

**Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program**

**FY2017 Request: \$3,200,000**

**Reference No: 6855**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety

**Category:** Natural Resources

**Location:** Statewide

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact:** Fabienne Peter-Contesse

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2021

**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The Legislature enacted the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act in 1983 (AS 27.21). The main purpose of the act was to promote the reclamation of areas mined before enactment of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Conditions on some of these mined areas could endanger public health and safety, have environmental implications, and prevent the beneficial use of or cause damage to land and water resources. All funding for this program comes from federal grants; no general funds are required. This program will employ up to 75 Alaskans in private sector construction jobs.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>Total</u>
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$19,200,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$19,200,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec1 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L17 26 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P57 L8 119 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P71 L12 18 \$3,000,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P123 L21 160 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P90 L21 46 \$2,000,000
- Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P29 L31 230 \$3,575,000
- Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P17 L15 75 \$3,000,000
- Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P152 L18 221 \$3,000,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

The project provides receipt authority for the ongoing federally funded program to inventory and remediate abandoned coal mining sites and facilities under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) guidelines.

The Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AML) program performs reclamation on qualifying

sites within Alaska.

East Cripple Creek Pit is approximately 2/3 of a mile long and contains significant highwalls. Surface water flow is creating substantial erosion. A continuous, dangerous highwall borders the entire northern length of the pit, most of it at least 100 feet tall.

West Coal Creek Pit has roughly 1500 lineal feet of continuous highwall, 30-40 feet high and is surrounded by established vegetation.

The federal grant award received in FY2016 will be combined with the federal award expected to be received in FY2017 and a contract will be awarded to begin the project. Estimated expenditures for each year is as follows:

**East Cripple Creek Pit (Coal) = \$1,400,000**

Est Start Date: **4/1/2018**  
 Est End Date: **9/30/2020**

**West Coal Creek Pits (Coal) = \$1,800,000**

Est Start Date: **10/1/2020**  
 Est End Date: **9/30/2023**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Estimated Amount to be Expended</b>
FY2017	0
FY2018	\$200,000
FY2019	\$900,000
FY2020	\$500,000
FY2021	\$1,600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,200,000</b>

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
71000 – Personal Services	\$546,900
72000 – Travel	\$37,000
73000 – Contractual/Services	\$254,600
74000 – Commodities	\$10,000
75000 – Capital Outlay	\$2,351,500
77000 – Grants	0
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$3,200,000</b>

**Position Detail:**

All are existing positions located in Anchorage  
 (10-8201) Administrative Officer I, PFT  
 (10-8249) Engineering Associate, PFT

(10-2097) Engineering Assistant II, PFT
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**Status Quo**

Loss of federal funding for remediating abandoned mine lands as described in SMCRA.

**What was accomplished?**

(FY2009) The AML Program completed road improvements to a ¼ mile of the Jonesville road near Sutton, established a fire truck turnaround near the fire hydrant at Slipper Lake, and placed gravel on 10 acres near Slipper Lake to improve camping areas and the boat launch.

(FY2009) The AML Program closed two shafts in the Sutton area and placed jersey barriers at the edge of an old highwall to block access to an old strip pit.

(FY2010) The AML Program placed gravel along on the north and west side of Slipper Lake to improve access to camping areas.

(FY2010) The AML Program completed cleanup of five acres of land known as the historic Vitro Camp in the Healy Valley. This work consisted of removing derelict equipment and disposing of asbestos.

(FY2011) The AML Program completed reclamation of 20 acres of smoldering coal fines near Sutton, AK by capping the area with a two foot layer of clay followed by a one foot layer of gravel. The project also improved two miles of an existing mining road which will provide better access to State land for recreational users.

(FY2012 and FY2013) The AML Program constructed two bridges in the Healy Valley area which provide access to previously mined and abandoned areas. These bridges will support at least a decade's worth of reclamation work with future funding that the program expects to receive.

(FY2014) The AML program is starting work on demolishing the old Healy Creek Washplant. This will greatly improve public safety as the building is mostly dilapidated and is an attractive nuisance.

(FY2014) The AML Program has begun backfilling three shafts on Ester Dome known as the Equinox Trail Shafts. This project will protect the public as they are located in high-traffic recreational areas.

(FY2014 and FY2015) The AML Program is starting reclamation work on the Healy Hydraulic Pit Reclamation Project. This project addresses dangerous highwalls and severe erosion issues in the Healy Creek area.

(FY2015) The AML Program will reclaim three adits and dispose of two cases of old dynamite at the historic Inspiration Mine. This mine is on State land but located adjacent to the Klondike Gold Rush National Park which is a high traffic recreational area for both local people and tourists.

