

Annual



1997

What we do...



Office of Surface Mining

Report



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Denver Financial Management



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Washington, D.C. Headquarters



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Appalachian Regional Coordinating Ctr.



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Secretary to the Director
Washington, D.C. Headquarters



Susan Bell, *Contract Employee*
Accounting Technician
Denver Financial Management



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Abandoned Mine Specialist
Washington, D.C. Headquarters



Jim Fulton, *Chief*
Field Division
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Senior Reclamation Specialist
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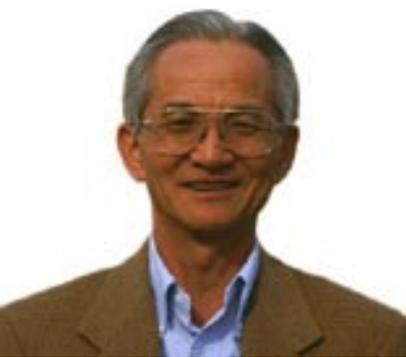
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Twenty years of operation

Office of Surface Mining Budget 1977-1997

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Regulatory								
State Regulatory Programs	\$ 8,600	23,900	36,680	35,000	24,432	32,150	38,100	36,734
Federal Regulatory Program	\$ 10,820	17,367	30,974	38,209	27,439	10,493	13,776	23,729
Technical Support	\$ 11,460	12,672	17,033	16,470	6,644	10,903	12,551	12,890
Assessments and Collections	\$ 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Program Administration	\$ 0	0	0	0	0	7,332	6,268	6,994
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Subtotal	\$30,880	53,939	84,687	89,679	58,515	60,878	70,695	80,347
Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation								
State Reclamation Programs	\$0	10,000	25,000	26,200	46,936	173,528	233,100	236,840
Federal Reclamation Program	\$ 15,875	21,835	39,376	29,364	41,680	23,064	26,452	39,371
Fund Management	\$ 4,784	8,680	9,124	9,987	6,794	5,131	6,498	6,599
Technical Support	\$ 998	808	1,237	1,652	1,584	991	1,221	1,955
Rural Abandoned Mine Program	\$5,000	10,128	10,106	10,280	18,339	6,155	10,582	9,800
Small Operator Assistance Program	\$ 10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	0	0	(11,499)	(2,000)
Administration	\$ 0	0	0	0	0	4,210	4,874	4,376
<hr/>								
Subtotal	\$ 36,657	61,451	94,843	82,483	115,333	213,079	271,228	296,941
<hr/>								
Total	\$ 67,537	115,390	179,530	172,162	173,848	273,957	341,923	377,288

*Does not include \$7.2 million Kentucky Emergency Reclamation Grant

**Does not include \$47 and \$31 million transfer to United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund

1997 Annual Report

1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
35,387	45,110	44,044	46,335	45,682	48,562	48,481	51,661	51,661	51,562	50,762	50,676
17,704	19,221	20,078	20,310	20,450	21,084	21,513	21,457	21,732	22,594	16,087	13,660
12,642	13,681	13,670	13,470	13,026	13,559	13,472	15,227	14,004	14,702	11,597	13,881
6,938	7,929	10,502	8,981	9,100	13,078	12,730	9,220	9,315	7,747	5,735	4,786
8,103	14,062	13,831	11,999	12,970	13,067	13,504	14,151	13,840	13,090	11,289	11,169
80,774	100,003	102,125	101,095	101,228	109,350	109,700	111,716	110,552	109,695	95,470	94,172
149,441	160,600	159,660	151,660	145,780	149,214	135,274	135,794	135,818	135,734	140,000	142,000
28,715	24,592	13,662	19,005	22,264	25,238	27,154	25,137	26,555	24,829	23,000	23,145
2,680	3,482	5,588	5,681	5,720	6,088	6,408	6,644	6,539	6,453	6,000	5,562
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9,019	9,400	15,000	12,000	12,000	11,933	11,848	13,385	13,233	7,853	0	0
2,949	0	0	0	2,000	1,492	1,851	1,760	1,760	1,757	0	1,500
4,473	5,646	5,470	4,814	5,008	4,993	5,268	5,210	6,202	5,760	4,887	4,878
197,277	203,720	199,380	193,160	192,772	198,958	187,803	187,930	190,107	182,386	173,887	177,085
278,051	303,723	301,505	294,255	294,000	308,308	297,503	299,646	300,659*	292,081	269,357**	271,257**

