



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



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Contact: Ron Tull  
(202) 208-2565  
Frank Quimby  
(202) 208-6416

## **OSM Announces AML Grant Amounts Available to States and Tribes**

(Washington DC) – The U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) today announced that \$274,000,000 is available in fiscal year 2008 grants to States and Tribes to restore abandoned mine land, treat acid mine drainage and for other uses. This is more than double the amount of \$132,000,000 that was available in fiscal year 2007.

Funding will be distributed in accordance with the requirements of the 2006 Amendments to Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). The amendments provide that, in addition to the funds distributed to eligible States and Tribes based on AML fee collections from coal production in FY 2007, each State and Tribe will be paid the equivalent of 1/7 of its unappropriated State or Tribal share balance from Treasury funds.

Collection of AML funds on coal produced during fiscal year 2007 funds was completed November 30, 2007. OSM moved expeditiously to make funds available to State and Tribal AML programs. Due to the mandatory distribution, all AML programs will receive more funding than in FY 2007. Additionally, the mandatory phase-in is applied in a way to maximize funding for minimum program states.

States and Tribes that have remaining work to do on coal reclamation projects (uncertified States and Tribes) will use the existing grant procedures to continue AML coal work. States and Tribes that have completed coal reclamation (certified States and Tribes) will be able to apply for grants under a new simplified process and use the money as directed by their legislatures. However, if new coal is identified, the funds must be used to address reclamation prior to other uses.

“Eight states have already applied for their grants,” said Brent Wahlquist, Director of OSM. “So far, more than 215,000 acres of priority 1 and 2 abandoned coal mine sites have been reclaimed since SMCRA was enacted in 1977,” he said.

When Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act in 1977, it created the OSM and gave it the authority to collect fees on coal production to restore abandoned mine lands. The 2006 Amendments extended the Interior Department's authority to collect Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fees through Sept. 30, 2021. In addition to funding reclamation, the AML fund earns interest which is transferred to the United Mine Workers of America health benefit plans.

The following chart shows the total amounts of mandatory and AML distributions available to eligible coal producing States and Tribes.

	FY08	FY07
Certified States/Tribes		
Louisiana	\$ 246,000	\$ 96,000
Montana	\$ 8,069,000	\$ 3,087,000
Texas	\$ 3,336,000	\$ 1,306,000
Wyoming	\$82,701,000	\$30,471,000
Hopi Tribe	\$ 880,000	\$ 440,000
Navajo Nation	\$ 5,182,000	\$ 1,964,000
Uncertified States/Tribes		
Alabama	\$ 5,377,000	\$ 2,670,000
Alaska	\$ 1,725,000	\$ 1,500,000
Arkansas	\$ 1,560,000	\$ 1,500,000
Colorado	\$ 6,698,000	\$ 2,442,000
Crow Tribe	\$ 1,942,000	\$ 523,000
Illinois	\$10,902,000	\$ 7,356,000
Indiana	\$10,606,000	\$ 4,471,000
Iowa	\$ 1,696,000	\$ 1,500,000
Kansas	\$ 1,710,000	\$ 1,500,000
Kentucky	\$30,849,000	\$13,425,000
Maryland	\$ 2,064,000	\$ 1,500,000
Mississippi	\$ 224,000	\$ 0
Missouri	\$ 1,781,000	\$ 1,501,000
New Mexico	\$ 4,028,000	\$ 1,500,000
North Dakota	\$ 2,973,000	\$ 1,500,000
Ohio	\$ 7,927,000	\$ 4,929,000
Oklahoma	\$ 1,845,000	\$ 1,500,000
Pennsylvania	\$27,940,000	\$21,565,000
Tennessee	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 0
Utah	\$ 3,645,000	\$ 1,500,000
Virginia	\$ 7,182,000	\$ 3,404,000

West Virginia            \$39,398,000            \$18,891,000

**Fact Sheet:** <http://www.osmre.gov/news/121707FactSheet.pdf>

**Questions & Answers:** <http://www.osmre.gov/news/121707QA.pdf>

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