

Office of Surface Mining



We keep the office functioning smoothly

Nancy Bryant is the Administrative Officer for the Charleston Field Office and its two area offices in Beckley and Morgantown, West Virginia. In this position Nancy serves as the principal person responsible for all administrative and resource needs for the field office.

Nancy is a native of West Virginia, and has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a masters degree in industrial relations. Prior to joining the Office of Surface Mining in 1987, she was a loan officer for the Small Business Administration.

When Nancy is not keeping the field office running smoothly she is busy with her twin boys.



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We report the financial status

Rob Winter is an accountant with the Financial Management office in Denver, Colorado. His primary responsibility includes preparing the Office of Surface Mining's Annual Financial Statements that are audited by the Inspector General each year. These are the statements that present the complete picture of the Office of Surface Mining's finances that are in the next section of this report.

Rob has a degree in Accounting and just completed an M.S. in Management. He has been with the Office of Surface Mining for six years and remarks that "the Office of Surface Mining possesses the highest degree of professionalism of any organization I have seen."

When not accounting for Office of Surface Mining finances, Rob enjoys the Colorado outdoors with his wife Ronda. From golfing to biking to skiing to camping, they love experiencing the "beauty that God gave us to enjoy every day."

We ensure compliance with the Surface Mining Law

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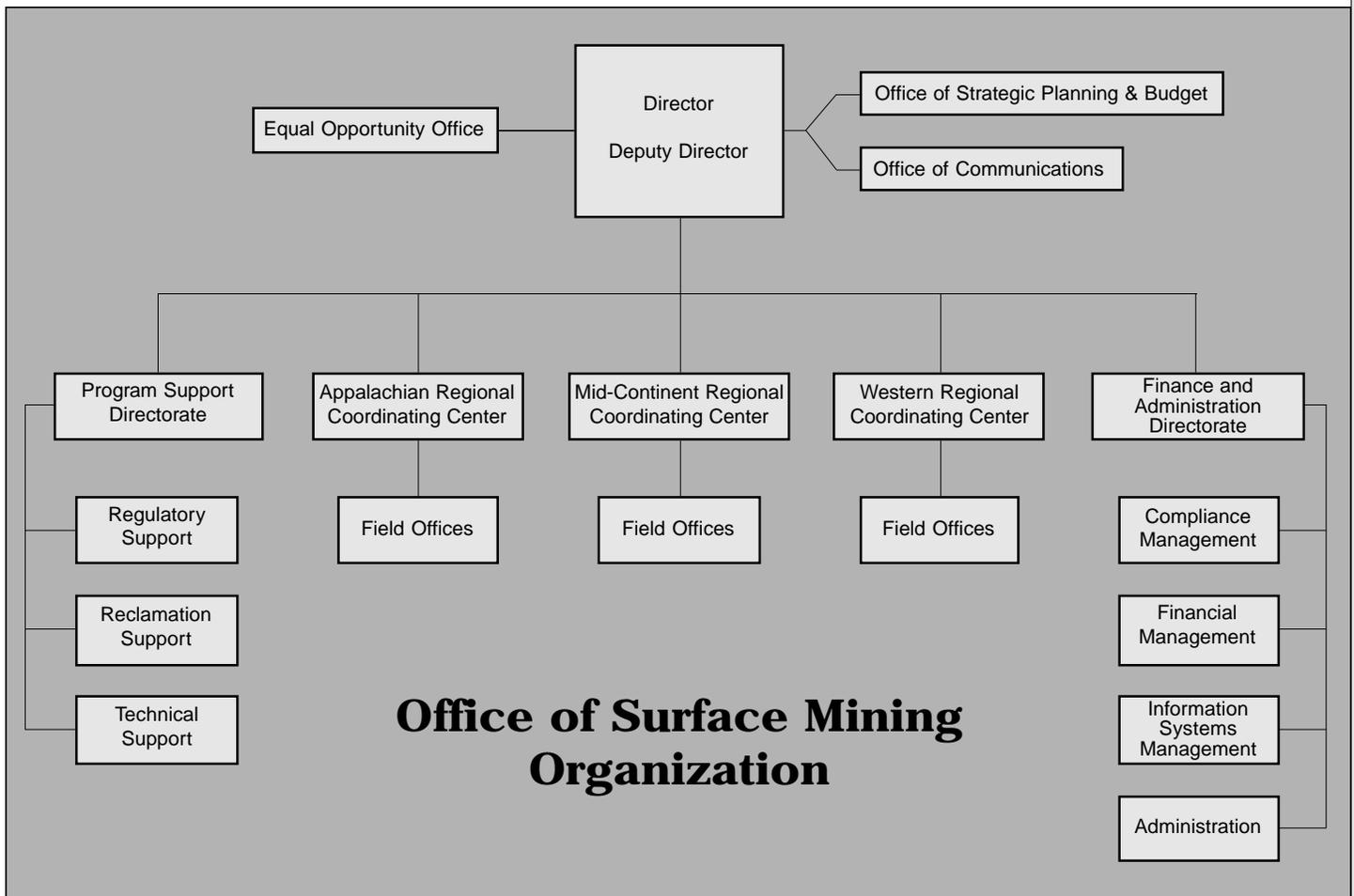
Financial management and Executive Direction and Administration