We reclaim. We regulate. We audit. **We inspect.** We research.
We communicate. We teach. **We report.** We adapt. **We inform.** We administer.
We save. We persuade. **We help.** We interview. We monitor. **We engineer.** We troubleshoot.
We interact. **We share.** We discover. We understand. **We try.** **We mobilize.**
We study. We develop. We educate. **We create.** **We negotiate.** *We think.*
We manage. We solve. **We analyze.** We explore. **We build.** We design. **We inspire.**
We contribute. *We share.* We guide. We observe. **We learn.** We lead. **We train.**
We experiment. **We direct.** **We protect.** We process. We order. *We check.* We pioneer.
We believe. **We record.** We instruct. **We organize.** We advise.
We illustrate. We plan. We strategize. **We support.** We photograph. We drive. We edit.
We repair. **We imagine.** We document. We revolutionize. **We coordinate.**
We talk. **We defend.** **We speak.** **We unite.** **We listen.**
We promise. We calculate. *We provide.* We defend. We program. We forecast.
We mobilize. **We remedy.** We transmit. **We innovate.** We critique. **We write.** We check.
We instigate. We fly. **We investigate.** We consult. *We give.* We arrange.
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We try. We mobilize. We study. We develop. **We educate.** We create.
We negotiate. **We think.** We manage. We solve. We analyze. We explore. *We build.*

What do we do at the Office of Surface Mining?

It's something that not many people outside the Office of Surface Mining know the answer to. It's often the first question people ask Office of Surface Mining staff members. Knowing what we do helps provide the full picture of the Office of Surface Mining and the myriad of skills needed to implement the Surface Mining Law successfully.

Over the 20-year period since 1977, the Office of Surface Mining's annual reports have focused on programmatic work and accomplishments. Each year we have provided information, photographs, and statistics on every major program activity performed by the Office of Surface Mining. This year, we are expanding the picture to provide readers with a brief look at us and what we do, every day.

Introduction

U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining 1997 Annual Report

This report describes the operations of the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for the period October 1, 1996, through September 30, 1997 (Fiscal Year 1997)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 (the Surface Mining Law) as well as Section 306 of the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990. The 1998 report will include test results of the Office of Surface Mining's implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act, and in 1999 will combine all three of these statutory requirements into the one report.

The 1997 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 available at the Office of Surface Mining web site (www.osmre.gov) was created in response to public requests for electronic computer-readable information on implementation of the Surface Mining Law and about Office of Surface Mining operations. Included in this report are activities carried out under several parts of the Law: 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 Law 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 now abolished 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 1997 report include: reporting inspection data on a fiscal year basis and providing a special 20-

year budget summary. In addition, the report is organized in chapters that correspond to the four Office of Surface Mining business lines:

1. Environmental Restoration
2. Environmental Protection
3. Technology Development and Transfer
4. Financial Management

Financial and accounting information is presented in a format similar to a traditional corporate annual report, and is contained in the financial section at the back of the report.

The Inspector General's audit statement, which gives the Office of Surface Mining a "clean" audit opinion of its financial reporting for 1997, is included at the end of the financial section.

Statistics in this report are presented in English units. To convert these numbers into metric units use the following conversion factors:

- Miles x 1.609 = Kilometers
- Acres x .40469 = Hectars
- Feet x .30473 = Meters
- Gallons x 3.7854 = Liters

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, this report is available in electronic format on the Office of Surface Mining World Wide Web site. Printed 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, and for additional copies of this report, visit the Office of Surface Mining site on the World Wide Web at www.osmre.gov or contact:

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Office of Surface Mining
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1. Throughout this document "1997" refers to Fiscal Year 1997 (10/1/96 - 9/30/97), unless otherwise noted.

