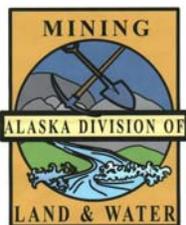


ANNUAL SUMMARY EVALUATION
of the
ALASKA ABANDONED MINE LANDS RECLAMATION PROGRAM
for
EVALUATION YEAR 2006
(July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006)



August 4, 2006



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ACRONYMS

AAMLRP	Alaska Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program
AKSAS	Alaska Statewide Accounting System
AML	abandoned mine land
AMLIS	Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System
AMR	abandoned mine reclamation
DFD	Denver Field Division (of the Office of Surface Mining)
DNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
NAAMLPP	National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs
OIG	Office of the Inspector General (of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior)
OSM	Office of Surface Mining (of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior)
ppm	parts per million
SMCRA	Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, as amended
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USFS	Forest Service (of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture)

Cover photo: Reclamation of Jonesville Fire phase 2 coal project

I. Introduction

Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or “the Act”) established the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund. The Fund’s primary purpose is to pay for mitigation of past mining effects. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) administers the Fund on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. OSM awards grants to States and Tribes from the Fund to pay their administration costs and reclaim abandoned mines. SMCRA puts the highest priority on correcting the most serious abandoned mine land (AML) problems that endanger public health, safety, general welfare, and property. OSM and State and Tribal AML programs work together to achieve the goals of the national program. OSM also works cooperatively with the States and Tribes to monitor their AML programs.

Directive AML-22 generally describes how OSM evaluates State and Tribal AML reclamation programs in “enhancement and performance reviews.” Following that Directive, a team of State and Federal personnel has been evaluating the Alaska Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program (AAMLRP) since January 1996. The team includes representatives of AAMLRP and OSM’s Denver Field Division (DFD). Team members during the 2005 evaluation period included Joe Wehrman, Manager, AAMLRP, and Ron Sassaman, Environmental Protection Specialist, OSM-DFD. AAMLRP staff members Roger Allely and Justin Ireys helped with the 2006 evaluation.

This report summarizes our review and evaluation of the Alaska Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program for the 2006 evaluation year, which included the period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

II. General Information on the Alaska Program

On December 23, 1983, the Secretary of the Interior approved Alaska’s AML reclamation plan (“State reclamation plan”) under Title IV of SMCRA. That approval allows Alaska to reclaim abandoned mines in the State in non-emergency AML projects. Effective November 16, 1992, the Secretary approved Alaska’s AML emergency response reclamation program. AAMLRP is part of the Division of Mining, Land and Water Management in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It administers Alaska’s AML program under its approved plan. The Denver Field Division of OSM’s Western Region works with AAMLRP to fund and approve AML projects in Alaska and to evaluate AML reclamation and other aspects of the Program.

Section 405(f) of SMCRA authorizes State and Tribal AML programs to apply to OSM each year for a grant to support their programs and reclaim specific projects. OSM awards grants to AAMLRP to fund the Program’s administration costs for the period of July 1st of one year through June 30th of the following year. The same grants award construction funding that is available to the Program during the same period for each of three years after the initial grant award date.

OSM awarded AAMLRP a total of \$1,525,619 in its 2005 grant. That grant funded 5.675 full-time equivalents and other program administration costs. It also funded three coal and four noncoal reclamation projects, project planning and inventory, and project maintenance costs. The grant included \$25,000 for emergency reclamation projects as well.

Alaska's 2006 AML grant totaled \$1,525,000, including \$25,000 for emergency reclamation. The grant supports 3.875 full-time equivalents. It also funds two abandoned coal mine reclamation projects (including one ongoing coal waste fire project), completion of one noncoal project, and planning for possible additional work at another coal project. AAMLRP is devoting most of its present funding to completing the Jonesville project to extinguish a coal waste fire.

Alaska did not have any SMCRA-funded emergency AML projects in the 2006 evaluation year.

The State does not have an OSM-approved subsidence insurance protection program. AAMLRP previously noted that subsidence on coal mine properties has never been a significant or documented occurrence or concern in Alaska.