Since 1977, protecting the environment during coal mining and making sure the land is reclaimed after the coal is removed have been required by the Surface Mining Law. Making sure those requirements are met is the responsibility of the Office of Surface Mining.

Functionally, the agency is organized around the two principal requirements of the Surface Mining Law: reclaiming abandoned mines and regulating active coal mining.

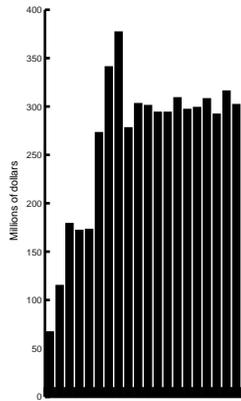
Organization of the Office of Surface Mining

The Office of Surface Mining is field-oriented, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., three regional coordinating centers, 10 field offices, and six area offices. During 1996 the Office of Surface Mining implemented a major reorganization to incorporate new ways to accomplish the agency's mission more effectively and efficiently. Organizational changes made to achieve this goal included changing the Ashland and Wilkes-Barre Area Offices to team offices under the Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center, and the Olympia Area Office to a satellite office under the Casper Field Office.



Office of Surface Mining

Budget and Appropriations



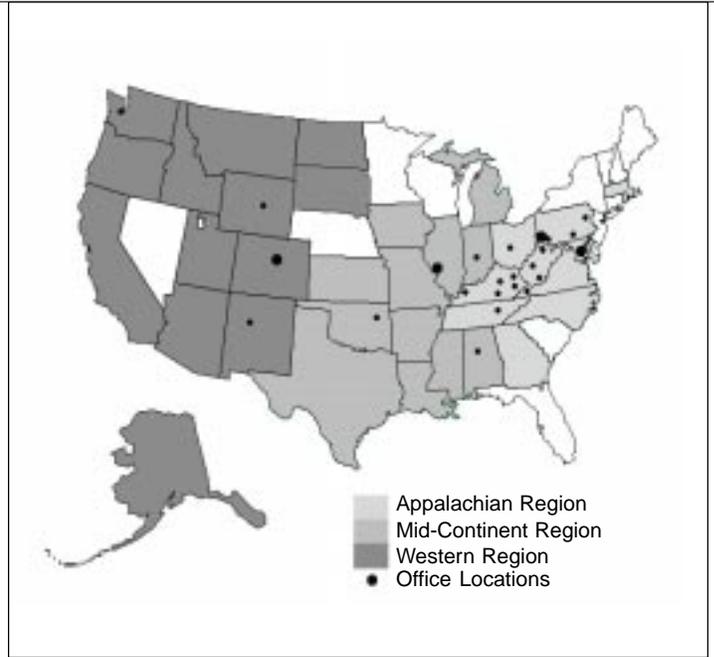
Office of Surface Mining
Budget 1978-1997

The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1997 (Public Law 104-208) appropriated \$94,172,000 from the General Fund for the Office of Surface Mining's regulatory and enforcement activities.

The 1997 Regulation and Technology appropriation included the following provisions:

Where the Office of Surface Mining is the regulatory authority, proceeds of performance bonds forfeited under Section 509 of the Surface Mining Law

can be used to reclaim lands where the mine operator did not meet all the requirements of the Law and the permit. In 1997, performance bond forfeiture revenue received totaled \$19,900, which



Appalachian Region
Mid-Continent Region
Western Region
● Office Locations

**TABLE 11
APPROPRIATIONS***

	1997	1996
Regulation & Technology		
State Regulatory Grants	\$50,676,000	\$50,762,000
Regulatory Program Operations	13,660,000	16,087,000
Tech. Services, Training & Research	13,881,000	11,597,000
Assessments & Collections	4,786,000	5,735,000
General Administration:	11,169,000	11,289,000
Executive Direction	[1,711,000]	[1,729,000]
Administrative Support	[3,860,000]	[3,962,000]
General Services	[5,598,000]	[5,598,000]
Subtotal:	94,172,000	95,470,000
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund		
State Reclamation Grants	142,000,000	140,000,000
Fee Compliance	5,562,000	6,000,000
Reclamation Program Operations	23,145,000	23,000,000
Small Operator Assistance Program	1,500,000	0
General Administration:	4,878,000	4,887,000
Executive Direction	[689,000]	[699,000]
Administrative Support	[1,704,000]	[1,703,000]
General Services	[2,485,000]	[2,485,000]
Subtotal:	177,085,000	173,887,000
Transfer to United Mine Workers Fund	31,373,799	47,183,764
Total	\$302,630,799	\$316,540,764

*The appropriation figures for both years include rescissions.

represents only one bond forfeiture.

