

*Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement*

30 U.S.C. 1231, 1232, 1233 and 1239 – Provides for the payment of fees and other monies into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation fund (Fund). The Fund consists of amounts deposited from time to time, derived from reclamation fees, donations, audit recoveries, interest charges, and administrative collection fees.

The funds collected are used for the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by past mining. SMCRA provides for the use of the monies for the purpose of protecting public health and facilities, safety, general welfare, and property from extreme danger and adverse effects of coal mining practices; restoration of land and water resources and the environment previously degraded by adverse effects of coal mining operations. It also provides that monies in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund will be used to cover the administrative expenses of the Federal Government, accomplish abandoned mine reclamation and develop guidelines on the distribution of monies in the Fund.

30 U.S.C. 1257, as amended by Public Laws 101-508 and 102-486 - Provide for the regulatory authority to designate a qualified laboratory to obtain technical information and prepare technical findings required by the operator for the permit application, and for the regulatory authority to assume the cost for such services. Further, the Act provides for the Secretary to provide or assume the cost of training for regulatory program compliance and permit application preparation for eligible small operators.

30 U.S.C. 1252, 1253, 1254, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1295, 1300, 1302 – These sections provide for aid to all primacy States for maintaining approved regulatory programs and evaluation of the States' performance in doing so; monitoring implementation of the grant programs; small operator assistance programs; and for regulatory programs in States without approved programs, on Federal lands and on Indian lands; processing of permit applications and mine plans for Federal lands operations; designating of lands unsuitable for surface mining through technical reviews; scientific/engineering support and technical training for States operating approved permanent programs and federally administered programs; initiation of technical studies; issuance of technical publications; approval of experimental practices to meet the needs of approved State programs and federally-administered programs; preparation of environmental assessments and impact statements for permits and other actions; and training of OSM staff and State staff to enable these agencies to more effectively carry out the provisions of the act.

30 U.S.C. 1260, 1268 – These sections provide for the assessment and collection of penalties levied for violations of the Act, and for the denial of permits to those with unabated violations or unpaid penalties.