

# OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

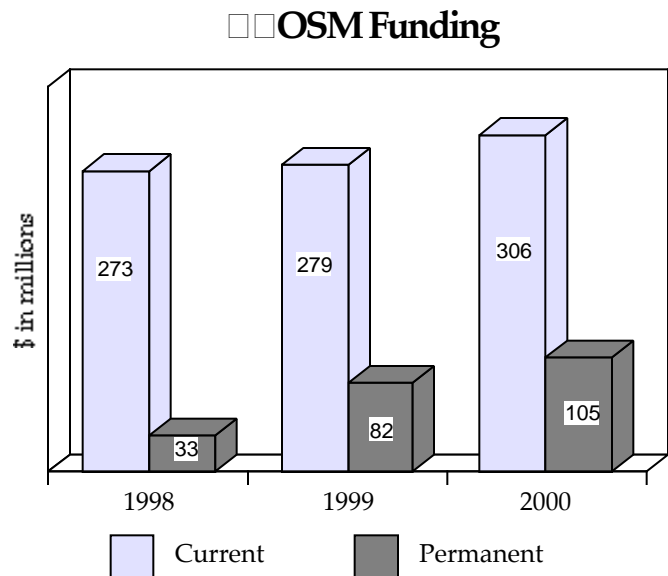
**Mission** - The Office of Surface Mining was established in 1977 to carry out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) in cooperation with States and Indian Tribes. OSM's primary objectives are to ensure that coal mines are operated in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

**Program Overview** - OSM carries out its mandates by providing grants to States and Tribes to implement their own regulatory and reclamation programs consistent with OSM standards. OSM also administers programs on Federal lands in areas without State reclamation programs. OSM works closely with States and Tribes to implement its results-oriented regulatory oversight system and provides technical information and tools to help State and tribal partners to develop sufficient knowledge, expertise, and capability to meet their responsibilities under SMCRA.

OSM is focusing on several new approaches to implement SMCRA. It has shifted its oversight program from a process review to measuring on-the-ground results. This effort earned the Vice President's National Performance Review "Hammer Award". To maximize reclamation, OSM is exploring creative approaches and incentives to reclaim abandoned mine sites. Efforts such as the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, remining, and enhanced abandoned mine lands reclamation is enabling OSM to leverage and stretch its resources to reclaim lands and waters that otherwise might never be restored.

**Budget Overview** - The 2000 request for OSM is \$305.8 million, an increase of \$27.1 million over the 1999 enacted level. The requested budget fully covers OSM's uncontrollable cost increases, thereby continuing core mission services at current levels.

OSM proposes to advance the Secretary's priority of environmental restoration while protecting the public by accelerating the reclamation of abandoned mine sites that



pose significant threats to human health and safety. The \$22.0 million program increase for Abandoned Mine Lands' State and Tribal reclamation grants and high-priority Federal reclamation efforts is consistent with the Administration's Water and Watershed Restoration Initiative, and will result in approximately 1,235 more acres being reclaimed than otherwise would be the case. In addition to restoring land to productive use, these measures will remove health, safety, and general welfare hazards and will generate additional economic benefits to local communities.

Acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines continues to be a major source of water pollution Nation-wide, and the leading cause of aquatic habitat destruction impacting many species, such as native brook trout, in Appalachia. The OSM budget request includes an increase of \$3.0 million for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative, reflecting the continuing popularity of this partnership and collaborative approach to restoring water resources damaged by acid mine drainage. The increase will enable OSM and its partners to build upon the solid, early success of the Clean Streams Initiative. OSM's 2000 goal in this area is to increase the number of new

Clean Streams projects to 42 and to increase its leveraging capability with cooperators to a 1:1.4 ratio.

**Government Performance and Results Act** - Several projects enabled by these funding increases will facilitate OSM's compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act. Increased grant funding will allow OSM

to transfer more responsibility to States and Tribes for emergency abatement and mitigation and for restoration and improvement of water quality on streams affected by acid mine drainage. Upgrading fee billing and collections systems will maintain high percentage AML reclamation fee compliance rates and avoid lost earnings and collections that could result from system failures.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

*Comparison of 2000 Request with 1999 Enacted:*

	1999 Enacted		2000 Request		Change From 1999	
	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Appropriations						
Regulation and Technology .....	410	93,353	410	94,666	0	+1,313
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund .....	230	185,416	230	211,158	0	+25,742
Subtotal, Appropriations.....	640	278,769	640	305,824	0	+27,055
Permanents and Trusts						
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund Donations ..	0	81,766	0	105,000	0	+23,234
Subtotal, Permanents and Trusts .....	0	81,766	0	105,000	0	+23,234
<b>TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING .....</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>360,535</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>410,824</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+50,289</b>

**HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES**  
**By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity**

**APPROPRIATION: Regulation and Technology**

	<u>1998 Actual</u>	<u>1999 Enacted</u>	<u>2000 Request</u>	<u>Change from 1999 Enacted</u>
Environmental Restoration .....	644	419	425	+6
Environmental Protection .....	69,159	70,018	70,718	+700
Technology Development & Transfer ....	11,211	11,300	11,589	+289
Financial Management.....	501	511	525	+14
Executive Direction & Administration ...	10,759	11,105	11,409	+304
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>92,274</b>	<b>93,353</b>	<b>94,666</b>	<b>+1,313</b>

*Highlights of Budget Changes*

Uncontrollable Costs Net Increases	<u>Amount</u> [+1,313]
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**APPROPRIATION: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund**

	<u>1998 Actual</u>	<u>1999 Enacted</u>	<u>2000 Request</u>	<u>Change from 1999 Enacted</u>
Environmental Restoration .....	166,107	170,140	195,469	+25,329
Environmental Protection .....	0	0	0	0
Technology Development & Transfer ....	3,225	3,473	3,536	+63
Financial Management.....	5,736	5,860	6,040	+180
Executive Direction & Administration ...	5,719	5,943	6,113	+170
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>	<b>180,787</b>	<b>185,416</b>	<b>211,158</b>	<b>+25,742</b>

*Highlights of Budget Changes*

Uncontrollable Costs Net Increases	<u>Amount</u> [+742]
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Environmental Restoration +25,329

A \$25.3 million increase is requested for the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) reclamation program to aggressively accelerate restoration of abandoned mine sites adversely affected by past coal mining practices. Of this sum, OSM will direct \$22,329 to State and Tribal grants that support the President's Clean Water Action Plan, including +\$329 for uncontrollables. The other \$3,000 will increase funding for the Appalachian Clean Streams Initiative to accelerate the cleanup of polluted streams caused by past coal mining practices. These increases directly support OSM's goal of better AML reclamation.