Federal civil penalties and related interest collected under Section 518 of the Surface Mining Law can be used to reclaim coal mine lands abandoned after August 3, 1977. In 1997, a total of \$326,515 of civil penalties was collected. The Office of Surface Mining is only authorized to use the base penalty and interest of these collections, so \$265,722 was deposited into the Civil Penalty Fund for reclamation purposes. During 1997, \$512,860 from this fund was obligated for post-Surface Mining Law reclamation projects.

State regulatory program grants were funded at \$50,676,000, which was \$86,000 less than 1996. These grants are used to fund state regulatory program payroll and other operational costs.

In addition, \$177,085,000 was made available for obligation from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund (\$3,198,000 more than 1996), and up to 20 percent of the funds recovered from delinquent debts was authorized for contracting the collection of other delinquent debts. In 1997, the Office of Surface Mining spent \$456,537 to collect \$3.6 million in delinquent Abandoned Mine Land fees and delinquent audit bills. The Abandoned Mine Land appropriation included the following provisions:

■ State reclamation grants were funded at \$142,000,000, which was \$2,000,000 more than 1996.

■ Federal emergency program expenditures were limited to \$11,000,000, which was the same amount appropriated in 1996.

■ No more than 25 percent of total newly appropriated funds available for emergency reclamation projects could be used in any one state.

All appropriations provisions were met.

Financial System: Electronic Improvements

The Office of Surface Mining continues to apply the latest technology to enhance its financial and administrative management. Information reporting tools are being utilized to provide access to accurate, up-to-the-minute financial and administrative management information. Automated payment tracking systems have been upgraded in the accounting system. Added improvements and initiatives during 1997 include:

A module to the accounting system was completed that allows data entry of purchases made using the (IMPAC) government charge card. The program is designed to reduce the paperwork and time involved in purchasing goods and services within the federal government. This computer system enables card holders to enter data directly into the accounting system at the time of purchase and to match these data automatically with invoice data from the vendor for payment processing. Next day payment will be made for all

matched items, thereby providing the opportunity to earn rebates from vendors, reduce Prompt Payment Act interest, and reduce the overall cost of goods and services provided to the agency. The system implementation date was October 1, 1997.

The Electronic Funds Transfer provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 were aggressively pursued. Electronic Funds Transfer payments to vendors increased from 25 percent in the first quarter to 54 percent at the end of the year, and payments to travelers and states increased from 78 percent in the first quarter to 89 percent at the end of the year. During 1997, 98 percent of all dollars paid by the Office of Surface Mining were paid by electronic transfer.

The Office of Surface Mining's partnership with two other Department of the Interior bureaus allowed the sharing and development of computer resources, including: 1) a budget module interface with the General Ledger and Allotment Ledger that updates all systems when qualifying receipt/budget entries are



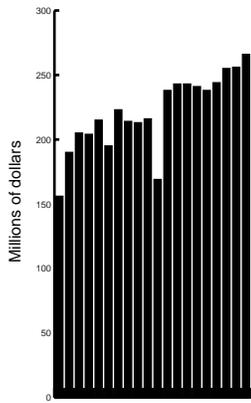
We visit reclaimed mine sites after bond release to see effective postmining land uses

Office of Surface Mining

entered, and 2) the consolidation of computer software into one location.

Work was also started to implement the Department of the Treasury's standard general ledger, and the Department of the Interior's budget object classifications. These two initiatives will help standardize government-wide reporting and make it easier to consolidate and compare financial reports. The projects will be completed in the first quarter of fiscal year 1998.

Abandoned Mine Land Fund Management



Fund Collections
1978-1997

Fees of 35 cents per ton of surface mined coal, 15 cents per ton of coal mined underground, and 10 cents per ton of lignite are collected from mining operations. The fees are deposited in the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, which is used to pay the costs of abandoned mine land reclamation projects. The fund consists of fees, contributions, late payment interest, penalties, administrative charges, and interest earned on investment of the fund's principal. From January 30, 1978, when the first fees were paid, through September 30, 1997, the fund

collections totaled \$4,757,546,438. For the same period Fund appropriations totaled \$3,535,027,128.

