



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).

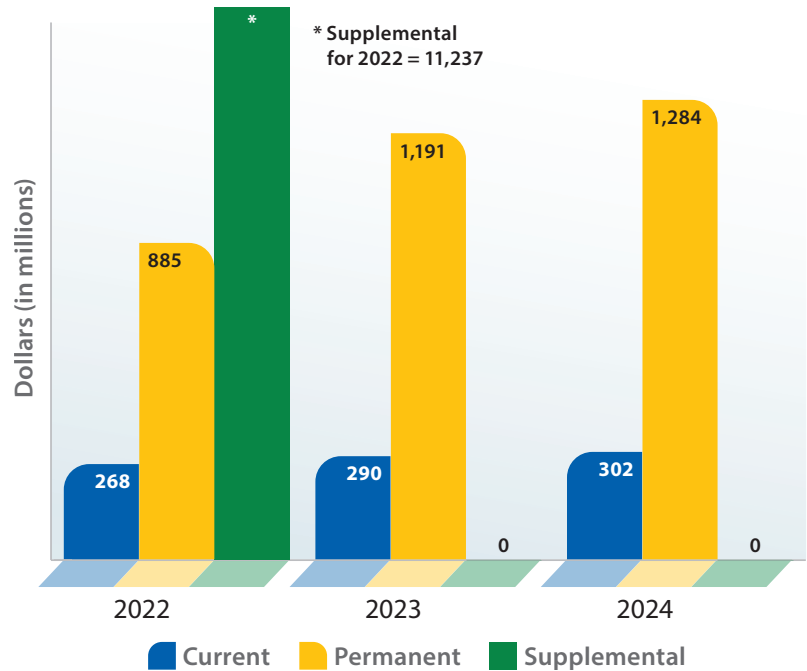
Budget Overview

The 2024 budget request for OSMRE is \$301.9 million in current appropriations, \$11.9 million above the 2023 enacted level, and \$1.3 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which is for grants and payments to States, Tribes, and the United Mine Workers of America health and pension plans. OSMRE estimates staffing will equal 429 full-time equivalents in 2024. 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 2024. 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 2024 budget for the Regulation and Technology Account is \$127.3 million, \$6.3 million above the 2023 enacted level. This account supports the regulatory functions defined by SMCRA

OSMRE Funding



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 transfer activities related to environmental protection.

The 2024 budget includes \$90.6 million for Environmental Protection programs, \$1.7 million above 2023 enacted. The request for State and Tribal regulatory grants is \$65.0 million, which fully funds estimated requirements and is equal to 2023 enacted. The 2024 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 and production.

The budget includes \$25.6 million for other functions under Title V of SMCRA, \$1.7 million above 2023 enacted, including State Program Evaluation and Federal Program operations,



- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) was established in 1977 when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.
- Over the past 45 years, the Act has directly contributed to the closure of more than 45,000 abandoned underground mine shafts and openings.
- OSMRE's Applied Science Program is supporting four research projects to develop methods to improve the recovery of rare earth elements from coal mining waste.

which regulate coal mining in States and for Tribes without approved regulatory programs.

The 2024 budget includes \$36.7 million for Technology Development and Transfer, Financial Management, and Executive Direction activities, \$4.6 million above 2023 enacted, which support the overall Regulation and Technology program. Within the Regulation and Technology appropriation, the budget includes a \$2.5 million

increase for essential data center migration, hosting, and cybersecurity enhancements.

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

The 2024 budget for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund is \$174.6 million, \$5.7 million above 2023 enacted. This account derives a portion of its funding from a fee levied on coal produced for sale, use, or transfers and supports reclamation program functions carried out by the States, Tribes,



Anthracite Outdoor Adventure Area – Bear Valley Project.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation won the 2022 National Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award, which recognizes the highest-rated reclamation project. This 88-acre project reclaimed six AML features and constructed 6,600 feet of extreme rock-crawling and more than 9,000 feet of all-terrain vehicle trails.

OSMRE Photo.

Supporting Coal Communities



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$11.3 billion to accelerate and expand AML cleanup activities throughout the country. These funds will allow States and Tribes to close dangerous mine shafts, reclaim unstable slopes, improve water quality by treating acid mine drainage, and restore water supplies damaged by mining, while supporting vitally needed jobs in coal communities.