On November 16, 2005, the Alaska Supreme Court issued a Memorandum Opinion and Judgment in *Jim Psenak Construction v. State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and Department of Natural Resources* on appeal from a decision by the State Superior Court affirming, in turn, a decision of the Commissioner of the State's Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. An independent hearing officer previously adjudicated claims of Psenak and the State concerning performance of a contract for the North Jones phase 3 AML reclamation project. According to the Memorandum, Jim Psenak Construction submitted to the State volume figures for excavated material "in a form that would conceal the nature of the quantities" and received overpayments as a result. After failing to agree on a cure for the problem, the State terminated Psenak for default. Psenak subsequently filed a complaint for wrongful termination of the contract. The hearing officer decided that the State was not in material breach of its contract when it terminated Psenak for default. The hearing officer also concluded that Psenak forfeited all claims relating to the contract because it intentionally misrepresented to the State the volume of excavated material. Further, as a result of that misrepresentation, the hearing officer concluded that the State should recover: The cost of substitute performance to have the contract completed; the cost of overpayments it made to Psenak; and liquidated damages. Costs to be recovered total \$477,142. Upon the contractor's initial appeal, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and public Facilities approved the hearing officer's decision without change. On further appeal, a Superior Court judge affirmed the Commissioner's decision. Finally, the Alaska Supreme Court affirmed the Superior Court's decision. The Alaska Attorney General's office is considering how to proceed to recover the costs described above from Psenak Construction. OSM expressed to AAMLRP its strong support for the State's cost recovery efforts.

III. Noteworthy Accomplishments

AAMLRP paid an OSM representative's costs of traveling to Anchorage to provide AMLIS training to State staff on February 20, 2006.

Alaska's Program continued efforts to increase the rate at which its projects proceed through planning to construction to reduce a project backlog. Though most available funding currently is devoted to completing a major phase of the Jonesville fire project, the Program continued to work on other projects in cooperation with a Federal land management agency, as noted below and in Part V of this report.

AAMLRP partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service to leverage its AML funding. Together, they completed closures in the Gold Standard and Peterson Mine noncoal projects on National Forest land. USFS provided National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearances, internal decision documents, on-site staff support and logistical help. AAMLRP staff also helped with the Forest Service's Crowne Point Mine project as a training exercise in closing horizontal openings with polyurethane foam.

Cooperation with Usibelli Coal Mine allowed AAMLRP to dispose of solid waste from the Suntrana tipple project in the mine's permitted disposal facility and consolidate steel scrap from that project in the mine's scrap yard. The Program estimates it saved over \$200,000 in haulage and disposal costs as a result. AAMLRP keeps adjacent mine permittees and landowners informed of its plans and progress concerning present and future phases of hazard abatement in the Suntrana tipple area.

The Jonesville fire project is of much interest to the community of Sutton because of the hazards being abated, proximity to the town, recreational use of the area, and increased construction activity. AAMLRP attended public and Community Council meetings, provided reports to the Council, and maintained an ongoing dialogue with landowners and adjacent permittees to keep interested parties informed about the project. Media visits and reports on the project have been positive and supportive.

IV. Results of Enhancement and Performance Review

We updated the current "Alaska AML Evaluation Team Performance Agreement" to describe the principles of excellence and performance measures that we planned to review in the 2006 evaluation year. The updates were based on discussion we had in a January 18, 2006, conference call.

Principles of excellence and performance measures emphasize on-the-ground or end-results as much as possible. Each general principle of excellence has one or more specific performance measure(s). Performance measures describe: Why we selected that topic; what the review population and sample sizes will be; how we will do the review and report the results; and our schedule for completing the review. The principles of excellence and specific performance measures we chose for our 2006 evaluation of the Alaska Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program are:

Principle of Excellence 1: The State's on-the-ground reclamation is successful.

- *Performance Measure (a):* Does reclamation meet the goals of the project?

Principle of Excellence 2: The State AML program procedures are efficient and effective.

- *Performance Measure (e):* Does the information the State entered into AMLIS beginning July 1, 2004, agree with information in its files?

Results of our 2006 evaluation are described below in Parts IV.A and B. Our 1(a) evaluation included visits to projects on May 16 and 17, 2006, and reviewing project specifications and related documentation afterward at OSM's Denver office. The 2(e) evaluation is based on reviews of AAMLRP's project closeout reports and the projects' respective PADs at OSM's Denver office. We described our evaluation results in much greater detail in an enhancement and performance review report for each of the 1(a) and 2(e) performance measures. Those reports are on file in OSM's Denver Field Division and are the factual basis of this report's summary of our evaluations of performance measures 1(a) and 2(e).