A message

From the Director

I am new to the Office of Surface Mining having been Director for only two months of Fiscal Year 1997. However, I have a long history with coal mining and know full well the impacts it can have on both people and the environment. From growing up in Rock Springs, Wyoming, as the daughter of a coal miner, and from serving as the Wyoming Secretary of State, my experience is first hand and I am enthusiastic about leading the implementation of the Surface Mining Law into the 21st century.

August 3, 1997, was the 20th anniversary of the Surface Mining Law. This was a very special day that provided an opportunity to look back at the past and into the future to postulate how we can do even better. In 1997, successful land reclamation and environmental protection have become routine parts of the coal mining process. During this 20-year period, mining permits were issued for operations covering almost 5 million acres of land. This law literally changed the face of the earth in America and despite the fears of many when the Surface Mining Law was passed, it is living proof that a strong economic and development policy is compatible with protection of the environment.

As the Office of Surface Mining moves into its third decade we are experiencing improved compliance with the requirements of the Surface Mining Law. This success is directly related to the efforts of the many men and women who have stepped forward and assured the successful implementation of the Law. To show you "What we do," this report introduces some of the Office of Surface Mining staff and briefly describes their everyday activities. We hope this broadens your view of the Office of Surface Mining and provides additional insight about the federal employees that have made the Law successful.

During 1997, we have focused our efforts on completing several long-standing issues and getting agency operations working smoothly after the extensive Reduction In Force that occurred in 1996. Some of the highlights include:

Communications: In January 1997, we issued our first Annual Report in printed and electronic (CD-ROM) format. From the CD-ROM the reader could select the Annual Report, Abandoned Mine Land Dangers public service announcements, and two informational videos. In addition, we distributed a brochure warning the public of abandoned mine dangers. One of the big successes this year was the distribution of Office of Surface Mining information using our new World Wide Web site (www.osmre.gov). Public use of this web site began in the Fall of 1996 with infrequent visitors; however, by the end of the year use was approaching 20,000 hits/day. This new communication technology has revolu-

tionized the distribution of Office of Surface Mining information to its constituents.

In 1997 more information was distributed than in the previous 19 years. And, because a picture is still worth a thousand words, we distributed an illustrated booklet² commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Surface Mining Law that shows 1997 on-the-ground reclamation.

Policy. An Acid Mine Drainage Policy statement which detailed the Office of Surface Mining's goals, objectives, and strategies for correcting, preventing, and controlling acid mine drainage at coal mine sites was distributed. In addition, a revised oversight directive was issued that refines and adjusts the policies, procedures, and responsibilities for evaluating state regulatory programs. The oversight team responsible for developing this policy (seven Office of Surface Mining and three state regulation representatives) was presented with Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award for their work.

Rule Making. New regulations were published for determining the excess moisture allowance on coal tonnage for reclamation fee calculation purposes. In addition, responding to a court decision, Interim Ownership & Control rules governing regulators' authority to block permits for applicants responsible for uncorrected violations of the Surface Mining Law were issued in 1997. These rules define ownership and control, prescribe information that permit applicants must provide, and set procedures for dealing with permits improperly issued to applicants responsible for uncorrected violations.

20th Anniversary Awards. The reclamation awards for active and abandoned coal mine reclamation were reinstated during 1997. In addition, citizen awards were also presented to 12 individuals or grassroots organizations who have shown exemplary service in implementing the Surface Mining Law.

I would like to leave you with one last thought. The Surface Mining Law is landmark legislation, a pioneer in the concept of federal/state implementation. We are all learning what it takes to make the law an even greater success, and if all those involved with the Surface Mining Law implementation continue to work together we can accomplish even more. We welcome your help, comments, or suggestions for continued improvement.




2. Office of Surface Mining 1997. 20th Anniversary, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. A report on the protection and restoration of the nation's land and water resources under the Surface Mining Law.