

SMCRA Title IV AML Program Fact Sheet

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

The AML program is a key source of support for coalfield communities

Funding for this critical program is set to expire in 2021

What is the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program?

The AML program's mission is to restore lands and waters impacted by historic coal mining and to protect communities that live nearby

Prior to 1977, coal mining was conducted without federal regulation, which left behind hundreds of thousands of acres of abandoned, unreclaimed mine sites

The SMCRA Title IV AML program was established to enable the states and tribes to protect their citizens from the dangerous and costly impacts of these abandoned mines

An "AML fee" is assessed on coal production, and the funding generated is distributed as grants to state and tribal AML programs

State and tribal AML programs use AML funding to conduct reclamation projects, which restore impacted land and water resources to a safer, more natural, and more productive state

The SMCRA AML programs are typically the only source of help available for AML impacts

How Big a Problem are Abandoned Mines?

AML sites are a significant source of damage to public health, the environment, and economic well-being in the communities they impact, and they exist in every region of the country

AML sites continue to be discovered, and known sites continue to become worse as time goes on

800,000 acres of AML sites remain unreclaimed, representing **over \$10 billion in remaining costs**

The AML Program is Important for...

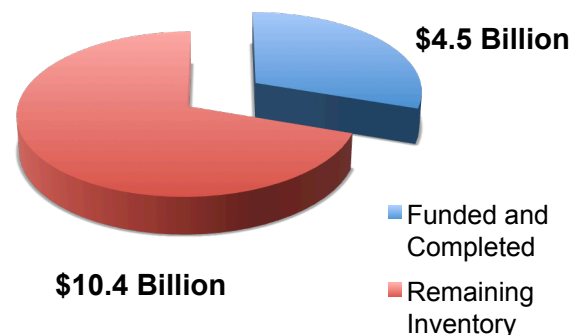
Safety and Health – AML hazards continue to injure and kill local citizens each year. The AML programs have eliminated over 46,000 open mine portals and over 1,000 miles of high-walls

Emergencies – Coalfield communities live in constant worry of sudden, devastating AML-related emergency events like landslides, subsidence, and coal refuse fires. 7.2 million people nationwide have been protected from AML hazards by the AML programs

Water Resources - AML programs treat water polluted by AML sites, known as acid mine drainage or "AMD". AMD affects public drinking supplies as well as the health of nearby lakes and streams. For every mile of stream improved \$80,000 is gained by local economies

The Economy – AML sites cause extensive property and infrastructure damage and suppress economic growth. AML work is a fundamental part of revitalizing economies and restoring a healthy, prosperous way of life for coalfield citizens. Every dollar spent on AML construction returns \$1.59 to local economies

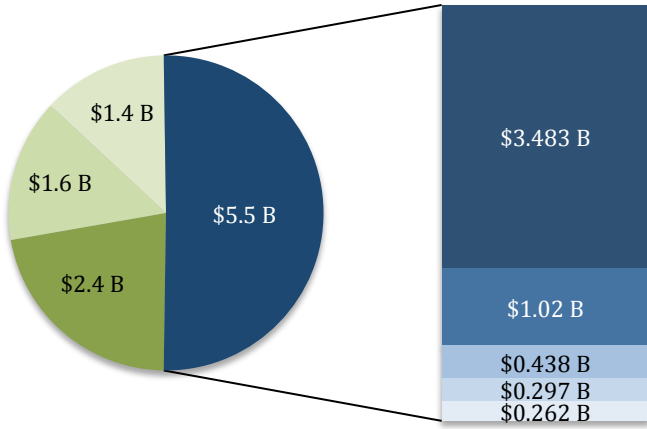
National AML Inventory September 30, 2017



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How has AML Funding Been Used?



AML Funding is diligently managed and distributed in accordance with SMCRA

Two-thirds of state and tribal AML grant funding has been spent on construction

The AML programs are efficient: only 8% of grant funding is spent on administration

Funding for project design, management, and long-term operation and maintenance are critical to a successful AML program

Of the total AML fee moneys collected between FY 1977 and FY 2016:

- ◆ **State/Tribal Grants** - \$5.5 billion has been granted to state and tribal AML programs
- ◆ **Unappropriated** - \$2.4 billion remains unappropriated, but is scheduled to be distributed at statutory direction
- ◆ **OSMRE Operation** - \$1.6 billion has been used by OSMRE to administer the program and provide supplemental grants to state and tribal AML programs
- ◆ **UMWA Interest** - \$1.4 billion has generated from interest collected on the AML Trust Fund and provided for UMWA pension and health care plans for retired coal miners

Of the funding granted to state and tribal AML programs:

- ◆ **Construction** - \$3.483 billion has been spent on reclamation project construction
- ◆ **Project Design** - \$1.02 billion has been spent on design of AML projects
- ◆ **Administration** - \$0.438 billion, only 8% of state and tribal grants, has been spent on administration of the AML programs
- ◆ **AMD Set-aside** - \$0.297 billion is dedicated to the Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) set-aside, for future operation and maintenance of AMD water treatment systems
- ◆ **Undelivered Orders** - \$0.262 billion is being held in reserve for projects that are nearly ready to begin construction

Reauthorization of the AML Fee

The AML fee on which the AML program relies is set to expire in September 2021

The AML programs are proud of what has been accomplished, and it is clear that our work is not done

The time and funding so far provided has not been enough for the AML programs to contend with the impacts from over 200 years of historic coal mining

If the AML fee is not reauthorized, the states and tribes will have no way to protect coalfield citizens and their environment from the hazards of abandoned mine lands

The AML program is a key part of efforts to repair vital infrastructure, spur development, and contribute to the economic future of coalfield regions

Reauthorization of the AML fee will be a major issue for Congress beginning in 2019