A. Summary Evaluation of Performance Measure 1(a)

Our evaluation of this performance measure determined if reclamation met project goals. We evaluated this measure because the overriding goal of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is reclamation success. The evaluation sample included projects ongoing and completed in the three years preceding our May 2006 field work. Sample projects included the completed Glenn Highway Adits and Suntrana tipple cleanup projects and the ongoing Jonesville Fires phase 2 project. All three were coal projects.

We empirically compared AAMLRP's reclamation to its project specifications while onsite and afterward based on our field notes for each project we visited. In addition to project specifications, we considered: General goals from the grant; prescribed construction methods AAMLRP developed to address site specific hazard abatement and other reclamation needs; and any requirements that resulted from the interagency consultation DOGM completed to help OSM comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other laws.

Our evaluation focused on determining whether completed reclamation met project goals by continuing to abate original hazards, complying with conditions resulting from interagency consultation, and improving overall site conditions compared to pre-reclamation conditions. We agreed the completed projects met their goals if abatement and reclamation measures were intact and functional and if no problems compromising those measures were apparent. Also, we agreed the ongoing project was meeting its goals if it was proceeding as planned to abate identified hazards, including consideration of any conditions resulting from interagency consultation. Finally, we

considered site conditions improved overall if hazards to public health and safety were abated and associated reclamation reduced environmental problems such as erosion and sedimentation while promoting revegetation.

We found that the completed Glenn Highway Adits and Suntrana tipple/PCB clean up projects met their respective goals of abating hazards and improving conditions overall. The ongoing Jonesville phase 2 project appeared to be on course to meeting its goals as well.

Both portal closures in the Glenn Highway Adits project were intact and functional. AAMLRP staff constructed them with polyurethane foam covered by hand backfilling with local rock.

Work at the Suntrana tipple involved removal of structures, railroad tracks, an old transformer and yard engine, power poles and wires, and miscellaneous debris and



Completed Suntrana Tipple phase 2 coal project

mining and equipment and equipment parts (see photo at left). Over 228 tons of scrap metal were removed in the course of that work. The contractor also closed openings in the grizzly and tipple to improve public safety on and around the remaining structures, though vandals damaged one closure. AAMLRP's contractor sampled, excavated and bagged in supersacks 57 cubic yards of soil determined to exceed the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation cleanup level for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Thirty-nine of the one cubic yard

supersacks contained soil with 1 to 49 parts per million (ppm) of PCBs. Soil in each of 18 supersacks contained over 49 ppm PCBs. The State properly disposed of that material as well as PCB-contaminated wood, a small amount of asbestos tile, one lead acid battery, and other materials. AAMLRP planned to install eight wells during the week of May 22, 2006, to monitor diesel fuel contamination in an area graded just prior to our visit in May 2005. AAMLRP is considering whether or not to dismantle the remaining structures and salvage the steel in a future project phase.



Ongoing coal waste removal from Jonesville Fire phase 2 project area

The Jonesville fire phase 2 project was ongoing during our visit (see photos above). Construction was proceeding according to specifications and doing well overall. AAMLRP expects to extinguish the fire with this phase of work, having noted that this project, including final reclamation, will require most of its funding through part of the 2007 grant year. About 20 feet of coal waste were removed since the project began about two weeks before our visit. The contractor was using an excavator / trackhoe to load coal waste material into side-dump trucks for disposal in an area where graders were blading it to GPS-determined elevations. AAMLRP's contractor also was spreading hot material to cool (see photo at right) and wetting hot material. Recreational use of the area posed problems recently but AAMLRP and its onsite security staff were working on those issues in cooperation with the Sutton community. The State also improved the emergency landing strip adjacent to the staging area. Quality control / quality assurance inspectors periodically check the project during construction.



Dozer spreading hot coal waste material to cool at the Jonesville Fire phase 2 project

B. Summary Evaluation of Performance Measure 2(e)

In September 2004, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Inspector General (OIG), issued report number 2003-I-0074 based on its review of AMLIS data for four eastern States' abandoned mine land (AML) programs. That report criticized the accuracy of the AMLIS data, concluding that AMLIS data did not match data in the

respective States' files. In part, the OIG recommended establishing "a quality control system that ensures that States, Tribes, and OSM, as applicable, review and certify the accuracy of data entered into AMLIS."

