

Treatment or Abatement of Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) Using AML Pilot Program Funding in Pennsylvania

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Abstract

The Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program (AML Pilot Program) was initially authorized by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016, Public Law 114-113, enacted on December 18, 2015. Administered by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE), the AML Pilot provided \$30 million of US Treasury Funds in FY 2016 to each of the three Appalachian state AML Programs (Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) which have the highest amount of unfunded coal-related problems that are classified as Priority 1 and Priority 2 abandoned mine lands sites and inventoried in the Enhanced Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (e-AMLIS). The AML Pilot funds are to be used to accelerate the remediation of AML and AMD sites with economic and community development end uses.

Congress has since authorized AML Pilot Program funding for Pennsylvania for FY 2017 and FY 2018. The 2017 AML Pilot Program was authorized by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, Public Law 115-31, and provided an additional \$25 million of US Treasury Funds to PA's AML Program. The 2018 AML Pilot Program was authorized by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, Public Law 115-141, and provides an additional \$25 million of US Treasury Funds to PA's AML Program for reclamation of AML in conjunction with economic development and community revitalization.

Language from the OSMRE's guidance for the 2018 AML Pilot Program requires that State AML Programs, in consultation with state and local economic and community development authorities, must develop eligible projects that demonstrate a nexus with AML land and water reclamation, and economic and community development. Pennsylvania has selected a wide variety of AML/AMD project types with a variety of anticipated economic and community development benefits for each of the three AML Pilot Program years. Seventeen of the 42 total projects include the treatment or abatement of AMD, and nearly \$36 million of the \$80 million total of AML Pilot Program funding received to date by Pennsylvania has been committed to projects which include AMD treatment and/or abatement. This presentation will focus on those AMD-related AML Pilot Projects including the scope of each project, the anticipated benefits, the project costs, the project partners, and the current status of each.

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