



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Mission

The mission of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is to ensure coal mining is conducted in a manner that protects communities and the environment during mining, land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and the harmful environmental and health effects of past coal mining are mitigated by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned mine lands (AMLs).

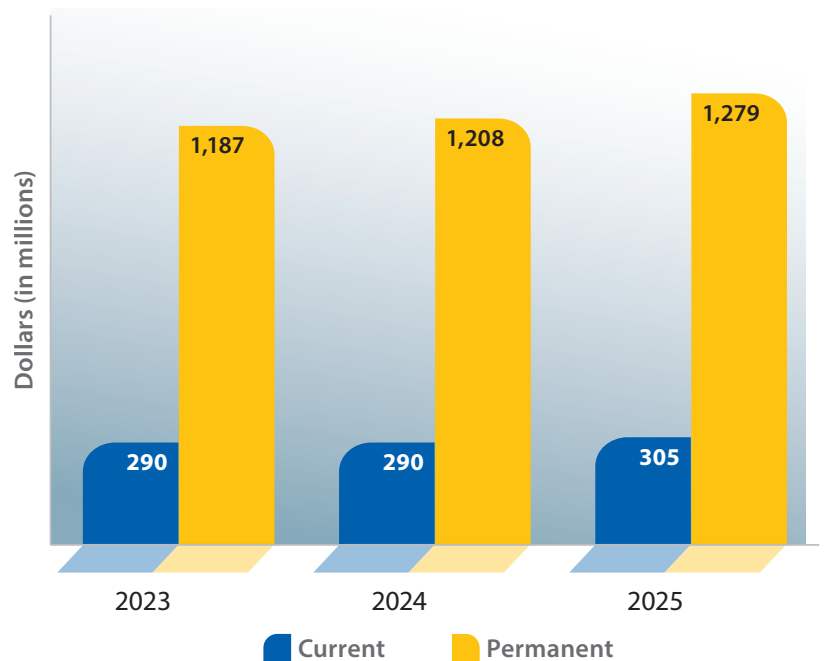
Budget Overview

The 2025 budget request for OSMRE is \$304.7 million in current appropriations, \$14.8 million above the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) level, and includes \$1.3 billion in permanent appropriations, most of which is for grants and payments to States, Tribes, and the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) health and pension plans. OSMRE estimates staffing will equal 521 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in 2025. The Bureau expects to recover \$40,000 of the costs to review, administer, and enforce permits for surface coal mining and reclamation on Federal and Indian lands in 2025. OSMRE also expects to collect \$100,000 from civil penalties under Section 518 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA).

Regulation and Technology

The 2025 budget for the Regulation and Technology Account is \$128.9 million, \$7.8 million above the 2024 CR level. This account supports the regulatory

OSMRE Funding



functions defined by SMCRA and administered by the States and OSMRE. It also funds Federal activities related to the administration and monitoring of State regulatory programs and OSMRE's technical training, assistance, and fund transfer activities related to environmental protection.

Environmental Protection programs are funded in the 2025 budget at \$91.4 million, \$2.5 million above the 2024 CR amount. The request for State and Tribal regulatory grants is \$65.0 million, which fully funds estimated requirements and is equal to the 2024 CR amount. The 2025 request for regulatory grants provides for the efficient and effective operations of State and Tribal programs at a level consistent with the anticipated obligations and the demand for coal mine permitting, production, and reclamation.

The 2025 budget includes \$26.4 million for other regulation and technology functions under Title V of SMCRA, \$2.5 million



- OSMRE was established in 1977 when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.
- Over more than four decades, SMCRA has directly contributed to the closure of more than 49,000 abandoned underground mine shafts and openings.
- OSMRE's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP), established in 1999, distributes an average of \$1.3 million each year to nonprofit organizations focused on watershed health and restoration. Funding for each project is capped at \$100,000 and goes toward efforts to treat acid mine drainage in local communities. Since its inception, WCAP has allocated approximately \$23 million to watershed groups across the country.

above the 2024 CR level, including State Program Evaluation and Federal Program operations, which regulate coal mining in States and for Tribes without approved regulatory programs.

The 2025 budget includes \$37.5 million for Technology Development and Transfer, Financial Management, and Executive Direction activities, \$5.3 million above the 2024 CR level, which supports the overall Regulation and Technology program. Within the Regulation and Technology appropriation, the budget includes a \$2.5 million program increase for essential data center migration, hosting, and cybersecurity enhancements.

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

For the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, the 2025 budget requests \$175.8 million, \$6.9 million above the 2024 CR amount. This account derives a portion of its funding from a fee levied on coal produced for sale, use, or transfer and supports reclamation program functions carried out by the States, Tribes, and OSMRE.

The budget includes \$156.1 million for Environmental Restoration activities carried out by States and OSMRE, \$4.1 million above the 2024 CR level. That amount includes \$21.1 million, \$4.1 million above the 2024 CR amount, for State reclamation program oversight, expanded water



OSMRE and partners mark Arbor Day in Virginia planting more than 1,000 trees at a reclaimed coal mine site with 100 ninth-grade Earth science students.

OSMRE Photo.