OSM responded to the OIG's recommendation with two new requirements for program evaluations. The first requires OSM field offices to "assure that each State and Indian Tribe AML program has procedures in place to ensure and certify the accuracy of data entered into AMLIS" as part of the FY2004 oversight (subsequently changed to the 2005 evaluation year). Our 2005 review of the 2(d) performance measure fulfilled the first new requirement.

The second new requirement involves comparing data in AMLIS to corresponding data in the State's files to see if they match. For the purposes of this evaluation, we consider AAMLRP's new project closeout reports to be its "system" for ensuring that completion data Alaska enters into AMLIS match data in its files. AAMLRP uses data from the Alaska Statewide Accounting System (AKSAS) and its project closeout reports to update AMLIS. The intent of this evaluation was to determine if AAMLRP's use of the "system" does, in fact, ensure that the data match.

We found that the cost and accomplishments data AAMLRP entered into the five sample PADs matched information in the respective project closeout reports. Total cost figures in the two tables that comprise the cost allocation spreadsheet for each project were equal. Each project closeout report described how total costs were allocated among the reclamation accomplishments reported in the cost allocation spreadsheet and AMLIS PAD for each project. Also, each project closeout report identified the respective AMLIS PAD and OSM grant(s), the date on which project completion data was entered into AMLIS, and the date on which that AMLIS data entry was verified.

Also, we incidentally recommended that AAMLRP include alternate funding sources in PADs to show how it leverages its SMCRA funds to increase the scope of its AML reclamation.

V. Accomplishments and Inventory Reports

Title IV of SMCRA stresses reclamation of abandoned coal mine-related problems because active mining operations pay a fee on each ton of coal produced to generate the AMR Fund. The Alaska Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program continues to reclaim abandoned coal mines because it has not certified under section 411 of SMCRA that all its known coal problems have been addressed. At the same time, Alaska also requests funding to abate priority 1 noncoal mine hazards under section 409(c) of SMCRA.

As shown in Appendix 1, reclamation of Alaska's abandoned coal mine problems cost over \$11.19 million since the Secretary approved the State's program in late 1983. Alaska's coal projects have abated hazards attendant to 10,220 linear feet of dangerous highwalls, 1,468 structures and pieces of equipment, 47 acres of spoil areas and almost

21 acres of surface burning. Slightly more than 96 percent of the \$11.19 million used for coal reclamation went to AAMLRP's reclamation of priority 2 dangerous highwalls (57.3%), surface burning (22.2%), hazardous equipment and facilities (14.2%), and industrial/residential waste (2.4%). Figure 1 (below right) illustrates AAMLRP's completed reclamation of priority 1, 2, and 3 coal problems as percentages of final costs.

AAMLRP worked on three coal projects during the 2006 evaluation period. It completed removal of hazardous waste and 11 hazardous structures in the Suntrana tiple phase 2 project near Healy. AMLIS shows a total cost of \$789,370 for AAMLRP's work on the priority 1 and

2 problems at this site to date. The Program also continued work on 29 acres of surface burning in the Jonesville fire project near Sutton. To date, AMLIS shows a total of \$2,488,438 spent on reclamation of the priority 2 surface burning in this project. AAMLRP intends to extinguish the burning coal waste in the current phase and plans to apply most of its financial resources toward that goal through the 2007 evaluation year. Finally, Program staff closed two portals by hand in the Glenn Highway Adits project, located just east of Kings River.