Expenditures from the fund are made through the regular budgetary and appropriation process. The Surface Mining Law specifies that 50 percent of the reclamation fees collected in each state with an approved reclamation program, or within Indian lands where the tribe has an approved reclamation program, are to be allocated to that state or tribe. This 50 percent is designated as the state or tribal share of the fund. The remaining 50 percent (the federal share) is used by the Office of Surface Mining to complete high priority and emergency projects under its Federal Reclamation Program, to fund the Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP), to fund additional projects directly through state reclamation programs, and to pay collection, audit, and administrative costs. In 1991, at the direction of Congress, a formula to distribute federal-share money to the state reclamation programs was established based on historic coal production. Table 12 shows collections and funding by states.

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508) extended fee collection authority through September 30, 1995; the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486) further extended fee collection authority until September 30, 2004.

In 1992, under authority of Public Law 101-508, the Office of Surface Mining began investing unappropriated abandoned mine land funds. By law, the Office of Surface Mining is restricted to



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**TABLE 12
ABANDONED MINE LAND FEE COLLECTIONS AND FUNDING
1997**

State/Tribe	AML Collections	State Share Distribution ¹	Federal Share Distribution ¹	Emergency Distribution ¹	Total Distribution ¹
Alabama	\$4,851,677	\$1,975,950	\$1,499,331	\$300,000	\$3,775,281
Alaska	488,718	161,371	1,338,629	25,000	1,525,000
Arkansas	4,965	0	1,500,000	13,000	1,513,000
Colorado	5,963,323	1,465,692	730,697	0	2,196,389
Illinois	7,943,781	2,995,766	5,554,491	588,970	9,139,227
Indiana	10,411,785	3,178,937	1,808,368	247,998	5,235,303
Iowa	(1,498)	8,578	1,491,422	0	1,500,000
Kansas	119,335	46,360	1,453,640	450,000	1,950,000
Kentucky	34,667,136	10,726,006	5,443,753	0	16,169,759
Louisiana	347,709	94,703	0	0	94,703
Maryland	780,778	315,490	1,184,510	0	1,500,000
Missouri	240,766	152,216	1,347,784	0	1,500,000
Montana	11,567,223	3,542,623	0	125,000	3,667,623
New Mexico	5,435,569	1,360,695	177,642	0	1,538,337
North Dakota	2,943,505	905,112	594,888	50,000	1,550,000
Ohio	6,776,572	2,830,472	3,404,974	2,240,000	8,475,446
Oklahoma	513,080	188,766	1,311,234	0	1,500,000
Pennsylvania	13,774,589	4,661,876	17,954,870	0	22,616,746
Tennessee	867,468	0	0	0	0
Texas	5,410,906	1,568,195	0	0	1,568,195
Utah	4,042,767	995,928	504,072	0	1,500,000
Virginia	7,345,660	2,594,372	1,670,858	500,000	4,765,230
Washington	1,409,330	0	0	0	0
West Virginia ²	37,031,480	10,482,615	10,319,037	1,704,032	22,505,684
Wyoming	93,924,310	22,020,872	0	0	22,020,872
Crow Tribe	1,944,478	463,527	0	0	463,527
Hopi Tribe	1,201,646	430,504	0	0	430,504
Navajo Tribe	6,776,799	2,974,174	0	0	2,974,174
Total	\$266,783,857	\$76,140,800	\$59,290,200	\$6,244,000	\$141,675,000

1. The term "Distribution" is now used instead of "Allocation." Allocation refers to the "pooling" of monies collected for the AML Fund. State and federal share distribution amounts are based on formulas and parameters provided annually by the Assistant Director, Program Support. Emergency distribution amounts are based on estimates provided by the states and approved by the Deputy Director.

2. The state of West Virginia received an additional \$3,733,543 from an account that was recovered from prior years and carried forward for future emergency needs. West Virginia's total emergency funding is \$5,437,575.

In 1996, \$47.2 million was transferred and in 1997, \$31.4 million was transferred. These transfers are used to pay the estimated health benefit costs for certain coal miners and their beneficiaries paid by the Fund. Once all benefits have been paid, the advance is adjusted to reflect the actual expense of the beneficiaries health care. These adjustments either increase or decrease future advances. The adjustment process is a two-year process during which time the transferred funds are not available to the Abandoned Mine Land Fund for investment.