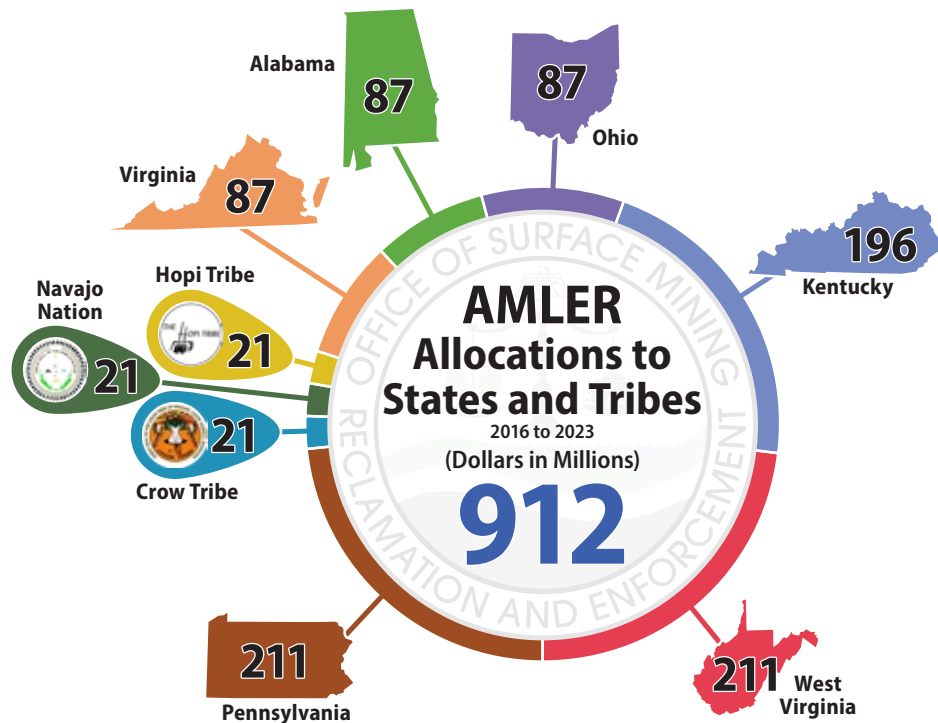


A large spoil pond in the Kuiper AML site in Marion County, IA. The bright blue water color is caused by suspended aluminum that has leached out of the abandoned surface mine. *OSMRE Photo.*

treatment grants to treat acid mine drainage, Federal reclamation operations and projects, and reclamation program development.

The budget for the AML Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program is \$135.0 million, equal to the amount in the 2024 CR. The program provides grants to the six Appalachian States with the

highest amount of remaining high-priority AML problems and the three Tribes with approved AML reclamation programs. The grants provide an opportunity for the States and Tribes to invest in reclamation of abandoned mine lands in conjunction with economic and community development activities on or adjacent to these lands. The grants benefit coal communities by reclaiming



formerly mined lands for beneficial economic uses and provide good-paying jobs for skilled former coal industry employees in some of the hardest hit communities in the Nation. These grants also address longstanding hazards and environmental degradation near coal communities, such as acid mine drainage. The request proposes to allocate 1.25 percent of the AMLER appropriation to support OSMRE program administration and for oversight by Interior’s Office of Inspector General.

The budget includes \$19.7 million, an increase of \$2.9 million above the 2024 CR level, to support OSMRE’s technology development and

transfer, financial management, and executive direction activities that support AML program implementation.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$2.7 million are fully funded. The request also includes \$4.0 million for baseline capacity, which reflects the incremental amount needed to cover the fixed costs associated with mission operations in 2024. This request in combination with the 2025 fixed costs will allow OSMRE to meet must-pay requirements without affecting program activities.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2025 Request with 2024 CR

	2024 CR		2025 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Regulation and Technology	312	121,026	313	128,875	+1	+7,849
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund	208	168,904	208	175,815	0	+6,911
Subtotal, Current	520	289,930	521	304,690	+1	+14,760
Permanent						
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund	0	459,518	0	530,715	0	+71,197
Payments to States in Lieu of Coal Fee Receipts	0	28,573	0	23,481	0	-5,092
Supplemental Payments to UMWA Plans	0	719,700	0	725,100	0	+5,400
Subtotal, Permanent	0	1,207,791	0	1,279,296	0	+71,505
TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT	520	1,497,721	521	1,583,986	+1	+86,265

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Regulation and Technology

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Environmental Protection.....	88,900	88,900	91,410	+2,510
Permit Fees	40	40	40	0
<i>Offsetting Collections—Permit Fees</i>	-4	-40	-40	0
Technology, Development and Transfer	16,061	16,061	17,187	+1,126
Financial Management	535	535	576	+41
Executive Direction and Administration	15,530	15,530	19,702	+4,172
Civil Penalties	453	100	100	0
<i>Offsetting Collections—Civil Penalties</i>	-453	-100	-100	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	121,062	121,026	128,875	+7,849

APPROPRIATION: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Environmental Restoration.....	152,088	152,088	156,141	+4,053
Technology, Development and Transfer	4,266	4,266	4,517	+251
Financial Management	6,079	6,079	6,539	+460
Executive Direction and Administration	6,471	6,471	8,618	+2,147
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	168,904	168,904	175,815	+6,911

