

## **Planning and Implementation of the 2017 AML Pilot Program in Pennsylvania<sup>1</sup>**

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The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, (Public Law 115-31), authorized the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) to provide funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program (AML Pilot Program). For FY2017, the AML Pilot Program is providing grants to the six Appalachian states with the highest amount of unfunded high-priority coal AML problems based on OSMRE's AML inventory data as of September 30, 2016. Kentucky, Pennsylvania (PA), and West Virginia are each receiving \$25 million, while Alabama, Ohio, and Virginia are each receiving \$10 million. The purpose of the funding is to accelerate the remediation of AML sites with economic and community development end uses. The intent of the AML Pilot Program is to explore and implement strategies to return legacy coal sites to productive uses. This is the second year that AML Pilot Program funding has been authorized by Congress. PA received \$30 million in AML Pilot Program funding in FY 2016.

As a requirement of the AML Pilot Program, state AML programs, in consultation with state and local economic and community development authorities, are required to develop a list of eligible projects in Appalachian counties that demonstrate a nexus with AML cleanup and economic and community development. From over two dozen AML Pilot project proposals received and evaluated, PA is targeting 12 AML sites encompassing a wide variety of project types with a variety of possible economic or community development benefits and partners. PA is again allocating all of the AML Pilot Program funds for the construction of SMCRA Title IV eligible AML and AMD problems. The project partners will then work to fund and complete non-AML economic development aspects of the projects. PA's 2017 AML Pilot Grant was approved on November 1, 2017 and has a three-year period of performance.

This presentation will discuss the planned reclamation and anticipated benefits for each of the 12 AML Pilot Projects as well as the status of each including any issues which could impact their successful implementation.

Additional Key Words: Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), Economic Development

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1. Oral paper presented at the 2018 National Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, St. Louis, MO: Reclaiming the West, June 2-7, 2018. Published by ASMR; 1305 Weathervane Dr., Champaign, IL 61821.
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