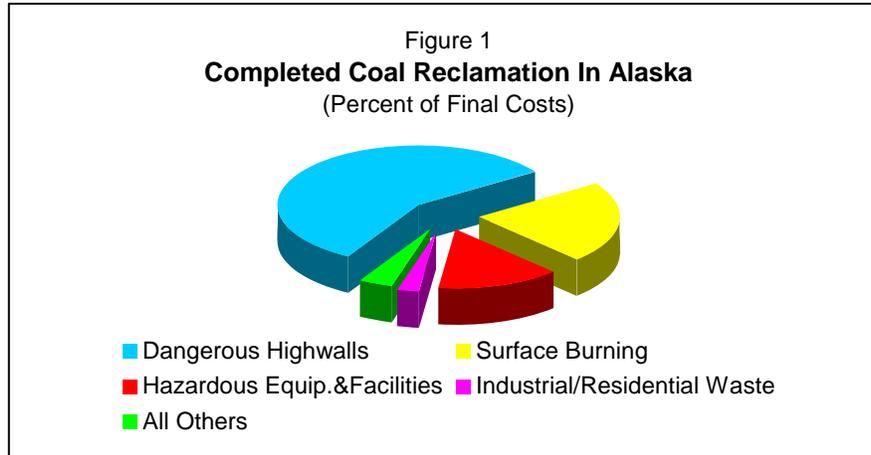
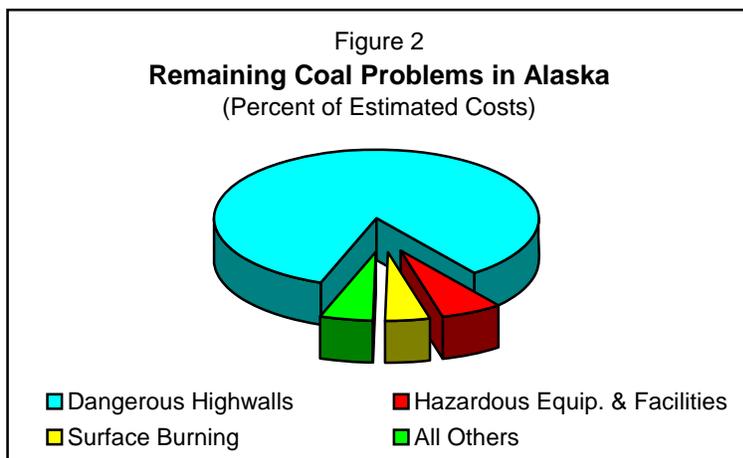


Figure 2 (below left) compares the estimated costs of reclaiming Alaska's unfunded abandoned coal mine problems currently inventoried in AMLIS. The estimated cost of abating remaining abandoned coal mine hazards currently inventoried in AMLIS totals \$40,100,609. Priority 2 coal problems constitute about 89.6 percent of Alaska's remaining coal problems, of which dangerous highwalls are the most predominant (84.2%). Hazardous equipment and facilities, surface burning, dangerous piles and embankments, portals and vertical openings make up the



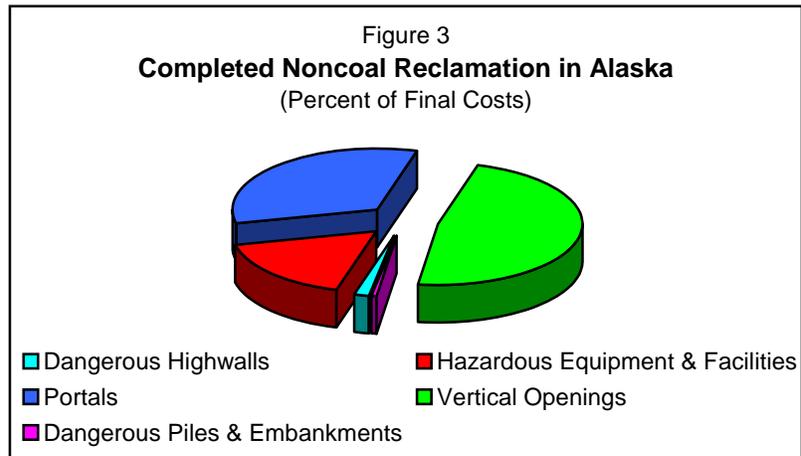
remaining 5.4 percent or priority 2 hazards. Priority 1 problems, mostly hazardous equipment and facilities and to a much lesser extent vertical openings, make up about 5.8 percent of the \$40,100,609 estimated cost. Unfunded priority 3 equipment and

facilities, mine openings and haul roads make up the remaining 4.6 percent of the estimated cost of Alaska’s inventoried coal problems.

AAMLRP’s plans to refine Alaska’s AMLIS data during the 2006 evaluation year did not progress as far as hoped due to concentrating its resources on construction projects. Nevertheless, the Program plans to continue its comprehensive field review of inventoried, unfunded abandoned coal mine problems throughout the State. That effort will generate improved data (including AMLIS data) for unfunded problems, which are based on preliminary field inventories and cost estimates. The field review and data refinement will enable AAMLRP to better determine if inventoried problems still warrant abatement. If they do, the Program then can explore methods of reclaiming them. That, in turn, will help the Program determine which problems it realistically can address with its limited funding.

