



# OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

**Mission** – The mission of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is to ensure, through a nationwide regulatory program in cooperation with the States and Tribes, that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects communities and the environment during mining, assure that land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and mitigate the effects of past mining through the reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

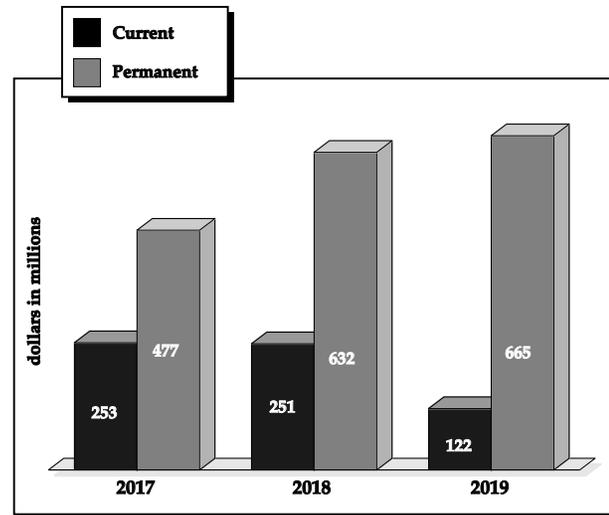
**Budget Overview** – The 2019 budget request for OSMRE is \$121.7 million. The 2019 budget supports OSMRE’s core mission requirements for oversight and support for State and tribal programs to ensure effective, consistent, and high quality regulatory and reclamation programs across the Nation. The OSMRE estimates staffing will equal 381 full time equivalents in 2019.

**Regulation and Technology** – The 2019 budget request for Regulation and Technology, Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, is \$101.3 million. The budget includes \$73.9 million for Environmental Protection programs. Within this, the 2019 budget includes \$52.4 million for State and tribal regulatory grants. Other program funding is concentrated on State Program Evaluation and Federal Program operations, which regulate coal mining in States and for Tribes without approved regulatory programs and fulfill OSMRE’s Title V obligations. The budget includes \$21.5 million for maintaining and supporting these State, Federal and Indian Lands programs.

The OSMRE’s statutory role is to promote and assist its partner States and Tribes in establishing a stable regulatory environment for coal mining. The proposed level of regulatory grant funding provides for the efficient and effective operations of programs at a level consistent with the anticipated obligations of State and tribal regulatory programs to account for the Nation’s demand for coal mine permitting and production.

The 2019 budget request includes \$13.2 million to support the Title V mission-focused Technology Development and Transfer activities. As mining and engineering information and technology continue to improve, OSMRE

## OSMRE Funding



continues to provide to States and Tribes the most up-to-date information, technical training, technical assistance, and technology transfer. These programs greatly help the States and Tribes fulfill SMCRA’s requirements in the operation of their regulatory and reclamation programs and support advancements such as electronic permitting and applied science solutions, specific to coal mined sites. The request includes \$14.2 million for Financial Management and general program support to OSMRE operations.

As in prior years, the budget proposes to recover the cost of reviewing, administering, and enforcing permits for surface coal mining and reclamation in Federal programs and on Indian lands where OSMRE is the regulatory authority, and encourages States to further pursue cost-recovery options. The OSMRE expects to recover \$40,000 in permitting fees in 2019.

**Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation** – Under Title IV of SMCRA, effective State, tribal, and Federal abandoned mine land programs help to ensure expeditious return of pre-SMCRA mined lands to effective post mining land uses. The OSMRE’s proposed budget fulfills this statutory goal by preserving funding for these critical requirements.

**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
FACTS**

- Created in 1977 when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.
- Ensures coal mining operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Requires land is adequately reclaimed and restored to beneficial use during and following the mining process through regulation.
- Institutes nationwide programs to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations.
- Trains hundreds of State and tribal professionals in a broad range of reclamation skills such as reestablishing wildlife habitat.

