

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program

FY2019 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: 07/01/2018 - 06/30/2023

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Legislature enacted the Alaska Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in 1983 (AS.27.21). The main purpose of the act is 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. This federal grant program funds the inventory and remediation of abandoned coal mining sites and facilities under SMCRA guidelines.

Funding:	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	Total
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 Ch1 SLA2017 P5 L26 SB23 \$3,200,000
- 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

Project Description/Justification:

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.

All funding for this program comes from federal grants; no general funds are required. This program employs up to 75 Alaskans in private sector construction jobs each year.

The AML's current project is 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 to fund this project.

What was accomplished?

(2017-2019) The primary focus has been to reclaim the Vitro Pit and the Cripple Creek Pit which are located in the Healy Valley.

(2018) Several hundred sticks of dynamite, twenty 55-gallon leaking fuel barrels, and two mine openings associated with the abandoned Cameron-Johnson Mine near Valdez will be cleaned and closed by September 15, 2018.

(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.

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

(2014) The AML program demolished the old Healy Creek Washplant.

(2014) The AML Program completed backfilling three shafts on Ester Dome known as the Equinox Trail Shafts.

(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.

(2012 and 2013) 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.

(2011) The AML Program completed reclamation of 20 acres of smoldering coal fines near Sutton, AK by capping the area with a 2-foot layer of clay followed by a 1-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.

(2010) The AML Program placed gravel along on the north and west side of Slipper Lake to improve access to camping areas.

(2010) 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.

(2009) 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.

(2009) 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.

Line Item	Amount
1000 – Personal Services (non-perm)	\$10,000
2000 - Travel	\$20,000
3000 - Contractual	\$50,000
4000 - Commodities	\$5,000
5000 – Capital Outlay	\$3,115,000
7000 - Grants	
Total Request	\$3,200,000