



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



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Office of Surface Mining Offers Funding To Bring the Best of Science to the Coalfields

The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is offering scholars a chance at up to \$100,000 to turn their scientific knowledge into environmental fact.

OSM's Applied Science Program is accepting 2007 proposals for transforming academic know-how into real world applications that improve how coal mining operations protect and restore the environment.

Last year, OSM gave nearly \$1 million to 12 projects to turn cutting-edge science into practical ways to prevent or reverse the environmental impact of coal mining or that improve the success of post-mining reclamation.

A critical part of OSM's mission is to advance the science of environmental protection and mine reclamation technology and then to transfer that know-how to state regulators, the coal industry and other environmental leaders.

OSM receives input from federal, state and local regulators as well as non-government environmental experts when determining how the environment can best benefit from this money.

Based on that input, this year's proposal will have the best chances of receiving one of the grants if related to one or more of the following topics: Blasting Issues; Hydrology Issues; Steep Slope Mining and Reclamation; Underground Mine Mapping; Use of Recycled Materials; Landscape Stability; Soil Development on Reclaimed Lands; Vegetation Assessment; Wildlife Conservation and Reforestation; and Cropland Reclamation.

“OSM is working to bring cutting-edge environmental science to the people in the field who need it,” said acting OSM Director Brent Wahlquist.

Applicants may request up to \$100,000 for the current FY 2007 which is awarded in a cooperative agreement. Funding is expected to be made available after July 1, 2007. The total amount available will be determined at a later date.

All proposal applications must be received by **March 2, 2007**.

The full announcement is available electronically on line at www.mcrcc.osmre.gov. In order to receive a paper copy or ask questions, please contact:

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