



U.S. Office of Surface Mining
**News
Release**



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Contact: Peter Mali
(202) 208-2565

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Addresses Surface Coal Regulation and Reduces Deficit

(Washington, DC) – President Obama’s proposed budget of \$146.1 million for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) in fiscal year (FY) 2011 focuses funding on the most critical coal mining reclamation needs. The budget reduces spending in regulatory programs and concentrates mandatory funding on priority abandoned coal mines.

The proposed discretionary budget, a decrease of \$16.7 million from the FY 2010 enacted level, includes reductions in both the regulatory and reclamation programs. The budget for FY 2011 reflects a reduction of \$11.0 million in State and tribal regulatory grants. States are encouraged to maintain funding levels for these programs by increasing user fees. In 2011, OSM will implement management efficiencies focusing on the reduction of travel, acquisition, and consolidation of information technology in order to reduce spending by approximately \$750,000.

The OSM will receive and distribute \$459.5 million in fiscal year 2011, including \$259.5 million for high-priority abandoned coal mine reclamation and \$200 million to pay for health care for beneficiaries to the United Mine Workers of America Health Plans. The budget proposes to modify these mandatory grants by eliminating payments to certified States and Tribes, those that have completed the cleanup of abandoned coal mines. This proposal will save \$115 million in 2011 and includes funds to address any high-priority coal issues that may develop in the future.

The effective reclamation of abandoned coal mine land eliminates public health hazards and protects the environment. The OSM looks forward to working closely with States and Tribes, the regulated community, and the public to more efficiently implement the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Details on OSM’s proposed FY 2011 budget are available [here](#).

OSM carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with States and Indian tribes. OSM's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

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