The Surface Mining Law also requires the Office of Surface Mining to ensure active coal operators fully comply with the fee provisions. Accordingly, the primary goal in this area is to achieve a high rate of compliance. In 1997, the compliance rate for tonnage reporting and fee payment was 99 percent, which resulted in more than \$267 million in revenue for the Fund. To achieve this rate of success, it is necessary for the Office of Surface Mining to

- track all mines that have the potential of producing coal,
- provide coal mine operators with the information and assistance needed to comply, and
- Conduct a comprehensive audit program.

During 1997, Office of Surface Mining auditors conducted 350 on-site fee compliance audits of coal companies, and identified 5.5 million under-reported or non-reported tons on which fees had not been paid. When such instances of non-compliance are found, the auditors explain each issue and how similar occurrences can be avoided in the future. The high compliance rate can be attributed to this cooperative approach and the overall efficiency of the audit and collection program. Most important, the compliance increased collections by over \$10 million from 1996-1997.

A 1997 Office of Inspector General report on the Office of Surface Mining's fee compliance program, including both the fee collection and audit functions, concluded that the activities were conducted in a highly efficient and effective manner and in accordance with the Surface Mining Law. Those conclusions reflect the Office of Surface Mining's emphasis on the best possible execution of this vital program that provides the funding for state, tribal, and federal Abandoned Mine Land reclamation throughout the country.

investing in certain market-based securities issued by the U.S. Treasury, such as bills, notes, bonds, and one-day certificates. Total investment earnings for 1997 were \$89.4 million. The average interest earned during the year was 5.03 percent. At the end of the year, the Office of Surface Mining had more than \$1.5 billion invested in Treasury securities. The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486) stipulated that investment earnings would be available annually for transfer to the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund beginning in 1996.

Delinquent Debt Management

When unpaid reclamation fees are identified, or civil penalties are assessed for mine site violations, the Office of Surface Mining takes appropriate collection actions. Delinquent debt information is retained in the Applicant Violator System to prevent new mining permits from being issued until the accounts are resolved. When necessary, and after all of the agency debt collection avenues have been exhausted, delinquent accounts are referred to the Department of Treasury for additional collection efforts, or to the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office for appropriate legal action or bankruptcy proceedings. The Office of Surface Mining has made substantial improvements over the management of civil penalty and Abandoned Mine Land fee delinquent debt by reducing the year-end balance by \$24.4 million over the amount reported last year. Of the \$44.7 million 1997 year-end debt balance, \$22.5 million (51 percent) is principal. The remainder represents interest, late payment penalties, and administrative charges on unpaid balances. The Office of Surface Mining has referred \$38.2 million of this amount to the Office of Solicitor for legal actions, \$8.1million under bankruptcies and \$30.1million for litigation. Another \$532,000 has been referred to the Department of Justice for legal action and the remaining \$4.1 million is being pursued internally by the collection staff. Table 13 shows 1997 collections and year-end debt balances.

**TABLE 13
COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
1997**

Category	Amount Collected	Balance Owed
AML Fees	\$267,727,897	\$23,928,689
Civil Penalties	326,515	20,365,154
Administrative	829,255	448,163
Total	\$268,883,667	\$44,742,006

Audited Financial Statements

Since 1990, the Office of Surface Mining has prepared an Annual Financial Statement after the close of each fiscal year, as required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-576). The statements are audited by the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General to ensure that financial results are fairly stated and conform with generally accepted accounting principles for federal agencies. The Office of Surface Mining has received seven consecutive unqualified ("clean") audit opinions from the Inspector General. The 1997 opinion is on page 60 of this report.

Information Technology

A telecommunications network maintained by the Office of Surface Mining is essential for both internal and external communication. In 1997, the Wide Area Network was expanded to upgrade internal telecommunications and provide necessary support to accommodate the increased volume of electronic permitting.

Human Resources Management

1997 brought changes to personnel servicing. Two of the three personnel offices were closed and all personnel services for the Office of Surface Mining were consolidated in Washington, D.C. The implementation plan allowed for interim servicing in each office until complete consolidation of personnel was accomplished in September. Staff in the personnel offices which were closed were placed in other positions in the same geographical location with no adverse impact, or were selected for other jobs.



We field check citizen complaints

The year ended with fewer full-time permanent employees than when it began (from 637 to 620 employees). Overall, seven increases were overcome by 24 decreases as follows: Headquarters decreased by 12; the coordinating centers by 11; and the field offices showed one decrease and seven increases.

An amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement signed in 1996 to provide personnel operational and policy services to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was signed. This amendment changed two term positions to permanent and put the Agreement on a Fiscal Year renewal basis.

The Office of Surface Mining tested implementation and successfully converted to the Federal Personnel Payroll System (FPPS) during the fiscal year. With few exceptions, conversion went smoothly. This system is a completely integrated, on-line, personnel and payroll database system that will provide clients with enhanced functional capability, immediate on-line processing for all personnel and payroll-related actions, and easier access to data.

