

## ABANDONED MINE LANDS

Section 402(a) of the surface mining law requires that operators pay a reclamation fee for each ton of coal produced. The fees are deposited with the U.S. Treasury in a fund called the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and are used to reclaim sites that were mined and left unreclaimed before the surface mining law was enacted in 1977. Money from the Fund is also used to administer the Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP).

States with an approved state regulatory program are eligible to administer a state abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation program, following approval of a reclamation plan by OSMRE. Of the 24 states with regulatory primacy, all but Mississippi and Louisiana had approved AML programs and received funding for them from OSMRE during fiscal year 1986.

OSMRE collected more than \$219 million in reclamation fees from coal producers during fiscal year 1986. Grant requests from 22 states were approved for \$193.1 million, and were used to fund projects reflecting the highest reclamation priorities, as required by law.

In addition, approximately \$13.4 million was awarded for Federal construction projects or cooperative agreements with the states. Approximately \$8.8 million was obligated in the RAMP Program, with \$2.8 million of that used in administration, design, and investigation of projects and \$6.0 million used for construction.

### **Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP)**

Section 401(b)(1) of the Act authorizes a specified amount of the fees collected for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to be used to support the Small Operator Assistance Program (SOAP). The program is designed to assist small coal mine operators (those producing fewer than 100,000 tons per year at all sites) in meeting certain technical permit application requirements. The regulatory authority assumes the cost of preparing an analysis of probable hydrologic consequence and characterizing the geology and overburden materials at a proposed mining site.

These analyses are performed by qualified public or private laboratories under contract to the regulatory authority. The SOAP is administered by state regulatory authorities in those states that have gained primacy, or by OSMRE in Federal Program States.

During fiscal year 1986, OSMRE provided \$1.5 million in operational grants to the states for small mine operator assistance.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND STATUS

State or Indian Tribe	Fees collected (FY 1986)	Interior projects (FY 1986)	RAMP projects (FY 1986)/2	SOAP grants (FY 1986)	State allocation (FY 1986)	Revenues collected (FY 1978-1986)
Alabama	\$6,465,461	\$1,543,901	\$217,930		\$3,232,731	\$54,736,779
Alaska	469,555	15,000	0		234,778	2,729,430
Arkansas	21,088	0	135,000		10,544	514,282
Colorado	4,619,018	95,462	0	50,000	2,309,509	42,514,210
Georgia	15,645	503,310	0		7,823	134,926
Illinois	13,955,442	38,122	114,999	75,000	6,977,721	119,932,593
Indiana	10,881,427	364,718	(21,483)	60,000	5,440,714	89,209,398
Iowa	163,115	2,000	1,060,872		81,558	1,521,126
Kansas	479,878	42,141	441,168		239,939	3,583,394
Kentucky	35,287,587	2,567,764	942,854		17,643,794	299,108,829
Louisiana	0	0	0		0	139,847
Maryland	832,104	3,367	105,595		416,052	7,796,741
Missouri	1,655,230	16,785	0		827,615	16,813,306
Montana	10,556,068	693,213	0		5,283,034	82,909,143
New Mexico	3,692,137	280,734	0		1,846,069	24,387,145
North Dakota	2,550,200	66,222	22,998		1,275,100	16,129,572
Ohio	10,110,925	351,527	811,390		5,055,463	93,318,928
Oklahoma	1,168,050	186,545	180,674		584,025	13,759,533
Pennsylvania	19,406,076	1,984,887	985,119	1,184,000	9,703,038	181,953,521
Tennessee	1,505,832	1,557,145	167,500		752,916	16,912,681
Texas	4,683,467	4,089	28,343		2,341,734	29,625,645
Utah	2,176,333	31,029	0		1,088,167	16,562,193
Virginia	7,792,975	40,602	58,686		3,896,488	59,473,568
Washington	1,638,737	461,350	0		819,369	13,903,588
West Virginia	24,301,380	957,455	924,496	132,500	12,150,690	189,872,045
Wyoming	47,188,337	83,170	(127,836)		23,594,169	311,684,552
Other States	0	1,480,068	0		0	0
Crow Tribe	511,283	0	0		255,642	9,800,445
Hopi Tribe	951,333	0	0		475,667	5,032,368
Navajo Tribe	5,933,425	0	0		2,966,713	58,948,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$219,022,108</b>	<b>\$13,370,606</b>	<b>\$6,048,305</b>	<b>\$1,501,500</b>	<b>\$109,511,054</b>	<b>\$1,763,007,798</b>

<sup>1</sup>Funds obligated from Secretary's Discretionary Share

<sup>2</sup>Funds obligated by SCS/USDA as well as through State RAMP grants.

