

America's coal mining reclamation
is growing

green



Office of Surface Mining

1996 Annual Report

What is the computer disk on the inside of this cover?

We hope you are intrigued by the digital compact disk that accompanies this year's Annual Report. This disk may be inserted into personal computers that have CD-ROM drives to get an electronic color version of this report. The disk also includes a KEEP OUT: Old mines can be dangerous public service announcement and videos describing the Appalachia Clean Streams Initiative and implementation of the Surface Mining Law.

We believe chances are good that you -- or someone you work with -- will be able to use this disk. If you cannot, please share it with someone else involved with the implementation of the Surface Mining Law.

Minimum System Requirements

PC-Compatible:

486DX 66 MHZ

8 MB RAM

Microsoft Windows 3.1 or Windows 95

640 x 480 screen resolution, 256 colors

Double speed CD ROM

Instructions:

Windows 95 with Autoplay enabled

1. Insert the disk into your CD-ROM drive.
2. The main menu screen will appear.

Windows 95 with Autoplay disabled

1. Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive
2. Click the "Start" button.
3. Click "Run".
4. Type D:autorun32.exe, where D is the drive letter of your CD-ROM
5. The main menu screen will appear.

Windows 3.1

1. Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive.
2. In "Program Manager," click the "File" menu.
3. Click "Run."
4. Type D:autorun16.exe, where D is the drive letter of your CD-ROM.
5. The main menu screen will appear.

From the menu choose from the following:

- 1996 Office of Surface Mining Annual Report¹
- (15 second video) KEEP OUT: Old mines can be dangerous.²
- (30 second video) KEEP OUT: Old mines can be dangerous.²
- (15 minute video) Citizens' introduction to involvement with the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative.²
- (28 minute video) A Page in Time. A video describing how the Surface Mining Law is implemented ²

If you experience problems using this disk or have questions about using it please contact us at (202) 208-2719 or E-mail: getinfo@osmre.gov

1. Requires Adobe Acrobat reader. A copy of Adobe Acrobat reader can be downloaded, at no charge, from Adobe's world wide web site <http://www.adobe.com>

2. Requires QuickTime player to view the video. A copy of QuickTime video player can be downloaded, at no charge, from Apple Computer's world wide web site <http://quicktime.apple.com>

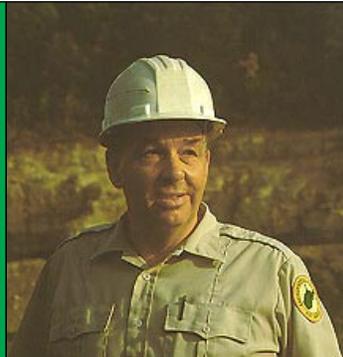
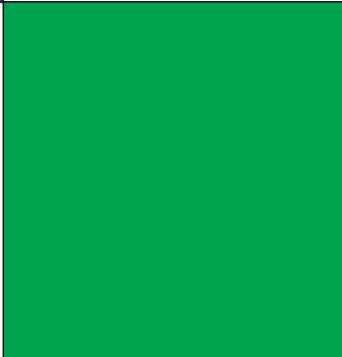
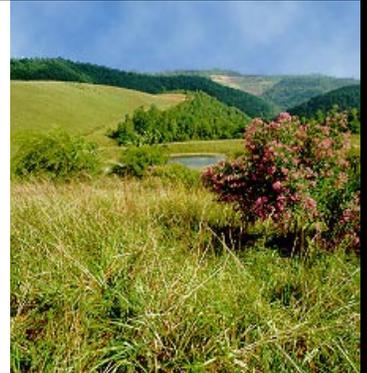
Growing reclamation green...

1996 results tell the story



←← Page 3 ~ Office of Surface Mining Acting Director Kay Henry reports highlights of 1996 in a **letter to our constituents and customers.**

~ 1996 was a difficult but productive year for the Office of Surface Mining.



↑↑ Page 4 ~ A report on the **Budget, Management, and Operations** of the Office of Surface Mining

~ Land mined and reclaimed under the Surface Mining Law.

↓ Page 20 ~ An update on the **Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation**

of resources affected by mining that took place before the Surface Mining Law passed in 1977.
~ Highwalls -- a common abandoned mine land problem.



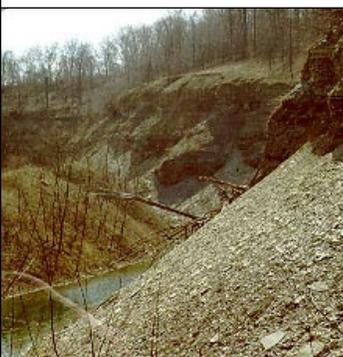
↑↑ Page 10 ~ A review of the shared federal/state/Indian **Environmental Protection**

for active surface and underground coal mining and reclamation operations throughout the nation.
~ West Virginia mine inspector Richard Casertas.



↑↑ Page 30 ~ Audited **Financial Statements** of the Office of Surface Mining.

~ Mine inspector checks the blasters credentials at the mine site.