The Office of Surface Mining continues to advance in automation. Equipment for the pilot project to automate each employee's Official Personnel Folder has been installed and a contract let for imaging the data. This project is designed to streamline operations and will improve nation-wide services to employees by providing direct on-line access to their personnel files or those of the employees they supervise.

Monitoring Potential Conflicts of Interests

Sections 201(f) and 517(g) of the Surface Mining Law prohibit any federal or state employee "performing any function or duty under this Act" from having "direct or indirect financial interests in underground or surface coal mining operations." The Office of Surface Mining monitors compliance to prevent financial conflicts. In 1996, 649 Office of Surface Mining, 887 other federal, and 1,633 state employees filed financial disclosure statements. Three violations were identified and resolved.

Labor-Management Partnership

The Office of Surface Mining maintains two labor-management partnerships, created in response to Executive Order 12871. The first was established in 1994 at Washington, D.C., headquarters with the National Federation of Federal Employees, Local 1993. Since June 1995, Local 2148 of the National Federation of Federal Employees and the Albuquerque Field Office have also maintained a Labor-Management Partnership.

There are three other exclusive recognitions in the Office of Surface Mining, although partnerships have not yet been established. They are located at the Casper Field Office (Wyoming); Lexington Field Office (Kentucky); and Division of Compliance Management-Region II (Lexington, Kentucky).

The Office of Surface Mining, under a Memorandum of Agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, continues to provide labor relations support throughout the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



We monitor groundwater changes

Equal Opportunity

During 1997 the Office of Surface Mining initiated an Affirmative Employment/Special Emphasis targeted recruitment plan. This plan identified barriers and recommended actions for improvement. Since September 30, 1996, the Office of Surface Mining had 29 accessions of which 20 were minorities and women. In addition, minorities and women received 32 of the 48 promotions.

The Office of Surface Mining's Outreach Initiatives with Minority Higher Education Institutions included four Diversity Interns, one Student Career Experience student, eight Student Temporary Employment Program students, one Presidential Management Intern, and one student from the Federal Recruitment for Students with Disabilities.

In addition, the Office of Surface Mining entered into a Cooperative Agreement with New Mexico State University to assist with Electronic Permitting. This should increase the number of minorities trained in this field seeking employment with the Office of Surface Mining. In addition, an agreement with the Navajo Community College in Shiprock, Arizona, was initiated to assist with curriculum development, and provided resources to Howard University's Geographic Information System Program. Through these activities the Office of Surface Mining is developing diverse pools of students in occupational fields needed to implement the Surface Mining Law.

During 1997, a full-time Counselor/Mediator was appointed to resolve disputes at the earliest possible stages and to lessen compensatory damages claims. This Counselor/Mediator conducts the majority of counseling sessions throughout the Office of Surface Mining, serves as Class Complaint Counselor, offers technical assistance to Equal Opportunity Counselors in the Regional Coordinating Centers, and attempts to resolve disputes prior to employees seeking Equal Opportunity counseling.

The Office of Surface Mining had 18 new formal complaints filed during 1997, a decrease of four complaints over the previous year. Complaint processing costs during 1997 totaled \$ 47,478. This figure includes contract investigations, settlements, and attorney fees.

The Interior Department decentralized its Civil Rights Program and delegated the administrative responsibility to the bureaus. As part of the implementation, the Office of Surface Mining held a two-day Civil Rights Training Seminar in Washington, D.C. Attendees included representatives from the Grants Program and Equal Opportunity Offices in Headquarters and Regional Coordinating Centers. Representatives from the Solicitor's Office and the Department of Justice also participated in the training, which provided participants a basic overview of the Civil Rights Program requirements.

To assure that Office of Surface Mining programs and facilities are in compliance with regulations governing Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, a three-year plan was developed to conduct on-site reviews of all programs and facilities in Headquarters and field locations. The reviews began during 1997 and are scheduled to be completed in 1999. The Accessibility Data Management System (ADMS) is being used as a tracking tool for these reviews.

Also during 1997, an Environmental Justice team arranged to have a public service announcement that warns of the dangers associated with abandoned mine land hazards translated into languages other than English. Videos in Spanish and Navajo were sent to various broadcast stations in the southwestern states serving Navajo and Spanish language populations.

Government Performance and Results Act

To meet the objectives of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement began its strategic planning as an integral part of agency restructuring in 1994. Through a series of comprehensive customer and stakeholder outreach efforts as part of its Management Guidance Plan, the Office of Surface Mining reevaluated all aspects of its mission. From those aims came two primary goals:

Goal 1. Aggressively pursue the reclamation of abandoned mine lands; and

Goal 2. Prevent environmental problems in the coal fields.