Noncoal reclamation AAMLRP completed to date under section 409(c) of SMCRA abated priority 1 hazards. Figure 3 (below right) compares the final costs of reclaiming

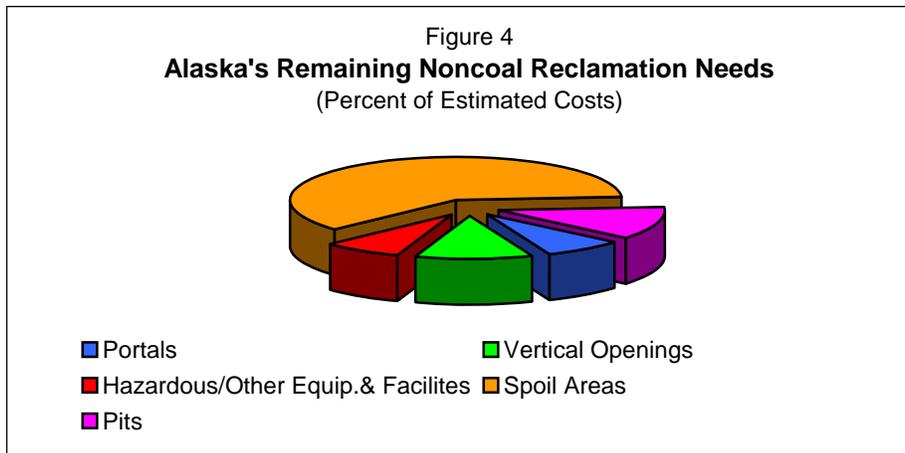
each type of inventoried noncoal hazard based on AMLIS data. Vertical openings required about 47.7 percent of the \$819,273 in combined funding from AAMLRP’s SMCRA grants and other sources by the end of the 2006 period. Portal closures comprised about 33 percent of that total cost, followed by addressing hazardous equipment and



facilities at 17 percent and about 2.2 percent to reclaim dangerous highwalls, piles and embankments. To date, Alaska’s completed noncoal reclamation abated hazards attendant to 33 vertical openings, 27 portals, 13 dangerous structures or pieces of equipment, two acres of dangerous piles and embankments, and 70 linear feet of dangerous highwalls.

The Program completed three noncoal projects on National Forest land in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, during the 2006 evaluation year. The Gold Standard project, located about 35 miles north/northeast of Ketchikan, safeguarded ten portals and two vertical openings. The Peterson Mine project closed one vertical opening located about 25 miles northwest of Juneau. Finally, AAMLRP provided staff support for one day to close four portals and one vertical opening as a training exercise demonstrating the Forest Service’s approach to closing portals with polyurethane foam.

AMLIS data show Alaska has inventoried an estimated total of \$1,647,000 in unfunded priority 1, 2, and 3 noncoal problems. However, Alaska's inventory of unfunded noncoal problems is not complete for State, Native, and private lands. AMLIS does not depict the full scope of the State's unfunded noncoal problem in terms of problem type units or estimated costs. Moreover, unfunded noncoal units and costs are based on preliminary data and rough estimates, respectively. AMLIS also does not necessarily reflect what the Program plans to address in the foreseeable future. In that context, priority 1 vertical openings, portals, and hazardous equipment and facilities make up about 21.1 percent of the \$1,647,000 estimated unfunded total cost. Priority 3 equipment and facilities, pits, and spoil areas constitute the remaining 78.9 percent, with spoil areas alone comprising 60.7 percent of the estimated unfunded total cost. Figure 4 (below) compares the estimated costs of reclaiming Alaska's remaining unfunded noncoal problems, based on AMLIS data.