**AML STATE AND INDIAN PROGRAM ASSISTANCE  
(FUNDED AMOUNT OF AWARD)  
FY 1986 AWARDS**

State or Indian Tribe	Plan Preparation	First Annual Submission of Projects	Subsidence Insurance Grants	Administrative Grants	Construction Grants
Alabama				\$1,657,448	\$7,925,070
Alaska				187,649	198,327
Arkansas				147,816	0
Colorado			\$3,000,000	914,203	2,253,067
Illinois				1,293,671	10,937,888
Indiana				953,419	
Iowa				477,484	2,703,145
Kansas				351,362	0
Kentucky			3,000,000	722,630	18,898,838
Louisiana		\$211,764		0	0
Maryland				282,477	788,500
Missouri				914,065	1,830,230
Montana				2,308,852	4,139,395
New Mexico				578,905	1,622,852
North Dakota				302,764	369,482
Ohio			1,000,000	2,940,682	264,500
Oklahoma				237,620	1,888,044
Pennsylvania				2,303,159	47,956,506
Tennessee				0	0
Texas				709,677	46,250
Utah				453,781	784,183
Virginia				1,038,388	3,730,466
West Virginia				3,183,181	16,164,395
Wyoming				5,435,429	28,587,873
Crow Tribe	\$41,213			0	0
Hopi Tribe	27,777			0	0
Navajo Tribe		281,600		0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,990</b>	<b>493,364</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>	<b>\$27,394,662</b>	<b>\$157,073,564</b>

**INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AML PROGRAM  
COMPLETED OR UNDER CONTRACT IN FY 1986/1**

	High Priority		Emergency	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Alabama	0	\$0	3	\$7,803,213
Alaska	2	177,973	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	0	0
Colorado	3	124,519	8	43,132
Georgia	5	1,515,699	0	0
Illinois	0	0	1	338,518
Indiana	1	815,453	11	804,407
Iowa	0	0	0	0
Kansas	2	1,498,209	2	1,042,752
Kentucky	1	2,133,707	39	7,666,341
Louisiana	0	0	0	0
Maryland	1	300,000	1	454,607
Missouri	5	5,706,228	1	16,785
Montana	7	420,258	0	0
New Mexico	4	147,837	1	134,352
North Dakota	2	66,222	0	0
Ohio	5	923,663	20	1,716,189
Oklahoma	1	108,175	2	5,280
Pennsylvania	19	17,853,264	148	15,126,007
Tennessee	2	71,714	1	1,575,827
Texas	1	50,000	1	39,089
Utah	2	30,580	0	0
Virginia	5	3,129,280	7	1,005,796
Washington	6	784,651	4	97,290
West Virginia	0	0	29	3,246,270
Wyoming	5	456,824	3	26,171
Other States	20	1,738,707	1	85,029
Crow Tribe	4	600,519	0	0
Hopi Tribe	3	943,105	0	0
Navajo Tribe	6	914,009	1	6,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>\$40,510,596</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>\$41,234,001</b>

<sup>1</sup>Funds obligated from Secretary's Discretionary Share. Total project obligations since projects were initiated.

**INTERIOR DEPARTMENT AML PROJECTS  
STARTED SINCE FY 1978/1**

	High Priority		Emergency		Total	
	No.	\$ Amount	No.	\$ Amount	No.	\$ Amount
1978	4	2,269,886	3	101,068	7	2,370,954
1979	79	9,507,614	26	358,790	105	9,866,404
1980	153	47,982,176	105	3,931,334	258	51,913,510
1981	10	3,170,802	97	10,450,844	107	13,621,646
1982	40	14,244,183	98	6,734,196	138	20,978,379
1983	38	19,610,468	151	15,951,010	189	35,561,478
1984	37	7,271,709	211	19,411,464	248	26,683,173
1985	13	(558,819)	186	26,017,200	199	25,458,381
1986	40	423,722	208	11,878,949	248	12,302,671
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>\$103,921,741</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>\$94,834,855</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>\$198,756,596</b>

<sup>1</sup>Funds obligated from Secretary's Discretionary Share.

**NON-AML FUND PROJECTS<sup>1</sup>**

Funding Source	State	No.	Federal funds Obligated in FY 1986
Anthracite Mine Drainage and Flood Control Act, P.L. 84-162 (1955) and P.L. 87-818 (1962).	Pennsylvania	1	0
Extinguishment of Outcrop and Underground Fires, P.L. 83-738 (1954).	Colorado .....	3	48,129
	Montana	2	(3,038)
Appalachian Regional Development Act P.L. 89-4 (1965).	Maryland .....	1	674,625
	Ohio.....	2	(7,362)
	Pennsylvania	2	0
<b>Total .....</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>\$712,354</b>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Bureau of Mines programs transferred to OSMRE by Secretarial Order 3074, dated February 1, 1982.

**SMALL OPERATORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
(FUNDED AMOUNT OF AWARD)  
AS OF 9/30/86**

State	Operation Grants FY 1985	FY 1986
Alabama		
Alaska		
Arkansas		
Colorado	50,000	50,000
Illinois	100,000	75,000
Indiana	125,000	60,000
Iowa	109,950	
Kansas		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maryland	140,000	
Michigan		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
Montana		
New Mexico	15,000	
North Dakota		
Ohio		
Oklahoma		
Pennsylvania	825,000	1,184,000
Rhode Island		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah		
Virginia		
West Virginia	50,000	132,500
Wyoming		
Crow		
Hopi		
Navajo		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,414,950</b>	<b>\$1,501,500</b>