

**STATUS OF THE
ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION FUND (AML FUND)
FOR THE AML FEE-BASED RECLAMATION PROGRAM**

September 30, 2025

Background

As of September 30, 2025, a total of approximately \$14.233 billion in industry AML fees including interest earned was collected in the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund (AML Fund) and will be reported in the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSM) Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget Justifications Report. This amount does not include the last two months of the AML fee collection cycle (i.e. October 1 – November 30) which extends beyond the Federal Fiscal Year end of September 30, 2025. The information provided also pertains only to the AML Fee-based Reclamation Program and does not include data from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) AML Program or the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program.

The AML Fund experiences a spike in fee collections during the final two months of the collection cycle and based on this consistent trend, OSM established protocols to ensure that state and Tribal AML programs receive the maximum amount of benefit from the AML Fund by calculating the annual formula-based AML grants after November 30 rather than at the end of the Federal Fiscal Year. Consequently, the Fiscal Year 2026 AML Fee-based Grant Distribution reports a slightly higher amount collected in the AML Fund and interest earned for a total of more than \$14.360 billion of AML fees including interest earned as of November 30, 2025. The two main sources of information for the AML Reclamation Program are the Financial Business Management System (FBMS) and the enhanced Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (e-AMLIS).

The FBMS is the enterprise system used by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its Bureaus for recording transactions, controlling and reporting in the functional areas of acquisition, budget execution, core finance (including financial consolidation and reporting), financial assistance (e.g., grants and cooperative agreements), fleet management, personal property, real property and travel. The FBMS is DOI/OSM's system of record that contains comprehensive information on AML grant allocations and expenditures for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) Title IV AML Reclamation Program.

The e-AMLIS contains different information from FBMS and serves a different purpose. The e-AMLIS only provides information on the direct construction cost to reclaim AML features. The e-AMLIS is the central electronic database for recording the national inventory of AML priorities. The information contained in e-AMLIS is provided by states and Tribes. The e-AMLIS provides information on the accomplishments of the AML program, determines AML grant awards annually, and helps states and Tribes assess their own inventory when making funding decisions. The majority of the data in e-AMLIS represents coal AML priorities which include, for example, features such as gob piles, subsidence, and highwalls.

Current Status

The AML Fund amount was approximately \$14.233 billion as of September 30, 2025 (*\$10.455 billion collected in AML fees and \$3.778 billion in interest earned*). This amount is broken down as follows:

- \$11.302 billion or 79% represents the *appropriated* or awarded amount that OSM has been authorized to distribute in accordance with SMCRA.

- \$2.931 billion or 21% remains *unappropriated* in the AML Fund which is not yet available for disbursement. OSM invests these funds in Treasury securities to earn interest. Earned interest is transferred to three health care plans administered by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Health and Retirement Funds.

Of the \$11.302 billion *appropriated* from the AML Fund, approximately \$6.569 billion (or 58% of the appropriated amount) was provided as AML fee-based grants to states and Tribes to reclaim abandoned mine lands and polluted waters. The states and Tribes have allocated and/or spent these funds according to the purposes set forth in SMCRA.

The remaining \$4.733 billion of appropriated funding (or 42% of the appropriated amount) was allocated as follows:

- a) Over \$2.302 billion transferred to certain health care plans administered by the UMWA Health and Retirement Funds since 1996.
- b) Over \$2.431 billion used for SMCRA authorized expenditures since FY 1978 which also included the following:
 - i) OSM operating expenses.
 - ii) Oversight of the Federal reclamation projects and construction costs for emergency and high priority projects in states and Tribes without an AML reclamation program and/or emergency program.
 - iii) Funding to state and Tribe AML Programs to address AML emergencies, up until September 30, 2010.
- i) Funding to states and Tribes for the Small Operator Assistance Program¹, and to the Department of Agriculture for the Rural Abandoned Mine Program.²

¹ SOAP was designed to help small coal mine operators (producing under 300,000 tons/year) obtain necessary scientific data for mining permits. It covers costs for hydrological data, test borings, and core samplings via qualified labs. OSM's last disbursement of SOAP was FY 2006.

² RAMP was designed to reclaim abandoned mine lands in agricultural regions and AML Priority 3 sites in rural areas. RAMP was administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service. Under RAMP, monies from the AML Fund were provided to the USDA to administer the program, but Congress ceased funding for this program in 1995.

Data Sources for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program



DOI/OSMRE's Financial Business Management System (FBMS)

System of Record for the AML Program

Allocation/Expenses:

- Administrative costs (indirect costs, project design, engineering, operation, etc.)
- Coal Projects
- Non-Coal Projects
- Non-Reclamation Projects
- Emergency Projects
- Set-Aside Amounts Distributed



OSMRE's enhanced Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (e-AMLIS)

Provides a subset of the record of the AML Program

Tracks AML Priorities for Coal Projects:

- Direct construction costs for coal projects
- Direct construction cost for non-coal project completion (limited basis)