

## THE ABANDONED COAL MINE LAND RESEARCH PROGRAM<sup>1</sup>

William A. Gern<sup>2</sup>

**Abstract:** In 1989 the Division of Land Quality of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality requested that the University of Wyoming conduct the Abandoned Coal Mine Land Research Program (ACMLRP). The purpose of this program is to support research projects of importance to the mining activities of the state. The primary decision concerning funding is the requirement that proposals funded under this program will lead to improved understanding of current land reclamation problems and practices or lead to the development of new mine reclamation and/or water quality control methods or techniques. The University of Wyoming directly oversees and administers this program. Two committees guide the ACMLRP: 1) a steering committee provides policy direction, identifies the research priorities in accordance with provisions of the applicable regulations and issues a Request for Proposals; 2) the Technical Review Committee, working with qualified external referees, review proposals and make funding recommendations to the Steering Committee. The ACMLRP considers only research activities that are related to abandoned and/or active coal mine land reclamation. through these two committees, assurance is gained that the program remains firmly wedded to the needs of the industry and state. Both committees have representatives from state and federal agencies, university and community colleges and the coal mining industry. Research projects currently conducted under the ACMLRP include: "the role of Natural Organic Solutes in the Mobility of Selenium in Coal Mine Spoil-Ground-Water Systems," "Toxicologic Evaluation of Chronic Selenosis in Wyoming Herbivores," "Strategies for Establishment of Big Sagebrush on Wyoming Mined Lands," and "Specifications and Recommendations for Repair of Residential Structures Damaged by Ground Movements Related to Mine Subsidence."

**Additional Key Words:** Reclamation, abandoned mines, research program, AML

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<sup>2</sup>William A. Gern, Vice President for Research, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82009