Collectively, these funds represent one of the most significant investments in the revitalization of America's coalfield communities since passage of SMCRA in 1977. Since the establishment of the AML Fund, OSMRE has distributed approximately \$6 billion to States and Tribes for AML reclamation activities.

and OSMRE. In November 2021, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law extended the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Land fee through 2034 and reduced the rates by 20 percent. OSMRE published a final rule in August 2022, implementing those changes. This extension ensures continued funding to States and Tribes to reclaim abandoned mines that pose

health, safety, or environmental threats; clean up polluted water supplies; and reduce legacy pollution in coalfield communities.

The budget includes \$155.4 million for Environmental Restoration activities carried out by States and OSMRE, \$3.4 million above 2023 enacted. That amount includes \$20.4 million, \$3.4 million above 2023 enacted, for State reclamation program oversight, expanded water treatment grants to treat acid mine drainage, Federal reclamation operations and projects, and reclamation program development.

The budget for the AML Economic Revitalization program includes \$135.0 million, equal to 2023 enacted. The program provides grants to Appalachian States and qualifying Tribes for investment in reclamation of abandoned mine lands, in conjunction with economic and community development activities on or adjacent to these lands.

Unfunded Costs for Abandoned Mine Land Coal Problems at the end of Fiscal Year 2022*

(dollars in millions)



P1 **Priority 1 Problems**—Hazards that pose **extreme danger** to public health and safety (may include environmental problems).

P2 **Priority 2 Problems**—Hazards that pose **adverse effects** to public health and safety (may include environmental problems).

P3 **Priority 3 Problems**—Hazards that **adversely affect** land or water resources or that have other effects on the environment.

Total Disbursed: \$11,588

* Unfunded Costs only represent/include direct reclamation costs reported by States and Tribes and are not adjusted for inflation.

These grants can benefit coal communities by reclaiming formerly mined lands for beneficial economic uses and provide local, good-paying union jobs for skilled technicians and operators in some of the hardest hit communities in the Nation. These grants can also address long-standing hazards and environmental degradation near coal communities, such as acid mine drainage.

The budget includes \$19.1 million to support OSMRE’s technology development and transfer, financial management, and executive direction activities that support AML program implementation.

Fixed Costs

Fixed costs of \$4.0 million are fully funded.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2024 Request with 2023 Enacted

	2023 Enacted		2024 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Regulation and Technology.....	312	121,026	314	127,301	+2	+6,275
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.....	115	168,904	115	174,555	0	+5,651
Subtotal, Current.....	427	289,930	429	301,856	+2	+11,926
Permanent						
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.....	0	442,521	0	535,580	0	+93,059
Payments to States in Lieu of Coal Fee Receipts.....	0	31,590	0	28,573	0	-3,017
Supplemental Payments to UMWA Plans.....	0	716,500	0	719,700	0	+3,200
Subtotal, Permanent.....	0	1,190,611	0	1,283,853	0	+93,242
TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.....	427	1,480,541	429	1,585,709	+2	+105,168

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Regulation and Technology

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Environmental Protection.....	87,199	88,900	90,597	+1,697
Permit Fees	40	40	40	0
<i>Offsetting Collections—Permit Fees</i>	0	-40	-40	0
Technology, Development and Transfer	15,119	16,061	16,820	+759
Financial Management	518	535	563	+28
Executive Direction and Administration	15,281	15,530	19,321	+3,791
Civil Penalties	759	100	100	0
<i>Offsetting Collections—Civil Penalties</i>	-759	-100	-100	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	118,157	121,026	127,301	+6,275

APPROPRIATION: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

	2022 Actual	2023 Enacted	2024 Request	Change
Environmental Restoration.....	134,089	152,088	155,446	+3,358
Technology, Development and Transfer	3,674	4,266	4,436	+170
Financial Management	5,403	6,079	6,392	+313
Executive Direction and Administration	6,814	6,471	8,281	+1,810
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental and transfer)	149,980	168,904	174,555	+5,651
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58)	+11,293,000	0	0	0
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58)	-56,465	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental and transfer)	11,386,515	168,904	174,555	+5,651