→ Page 51 ~ Office of Surface Mining **Directory.**
~ During reclamation the land is regraded to its approximate original contour.

Introduction

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining 1996 Annual Report

This report describes the operations of the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) for the period October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996 (Fiscal Year 1996)¹. The report combines the Office of Surface Mining's Annual Report to Congress with its Annual Financial Report, and was compiled to meet the specific requirements of Section 706 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) as well as Section 306 of the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990. In addition, the report describes the first steps taken to include requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act in the Office of Surface Mining's annual report. The 1997 report will be organized by business lines and combine all three of these statutory requirements.

The 1996 report is presented in two formats -- printed and electronic -- making the report more accessible to the general public. In addition to reducing costs, the electronic version of the report was created in response to public requests for electronic computer-readable information about Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act implementation and Office of Surface Mining operations. Included in this report are activities carried out under several parts of SMCRA: Title IV, Abandoned Mine Reclamation; Title V, Control of the Environmental Impacts of Surface Coal Mining; and Title VII, Administrative and Miscellaneous Provisions. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act responsibilities of other bureaus and agencies have been omitted. Those responsibilities include Title III, State Mining and Mineral Resources and

Research Institutes program, which was administered by the U.S. Bureau of Mines; Titles VIII and IX, the University Coal Research Laboratories and the Energy Resource Graduate Fellowships, which are administered by the Secretary of Energy; and Section 406, the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP), which is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture. Programmatic and financial information about those activities is reported directly to Congress by the agencies responsible for them.

This year's annual report contains updated tabular data corresponding to that found in Office of Surface Mining annual reports prepared since 1988. This allows comparison of statistics from year to year. Changes to the 1996 report include: the reporting period for inspection data (during

the transition to fiscal year reporting) and statistics provided in both Metric and English units. Financial and accounting information is presented in a format similar to a traditional corporate annual report, and is contained in the Financial Review section.

The Inspector General's audit statement, which gives the Office of Surface Mining a "clean" audit opinion of its financial reporting for 1996, is included at the end of the financial section.

To meet the need for national and state-by-state statistical data and the growing demand for Office of Surface Mining operational and financial information, both printed and electronic copies of the annual report will be distributed to the public upon request.

For information about Office of Surface Mining activities, news releases, and publications, or for additional copies of this report, visit the Office of Surface Mining site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.osmre.gov> or contact:

Office of Communications
Office of Surface Mining
1951 Constitution Ave.,
N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
(202) 208-2719

1. Throughout this document "1996" refers to Fiscal Year 1996 (10/1/95 - 9/30/96), unless otherwise noted.

Letter to our constituents and customers. Office of Surface Mining Acting Director Kay Henry reports highlights of 1996.

By almost any measure, 1996 was a dramatic year for the Office of Surface Mining. However, in spite of the difficulties, the Office of Surface Mining and the states and Indian tribes have grown closer together and, out of the 1996 experience, new more effective directions have been set for the future.

Under the leadership of Bob Uram, who resigned as Director of the Office of Surface Mining on September 15th, the Office of Surface Mining has become one of the most successful environmental agencies in government. For 2½ years he guided management reforms, programmatic reinventions, new initiatives, and high standards of integrity that have set a course for the most successful implementation of the Surface Mining Law since its passage in 1977.

When the year began, the Office of Surface Mining was undergoing a Reduction in Force (RIF). The office was closed 18 days because we did not have an appropriation. And when the 1996 budget was finalized, many activities had to be curtailed due to insufficient funding. At times during the year it was difficult to maintain a minimum level of service. Priorities had to be carefully set to ensure safety of the coal field citizens, protection of the environment, and the full reclamation of mined land.

One of the key ingredients for the Office of Surface Mining's success in 1996 was the strong, mutually supportive relationship of the Office of Surface Mining and the states, Indian tribes, industry, and citizen groups. Work was accomplished as a team - in special task groups, and on technical projects like the National Blasting Work Group, the

Mine Blow-out Study, the Acid Mine Drainage Initiative, and the Regulatory Oversight Policy (REG-8).

REG-8, formalizing the Office of Surface Mining's new oversight procedures, represents an outstanding example of that cooperative work. Only through such a close working relationship could the team have re-engineered state program evaluation from the process-driven system of the past into a new performance-based process focused on outcomes and results.

In 1996, the Office of Surface Mining completed its first full year of operation under the new regional organizational structure. Most states within a region share many issues in common, and to be effective and assure appropriate consistency, the issues must be addressed through a multi-state approach. The

combination of field offices and regional coordinating centers working together with the states and Indian tribes has resulted in improved relationships and more effective on-the-ground reclamation.

This 1996 Annual Report is an example of a new direction for the Office of Surface Mining. For the first time we are using electronic publishing to make the information available to a larger audience. This year's report includes a version on the Office of Surface Mining World Wide Web site (<http://www.osmre.gov>) and one on CD-ROM disk. The CD-ROM contains a Public Service Announcement on Dangers from Abandoned Mines and videos on the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative and SMCRA implementation.

