

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program

FY2018 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: 07/01/2017 - 06/30/2022

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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 each year.

Funding:	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>FY2019</u>	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</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
Total:	\$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
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P5 L17 SB138 \$3,200,000
 Sec1 Ch38 SLA2015 P5 L17 SB26 \$3,200,000
 Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P57 L8 SB119 \$3,200,000
 Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P71 L12 SB18 \$3,000,000
 Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P123 L21 SB160 \$3,200,000

Project Description/Justification:

The project provides 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. For the next 8-10 years the program will focus on the reclamation of several highwalls located in the Healy Valley. Highwalls are created as result of strip mining; strip mining is the method most commonly used to mine coal seams from the surface. Highwalls are vertical cliff like faces which

were left place after the coal was extracted, and pose a threat to public health and safety and general welfare by falling from a highwall cliff or by being hit from falling rock.

The AML’s next project will be the Vitro Pit, located east of Healy. There is approximately 2,500 feet of highwall 120-140 feet high along most of its northern length. There are also minor issues from water discharge out of the northeast corner of the pit.

The federal grant award received in FY2018 will be combined with the federal award expected to be received in FY2019 and a contract will be awarded to begin this project.

There are also two additional non-coal projects which will occur during FY2018: Arch prospect near Hatcher Pass, and Hudson Mill in Ester.

What was accomplished?

(2017-2019) The primary focus with these grant monies will be to reclaim the Vitro Pit and the Cripple Creek Pit which are also located in the Healy Valley.

(2016) Three mine openings associated with the Inspiration Mine will be closed by September 30, 2016. The contractor is currently working on site.

(2016) The AML Program started reclamation work on Inspiration Mine Adit closure.

(2016) The AML Program funded an archaeological survey of the Hudson Mill. Demolition is planned for 2018.

(2014 through 2017) The AML Program is performing reclamation work on the Healy Hydraulic Pit Reclamation Project. This project addresses dangerous highwalls and severe erosion issues in the Healy Creek area.

Line Item	Amount
1000 – Personal Services	\$0.0
2000 – Travel	\$10,000
3000 – Services	\$50,000
4000 – Commodities	\$1,000
5000 – Capital Outlay	\$3,139,000
7000 – Grants	\$0.0
Total Project	\$3,200,000