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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Provides More Than \$226 Million In Reclamation Funding to Clean Up Abandoned Coal Mines

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) today announced the availability of the Fiscal Year 2015 [Abandoned Mine Land \(AML\) Reclamation fund grants](#), which will provide more than \$226 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

The AML grants are funded in part by a fee collected on all coal produced in the United States, and enable 28 eligible states and tribes to help eliminate dangerous conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining.

“Reclaiming the land from largely unregulated coal mining from the past is part of OSMRE’s mission,” said [OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik](#). “While these grants will fund critical reclamation projects, generate well-paying jobs, and help to restore communities, it represents just a small fraction of the work that remains. We have many years of work ahead before mine reclamation is complete.”

In the 37 years since Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), OSMRE has provided more than \$8 billion to states and tribes to reclaim more than 380,000 acres of high-priority hazardous abandoned mine sites.

Past AML-funded projects include closing dangerous mine shafts, reclaiming unstable slopes, improving water quality by treating acid mine drainage, and restoring water supplies damaged by mining.

The OSMRE provides AML grants to 28 coal-producing states and tribes according to statutory formulas based on past and current coal production. By the end of September 2015, states and tribes will apply for reclamation grants and OSMRE will make the respective award amounts available for approved applications.

The FY 2015 funding available to states and tribes is as follows:



State/Tribe	Mandatory Calculation at 100%	Total Mandatory Distribution (after reductions)	Sequestration Impacts
Alabama	4,975,501	4,612,290	363,211
Alaska	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Arkansas	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Colorado	3,521,140	3,264,097	257,043
Illinois	16,956,181	15,718,380	1,237,801
Indiana	8,172,369	7,575,786	596,583
Iowa	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Kansas	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Kentucky	19,634,734	18,201,399	1,433,335
Louisiana	70,806	65,637	5,169
Maryland	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Mississippi	277,388	257,139	20,249
Missouri	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Montana	4,403,928	4,082,441	321,487
New Mexico	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
North Dakota	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Ohio	9,997,041	9,267,257	729,784
Oklahoma	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Pennsylvania	47,484,712	44,018,328	3,466,384
Tennessee	3,000,000	2,781,000	219,000
Texas	1,746,048	1,618,586	127,462
Utah	1,376,720	1,276,220	100,500
Virginia	5,202,137	4,822,381	379,756
West Virginia	33,683,884	31,224,960	2,458,924
Wyoming	53,847,000	49,916,169	3,930,831
Crow Tribe	872,247	808,573	63,674
Hopi Tribe	305,299	283,012	22,287
Navajo Nation	1,857,922	1,722,294	135,628
Nat'l Total	\$244,385,057	\$226,544,949	\$17,840,108

The FY 2015 sequestration of mandatory Federal budgetary resources withheld 7.3 percent of the AML grant funds available in the current fiscal year. Other factors contributed to a \$72 million dollar decrease in grants from last year; a decline in coal production; and the end to prior balance replacement fund payments, which provided several hundred million additional dollars in AML funding over the last seven years.

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