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	U· S· DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR **OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING** **RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT** **DIRECTIVES SYSTEM**	**Subject Number:** AML-10 **Transmittal Number:** 366 **Date:** 8/25/87

Subject: Post-Project Evaluation of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Projects Completed Under the Office of Surface Mining's Federal Reclamation Program (FRP)

Approval: Jed D. Christensen **Title:** Director

1. Purpose. This directive outlines the plan and procedures for evaluating Abandoned Mine Land (AML) reclamation projects completed under the Federal Reclamation Program (FRP) of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). The objective is to identify those abatement/control methodologies that have been effective over time as well as those with demonstrated deficiencies that need to be improved or changed.

2. Definition.

a. Evaluation. A field study of a sample of completed AML FRP reclamation projects to assess the effectiveness of the reclamation techniques which were employed to abate or control the mining-related problem.

b. Federal Reclamation Program Project. Emergency or high priority AML abatement or reclamation project funded from the Secretary's Discretionary Share of the AML Fund, and undertaken through a Federal contract, a cooperative agreement with a State/Tribe or an interagency agreement with another Federal agency.

3. Policy/Procedures.

a. Policy. It is the policy of OSMRE that all reclamation projects conducted through the FRP be designed to abate or control the particular AML problem(s) addressed. The reclamation effort will be performed with the most effective technology available and in a cost-efficient manner.

The purpose of the evaluation is to identify those reclamation methodologies that have been effective as well as those with demonstrated deficiencies, and not to "grade" Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives (COTR) or AML FRP Program field operations staff.

It is also the policy of OSMRE that a yearly post-project evaluation will be made of at least a 5 percent sample of AML FRP projects completed in the fiscal year three years prior to the study year (see Sec. 3.c.(1)(b)).

b. Responsibilities.

c. Procedures.

(1) Evaluation.

(a) A project will be eligible for consideration in the evaluation process three years after completion of reclamation. (Example - projects completed during FY 85 will be eligible in FY 88).

(b) The first evaluation will be conducted in FY 87. For the FY 87 evaluation only, the sample size will be 3 percent of all the projects completed through FY 84. Subsequent yearly evaluations will be based on a 5 percent sample of AML FRP projects completed in the fiscal year three years prior to the study year.

(c) Starting in FY 88 an annual evaluation will be conducted on a 5 percent minimum sample of eligible projects (only projects completed during FY 85 will be eligible for the FY 88 evaluation, only projects completed in FY 86 will be eligible for the FY 89 evaluation, and so on).

(d) The ET will be composed of three standing members, consisting of a representative from each of the two Field Operations Offices and HQ. The ET members will be selected from OSMRE staff familiar with AML reclamation work (Field Operations members of the Team may be selected from the Field Operations Offices and/or Field Offices staff). An ET member may not evaluate a project if he or she was in any way involved with the project, either as the COTR or in the development or implementation of the abatement or reclamation effort.

(e) The ET will evaluate the project sample selected by the HQ Division of AMLR. The selected projects will be representative of the emergency and high-priority project activities completed under the AML FRP, taking into consideration the following criteria: (i) the sample should include at least two projects (if available) from each of the following AML problem types: subsidence, landslides and mine/refuse fires; (ii) the sample should include substantial representation of the higher cost projects; and (iii) the projects selected should be representative of regional AML problems.

(f) After the ET reviews the project sample and determines which project(s) each member is capable of evaluating (based on their specialized experience), they may request from the AD/E/WFO any required additional specialized assistance. The technical specialist will evaluate only those projects requiring the expertise for which they were requested. The technical specialist will serve on the ET as a non-voting evaluator and will only serve as a technical consultant to the ET on technical interpretation judged outside the expertise of the ET.

Any findings and recommendations of the technical specialist will be submitted separately to the original three member ET. The ET will evaluate those findings and incorporate them, as appropriate, into the final ET report.

The HQ Division of AMLR will distribute the report to the AD's for PP and E/WFO for their review and comment, consolidate the comments and forward the report to the Deputy Director for OTS. The Office of the Deputy Director for OTS will forward the final report to the Director with the comments, findings, recommendations and any appropriate corrective action.

5. References.

a. Federal Register, 45 FR 14815, March 6, 1980, "Final Guidelines for Reclamation Programs and Projects."

b. Office of the Inspector General, March 1983 audit report on "Review of Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program, Office of Surface Mining, Recommendation 9."

6. Effects on Other Documents. None.

7. Effective Date. Date of Issuance.

8. Contact. Division of Abandoned Mined Land Reclamation - Program Policy. (202) 343-7910