Appendix 1

Alaska Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program

Coal Reclamation Accomplishments and Remaining Reclamation Needs*

Problem Type and Description	Unfunded		Funded		Completed		Total	
	Units	Costs	Units	Costs	Units	Costs	Units	Costs
Dangerous Highwalls	12,500 feet	\$33,801,109	0	0	10,200 feet	\$6,411,380	22,720 feet	\$40,212,489
Dangerous Impoundments	0 (count)	0	0	0	4 (count)	\$79,362	4 (count)	\$79,362
Dangerous Piles & Embankments	5 acres	\$150,000	0	0	3.5 acres	\$12,959	8.5 acres	\$162,959
Equipment & Facilities	7 (count)	\$1,750,000	0	0	0	0	7 (count)	\$1,750,000
Gobs	0	0	0	0	6.5 acres	\$11,493	6.5 acres	\$11,493
Hazardous Equipment & Facilities	18 (count)	\$2,442,000	0	0	1,468 (count)	\$1,589,799	1,486 (count)	\$4,031,799
Haul Road	5 acres	\$17,500	0	0	0	0	5 acres	\$17,500
Hazardous Water Body	0	0	0	0	2 (count)	\$123,640	2 (count)	\$123,640
Industrial / Residential Waste	0	0	0	0	4 acres	\$266,370	4 acres	\$266,370
Mine Openings	1 (count)	\$75,000	0	0	0	0	1 (count)	\$75,000
Portals	4 (count)	\$40,000	0	0	4 (count)	\$46,012	8 (count)	\$86,012
Spoil Area	0	0	0	0	47 acres	\$84,935	47 acres	\$84,935
Surface Burning	14 acres	\$1,750,000	15 acres	\$1,780,000	20.8 acres	\$2,488,438	49.8 acres	\$6,018,438
Slurry	0	0	0	0	9 acres	\$10,000	9 acres	\$10,000
Slump	0	0	0	0	0	\$25	0	\$25
Vertical Openings	9 (count)	\$75,000	0	0	4 (count)	\$67,751	13 (count)	\$142,751
ALASKA TOTAL COSTS		\$40,100,609		\$1,780,000		\$11,192,164		\$53,072,773

* This table is based on a Problem Type Unit and Cost Summary Report from the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System as of July 5, 2006. Coal accomplishments and costs shown are the same whether reported as SMCRA-funded only or as funded by all sources.

Appendix 2

Alaska Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Program

Noncoal Reclamation Accomplishments and Remaining Reclamation Needs*

Problem Type and Description	Unfunded		Funded		Completed		Total	
	Units	Costs	Units	Costs	Units	Costs	Units	Costs
Dangerous Highwalls	0	0	0	0	70 (feet)	\$13,350	70 (feet)	\$13,350
Dangerous Piles & Embankments	0	0	0	0	2 acres	\$5,000	2 acres	\$5,000
Equipment and Facilities	1.5 (count)	\$100,000	0	0	0	0	1.5 (count)	\$100,000
Hazardous Equipment & Facilities	2 (count)	\$32,000	0	0	13 (count)	\$139,613	15 (count)	\$171,613
Portals	20 (count)	\$127,000	5 (count)	\$70,000	27 (count)	\$270,664	52 (count)	\$467,664
Pits	3 acres	\$200,000	0	0	0	0	3 acres	\$200,000
Spoil Areas	20 acres	\$1,000,000	0	0	0	0	20 acres	\$1,000,000
Vertical Openings	28 (count)	\$188,000	2 (count)	\$30,000	33 (count)	\$372,646: SMCRA	63 (count)	\$590,646: SMCRA
						\$390,646: all sources		\$608,646: all sources
ALASKA TOTAL COSTS		\$1,647,000		\$100,000		\$801,273: SMCRA		\$2,548,273: SMCRA
						\$819,273: all sources		\$2,266,273: all sources

* This table is based on a Problem Type Unit and Cost Summary Report from the Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System as of July 5, 2006. AMLIS does not include a complete inventory of Alaska's unfunded noncoal problems.

Appendix 3

State Comments on the Report

From: Iii Joseph F Wehrman [joe_wehrman@dnr.state.ak.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 03, 2006 8:46 AM
To: Ronald Sassaman
Cc: rick_fredericksen@dnr.state.ak.us
Subject: Comments on Annual Report

We appreciate your thoroughness and efforts you have made to "get it right" in the report and evaluation. The Alaska AML Program is totally dedicated to completing the maximum amount of coal-related high priority hazard abatement possible with whatever time remains on the fee collection and grant distribution. The ongoing support and encouragement of the Denver Field Division Office staff at every level is greatly appreciated here in Alaska. We look forward to working actively with your and your co-workers in the future as we strive to continually fine tune our program.

Joe Wehrman

AML Program Manager

State of Alaska DNR