highly-trained work force. We will serve with integrity, and demonstrate technical, legal, administrative, and professional excellence at all times. We will constantly strive to create a more responsive, efficient, and effective process for achieving the objectives of the Surface Mining Law.

**Resource Protection:**

**Abandoned Mine Reclamation**

*Strategic Goal: Improve health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are Department of Interior managed or influenced in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water.*

The reclamation program improves the health of watersheds and landscapes by correcting problems caused by past mining. Federal grants enable states and tribes to reclaim land and water adversely impacted by past coal mining. Technical assistance, training, and technology development is provided to the states and tribes through the Office of Surface Mining's technology development and transfer program.

**Measuring Performance Results**

In order to report on program accomplishment toward the final desired outcome the Office of Surface Mining developed intermediate measures as indicators of program success. These measures are provided to indicate the amount of reclamation that is occurring annually. The primary indicator is the number of acres reclaimed. For reporting consistency, reclamation results for each of the hazard types (e.g., number of open shafts, miles of stream, feet of highwall) listed in the inventory are converted to acres. It is estimated that over 1.5 million acres of land have been disturbed and 11,500 miles of streams polluted by coal mining. Since 1977, over 208,000 acres of health and

safety coal related problems such as underground fires, subsidence, landslides, open shafts, and highwalls have been reclaimed and 232.44 miles of streams have been addressed.

A component of this reclamation program is the *Appalachian Clean Streams Program*, which is designed to facilitate development of partnerships in the form of cooperative agreements to private not-for-profit organizations to undertake local acid mine drainage reclamation projects. The number of partnering agreements and the amount of increased funds derived from these agreements provide an indication of the support and efficiency of this program.

**Resource Use: Control of the Environmental Impacts of Surface Coal Mining**

*Strategic Goal: Manage or influence resource use to enhance public benefit, promote responsible use, and ensure optimal value.*

The Surface Mining Law requires that coal mining operations be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and that the land affected be adequately reclaimed during and following the mining process. State and federal regulatory programs are designed to promote and monitor compliance with these requirements. The technology development and transfer program provides resources for technical assistance, training, and technology development activities to states and tribes.

As with the reclamation program, intermediate measures of program success have been developed. On-the-ground results are measured by the percentage of coal operations that are free of offsite impacts. During mining, the potential for impacts affecting safety and the environment increases. When safety and environmental impacts happen outside the permitted mining operation, the events are recorded as offsite impacts.

**Serving Communities**

*Strategic Goal: Protect lives, resources and property.*

**Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program**

The reclamation program addresses health and safety problems and serves communities by protecting the lives and property of citizens living in the coal fields. Program performance is indicated by the overall number of people with reduced risk from abandoned mine land problems and the number of people being assisted through the emergency reclamation program.

**Performance Measures**

In 2005, the Office of Surface Mining is reporting on six performance measures (Figure 8) which are identified as end outcome performance measures for the Interior Department's Strategic Plan.

**Figure 8  
Strategic Plan Measures**

Measure	Target	Results
<b>Mission Area: Resource Protection</b>		
Number of land acres reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of degradation from past mining. (Calculated equivalent acres)	6,900	6,533 <sup>1</sup>
Number of stream-miles for which degradation from past surface coal mining has been improved.	35	28 <sup>1,2</sup>
Number of surface acres of water for which degradation from coal mining has been improved.	35	23 <sup>1,3</sup>
<b>Mission Area: Resource Use</b>		
Percent of active sites that are free of offsite impacts.	93	89 <sup>4</sup>
Number of acres where reclamation goals are achieved as evidenced by release from Phase III Performance Bonds.	70,000	53,353 <sup>4,5</sup>
<b>Mission Area: Serving Communities</b>		
Number of people with reduced exposure potential to safety risks from abandoned mine lands.	11,000	1,276,549 <sup>1,6</sup>

1. Information calculated from projects reported with completion dates of 10/1/04 - 9/30/05 and entered in the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System as of 10/3/05. Data are recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of performance information in accordance with criteria stated by management and agreed to by the participating states.  
 2. Results based on 30 projects ranging from 0.05 to 12.12 miles.  
 3. Results based on 7 projects ranging from 0.10 to 13.13 acres.  
 4. Calculated values: State programs provide data on a July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 time frame, to accommodate the accelerated publishing requirements. Results are calculated by subtracting the 2004 quarter data (July 1 - September 30, 2004) and adding the 2005 quarter for (July 1 - September 30, 2005). Federal data is on the federal fiscal year.  
 5. Data limitations: restoration of coal-mined land to its pre-mining capability or to conditions capable of supporting higher or better use may be accomplished without coal operators seeking phase III bond release. Operators are not required to request bond release, thus causing an under-reporting of results. Trend data does not support the current target; OSM will revise this target in the future. Furthermore, OSM has made significant progress in developing a new performance measure to compare cumulative acres reclaimed and cumulative acres bonded.  
 6. Data anomalies: Of the 1,276,549 people with reduced exposure, 1,138,010 were reported on 4 projects in Alaska and 1 project in Colorado. All 4 Alaska projects are located near National Parks or Forests which are visited by local and tourist populations. The Colorado project is located in a popular hiking and outdoor recreation area which attracts visitors and residents alike. Trend data does not support the current target; OSM will revise this target in the future.