The 2019 budget request for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund is \$20.4 million. The 2019 budget does not request funding for the AML Economic Development Grants pilot program, which overlaps with existing mandatory AML grants. The budget includes \$6.4 million for Environmental Restoration activities which focus on State and Federal programs, \$2.5 million for Technology

Development and Transfer programs, and \$11.5 million to support Financial Management and general OSMRE program operations to fulfill OSMRE's Title IV obligations in the reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

**Fixed Costs** – Fixed costs of \$371,000 are fully funded in the request.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

*Comparison of 2019 Request with 2018 CR*

	2018 CR		2019 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Current</b>						
Regulation and Technology .....	300	120,195	281	101,298	-19	-18,897
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund .....	134	131,265	100	20,375	-34	-110,890
Subtotal, Current .....	434	251,460	381	121,673	-53	-129,787
<b>Permanent</b>						
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund .....	0	240,308	0	278,148	0	+37,840
Payments to States in Lieu of Coal Fee Receipts.....	0	106,678	0	116,900	0	+10,222
Supplemental Payments to UMWA Health Plans .....	0	285,202	0	270,359	0	-14,843
Subtotal, Permanent .....	0	632,188	0	665,407	0	+33,219
<b>TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING</b>						
<b>RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.....</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>883,648</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>787,080</b>	<b>-53</b>	<b>-96,568</b>

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

*By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity*

### APPROPRIATION: Regulation and Technology

	2017 Actual	2018 CR	2019 Request	Change
Environmental Protection.....	90,138	89,526	73,877	-15,649
Permit Fees .....	40	40	40	0
Offsetting Collections - Permit Fees .....	-10	-40	-40	0
Technology, Development and Transfer .....	15,205	15,102	13,232	-1,870
Financial Management.....	505	501	495	-6
Executive Direction and Administration.....	15,169	15,066	13,694	-1,372
Civil Penalties.....	71	99	100	+1
Offsetting Collections - Civil Penalties.....	-71	-99	-100	-1
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	121,047	120,195	101,298	-18,897

### *Detail of Budget Changes*

	<u>2019 Change from 2018 CR</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	-18,897
Environmental Protection.....	-15,649
State and Tribal Funding .....	-15,722
State Program Evaluations.....	-652
Federal and Indian Lands Program.....	-612
Federal Lands.....	-100
Program Development /Maintenance .....	+1,260
Fixed Costs .....	+177
Technology, Development and Transfer .....	-1,870
Technical Assistance.....	-1,034
Training.....	-563
Technology Transfer.....	-355
Fixed Costs .....	+82
Financial Management.....	-6
Revenue Management.....	-9
Fixed Costs .....	+3
Executive Direction and Administration.....	-1,372
Executive Direction.....	-712
Administrative Support .....	-939
General Services .....	+264
Fixed Costs .....	+15
Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple Subactivities	
Fixed Costs .....	[+277]

**APPROPRIATION: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund**

	2017 Actual	2018 CR	2019 Request	Change
Environmental Restoration	114,480	113,703	6,383	-107,320
Technology, Development and Transfer	3,544	3,520	2,508	-1,012
Financial Management	6,396	6,352	5,144	-1,208
Executive Direction and Administration	7,743	7,690	6,340	-1,350
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>132,163</b>	<b>131,265</b>	<b>20,375</b>	<b>-110,890</b>

*Detail of Budget Changes*

	2019 Change from 2018 CR
TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....	-110,890
Environmental Restoration.....	-107,320
State Program Evaluation .....	-646
Federal Reclamation Programs - Projects	-1,537
Federal Reclamation Programs - Ops.....	-346
Program Development and Maintenance	-545
AML Economic Development Grants .....	-104,288
Fixed Costs .....	+42
Technology, Development and Transfer .....	-1,012
Technical Assistance.....	+29
Training.....	-187
Technology Transfer.....	-868
Fixed Costs .....	+14
Financial Management .....	-1,208
Fee Compliance .....	-1,249
Grants Financial Management .....	+9
Fixed Costs .....	+32
Executive Direction and Administration.....	-1,350
Executive Direction .....	-578
Administrative Support .....	-539
General Services .....	-239
Fixed Costs .....	+6
Subtotals for Changes Across	
Multiple Subactivities	
Fixed Costs .....	[+94]