Concurrently two collateral goals were developed which support the two primary goals, and a third organizational goal describing human resource and diversity commitments:

Goal 3. Strengthen the capabilities of States, Tribes, and Office of Surface Mining staff to enforce Surface Mining Law effectively through quality technical and scientific information, expertise, and training.

Goal 4. Maintain the financial integrity of the Surface Mining Law by properly and promptly accounting for grant funds and all revenues collected; maximize compliance with Abandoned Mine Land reclamation fee provisions; provide grant financial services and accounting to the States and Tribes; and maximize collections through fair and consistent policies and procedures.

Goal 5. Enhance the Human Resource Program through a diverse, highly qualified, well-trained, motivated and informed workforce that supports the mission of the Office of Surface Mining.

Strategic initiatives were then developed to achieve each of the five goals. These strategic initiatives are referred to as core business lines. They are: (1) Environmental Restoration; (2) Environmental Protection; (3) Technology Development and Transfer; and (4) Financial Management. [An additional business line is used for budgetary purposes, and is referred to as (5) Executive Direction and Administration].

For 1997, the Office of Surface Mining developed a new budget structure that was submitted to and coordinated with the Department of the Interior, the Office of Management and Budget, and the appropriate Congressional Committees.

The new structure, which is based on business lines, more completely reflects the way the Office of Surface Mining does business in carrying out its mission and meeting its goals. This structure links budgetary resource requests to core business lines and supporting program activities. This allows the Office of Surface Mining to communicate its resource requests in a way that the public can better understand while continuing to meet Congressional requirements. The new budget structure was well received and subsequently, the 1998 budget request, was solely based on the business line structure. The Office of Surface Mining then allocates funds internally for its operating budget within each business line.

With general goals and business lines established, performance



We audit company coal production records

measures were developed that will enable the agency to evaluate whether the desired outputs and outcomes are being achieved. The Office of Surface Mining provided Congress with initial draft versions of the plan, and conducted several briefings before key House and Senate committee and Members' staffs. An activity-based accounting system was instituted to: (1) determine better the resource expenses associated with each program activity, (2) provide a mechanism for linking costs to performance outputs, and (3) enhance the Office of Surface Mining's management decision-making process. The system is already beginning to assist in measuring the quality and effectiveness of the programs, and fosters more efficient resource allocation.

1997 Annual Report

The following is a summary of the Office of Surface Mining's strategic goals, business lines, indicators, and measures for the plan.

Goal

Aggressively pursue the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Lands

Business line

Environmental Restoration

Indicator/Measure

- Increase the rate of reclaimed/funded sites to total AML inventory sites to 55 percent by the year 2002
- Reclaim 40,000 acres by 2002
- Abate emergency hazards, in accordance with OSM policy, through the year 2002
- Increase the number of cooperative Acid Mine Drainage projects by 50 percent through the year 2002

- Increase the ratio of Office of Surface Mining funds to non-Office of Surface Mining funds on Acid Mine Drainage projects to 1:2
- Award grants and funds within 60 days of receipt of a complete application and process in accordance with Office of Surface Mining's customer service standards and established policies and procedures.

Goal

Prevent hazards and environmental problems in coal fields

Business Line

Environmental Protection

Indicator/Measure

- Minimize the number and severity of off-site impacts



Office of Surface Mining

- Report the number of acres that meet the criteria from Phase I & II Performance Bond release
- Maintain the number of acres that meet the criteria of Phase III Performance Bond release, under the Surface Mining Program, at 250,000 acres through 2002
- Award grants and funds within 60 days of receipt of a complete application and process in accordance with the Office of Surface Mining's customer service standards and established policies and procedures.

Goal

Strengthen the capabilities of States, Tribes and Office of Surface Mining staff to enforce the Surface Mining Law effectively through the provision of quality technical and scientific information, expertise and training.

Business Line

Technology Development and Transfer

Indicator/Measure

- Attain 90 percent customer satisfaction rate for technical training and TIPS (measures to be developed in the following activities):
 - Customer service for assistance
 - Customer service for information and technology transfer
- Train an additional 4,500 students through 2002 and evaluate effectiveness

- Provide timely (permit and non-emergency Abandoned Mine Lands contract recommendations provided within 72 hours and emergency Abandoned Mine Lands contract recommendations within four hours) Applicant Violator System recommendations to regulatory authorities and other agencies using the Applicant Violator System in making permitting and contracting decisions.

