



# NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
WWW.OSMRE.GOV

January 6, 2017  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **OSMRE Announces More Than \$180 Million in Funding Availability for States and Tribes for Abandoned Coal Mine Reclamation**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) today announced the availability of the Fiscal Year [2017 Abandoned Mine Land \(AML\) Reclamation fund grants](#), which will provide nearly \$181 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines. The total distribution is about \$13 million less than what the states and tribes would have received without sequestered funding.

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grants are funded in part by a fee collected on all coal produced in the United States to help eliminate dangerous conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining. Past AML-funded projects have closed dangerous mine shafts, reclaimed unstable slopes, treated acid mine drainage, and restored water supplies damaged by mining.

“We still have much work to do” said [OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik](#). “We continue to discover threats from left-behind mine pits, dangerous highwalls, acid mine drainage that pollutes our water supplies, and hazardous mine openings. AML money could have, and can, help provide jobs to people in need throughout coal country.”

OSMRE, and its state and tribal partners, have worked for more than 39 years to address the ongoing threats from lands that were mined and then abandoned before 1977, when the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act](#) took effect. Even with that work completed, more than \$7 billion of problems remain in the latest inventory of critical items known as Priority 1 threats.

OSMRE provides AML grants to [28 coal-producing states and tribes](#) according to a congressionally mandated formula based on their past and current coal production. During 2017, eligible states and tribes will apply for annual reclamation grants to access money in their allocations. After OSMRE has evaluated and verified the requests, the bureau will make the award amounts available.

Among the states with the largest allocations are Wyoming (\$39.4 million); Pennsylvania (\$33.6 million); West Virginia (\$ 23.3 million); Kentucky (\$12.7 million) and Illinois (\$12.3 million).

The AML Reclamation Fund is slated to come to a conclusion in 2021 unless it is reauthorized by Congress, as it was in 2006. The FY 2017 funding available to states and tribes is as follows:



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State/Tribe	Total Mandatory Distribution	Reduction Due to Sequestration FY 2017	Cumulative Reduction Due to Sequestration FYs 2013-2017
Alabama	\$3,258,630	-\$241,510	-\$1,962,340
Alaska	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Arkansas	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Colorado	2,793,000	-207,000	-1,695,783
Illinois	12,315,001	-912,712	-6,048,522
Indiana	5,860,428	-434,339	-3,446,264
Iowa	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Kansas	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,001
Kentucky	12,649,694	-937,517	-8,738,482
Louisiana	115,020	-8,525	-73,517
Maryland	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Mississippi	113,334	-8,399	-69,297
Missouri	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Montana	3,275,039	-242,726	-2,457,631
New Mexico	2,793,000	-207,000	-1,251,782
North Dakota	2,793,000	-207,000	-1,091,969
Ohio	6,823,691	-505,730	-3,707,611
Oklahoma	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Pennsylvania	33,555,249	-2,486,910	-16,470,138
Tennessee	2,793,000	-207,000	-999,000
Texas	1,582,341	-117,273	-986,292
Utah	2,479,301	-183,750	-956,685
Virginia	3,809,523	-282,338	-2,255,945
West Virginia	23,250,487	-1,723,184	-13,565,223
Wyoming	39,365,671	-2,917,542	-9,713,373
Crow Tribe	521,673	-38,663	-383,956
Hopi Tribe	270,329	-20,035	-223,070
Navajo Nation	995,462	-73,778	-1,158,808
<b>National Total</b>	<b>\$180,963,873</b>	<b>-\$13,411,930</b>	<b>-\$84,248,686</b>

To watch videos featuring award-winning AML projects, please visit OSMRE's [YouTube Channel](#).

*The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE'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. For instant updates on OSMRE, follow the bureau's Twitter feed @OSMRE.*