Goal

Maintain the financial integrity of Surface Mining Law by properly and promptly accounting for grant funds and all revenues collected; maximize compliance with Abandoned Mine Lands reclamation fee provisions; provide grant financial services and accounting to the states and Tribes; and maximize collections through fair and consistent policies and procedures.

Business Line

Financial Management

Indicator/Measure

- Office of Inspector General audit opinion on Office of Surface Mining financial statements
- Maintain 90+ percent Abandoned Mine Lands Fee Compliance rate by measuring:
 - Percent of respondent permittees (number of permits reported divided by number permits mailed)
 - Percent of audited tons reported (accurately reported tons identified in audits divided by total tons audited)



- Process grant payments within one day, 95 percent of the time, by measuring the total days to process requests compared to number of requests received.

Goal

Enhance the Human Resource Program through a diverse, highly qualified, well-trained, motivated and informed workforce that supports the mission of the Office of Surface Mining.

Business Line

Executive Direction and Administration, Environmental Restoration, Environmental Protection, Technology Development, and Financial Management

Indicator/Measure

- By 2002, the Office of Surface Mining will improve the skills and abilities of all employees through better communication by providing state-of-the-art information technology tools, training, and access
- Office of Surface Mining will utilize the strategies contained in the targeted recruitment plan to reduce the level of under-representation in "special interest" occupations.

20th Anniversary Citizens Awards

Citizen participation is at the heart of the surface mining program. The Surface Mining Law would not have come into being without the sustained efforts of coalfield citizens crusading to end environmental abuses of the past and shift the country to new ways of mining coal with built-in safeguards for people and the environment.

During the 20th Anniversary recognition of the Surface Mining Law, the Office of Surface Mining presented awards to recognize outstanding contributions by coalfield citizens and grassroots organizations. These people have made a difference in the implementation of the Surface Mining Law. Winners of the 20th Anniversary Citizens Awards are:

Lifetime Achievement Award:

L. Thomas Galloway

Regional Awards:

Mid-Continent Region, Shirley Zell

Western Region, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

Partnership Awards:

Science and Technology, The Virginia Nature Conservancy
Community Involvement, Hazel King
Community Involvement, Doris E. Haws
Resource Protection, Dr. Roy DeMotte
Education, Blacklick Creek Watershed Association
Public Participation, Loyalhanna Watershed Association
Public Participation, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
Communication, George E. Fraley
Grassroots Organization, Emery County Public Lands Council.

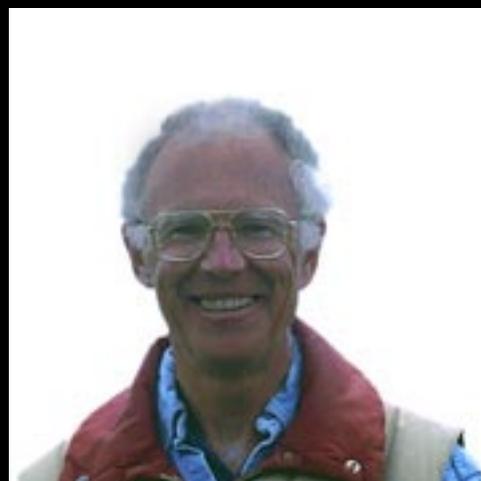


We ensure accuracy of financial payments

Shirley Sellke is the certified disbursing officer with the Financial Management office in Denver, Colorado. Her primary responsibility includes verifying that payments made by the Office of Surface Mining are legal, proper, and correct. She also audits and reviews payments requiring research of regulatory directives to determine the legality of claims, and provides written procedures and training for staff members who audit vouchers.

Shirley was with the Minerals Management Service before joining the Office of Surface Mining in 1988. Since that time she has processed payments and in 1990 became the relocation coordinator.

In her spare time Shirley and her husband, Warren, enjoy camping, hiking, gardening, and studying American history. They take their six grandchildren camping...but, not all at the same time!



We communicate

Chuck Meyers is a Public Affairs Specialist in the Washington D.C., Headquarters Office, where he provides help to citizens looking for information and develops Office of Surface Mining flyers and publications. Recently his activities have focused on the electronic distribution of information to reach a broader audience and reduce costs.

Chuck holds degrees in Agriculture, Landscape Architecture, and Regional Planning and has been with the Office of Surface Mining since 1978. He wrote many of the original Title V regulations, headed the Title III Technical Information Center before it was transferred to the Bureau of Mines, and developed the Annual Reclamation Awards Program. He is the Office of Surface Mining Webmaster for the Internet site (www.osmre.gov), developed the 20-year Anniversary Publication, and is the author of this Annual Report.

On weekends Chuck drives a Lotus race car.