

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program

FY2014 Request: \$3,000,000

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: Jean Davis

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2025

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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. This program also provides the coordination point for Alaska with the Interstate Mining Compact.

Funding:	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$3,000,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$19,000,000
Total:	\$3,000,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$19,000,000

<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	
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P123 L21 SB 160 \$3,200,000
 Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P90 L21 SB 46 \$2,000,000
 Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P29 L31 SB 230 \$3,575,000
 Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P17 L15 SB 75 \$3,000,000
 Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P152 L18 SB 221 \$3,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

WHAT IS THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED?

Funds from the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Trust Fund from the Office of Surface Mining are used for the reclamation of AML sites throughout the state (AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90). For our FY2014 project, the program will begin reclaiming the Hydraulic Pit east of Healy, Alaska. We will be refining the final design this winter. The project is expected to cost between \$3 and \$4 million dollars. A project of this size will require funds to be utilized from our FY2013 grant as well as the FY2014 grant.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED?

The AML program performs reclamation on qualifying sites within the state of Alaska. The Healy Hydraulic Pit reclamation project will eliminate approximately 1000 linear feet of highwall most of which exceeds 350 vertical feet. This will improve public safety and environmental conditions.

WHAT RESULTS WILL BE ACHIEVED AND/OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED?

The Healy Hydraulic Pit project will reclaim over 70 acres of an abandoned mine land area.

WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OR PROBLEM, AND WHY WERE THEY NOT SELECTED?

Three different alternatives were considered as part of an Environmental Assessment that was written for the Healy Hydraulic Pit project. One alternative was a "no action" alternative which would have left the entire area un-reclaimed. The second alternative was to regrade only the most dangerous portions of the highwall along with an aggressive revegetation program. Ultimately we decided to reclaim the entire area because it provided the most benefit to the State of Alaska, and will fit within the AML program budget.

WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED WITH PRIOR YEAR FUNDING?

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 2 miles of existing mining road which will provide better access to State land for recreational users.

The AML program constructed two bridges in the Healy Valley 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.

SPECIFIC SPENDING DETAIL:

LINE ITEM	DOLLAR AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Personal Services	\$ 0	
Travel	\$ 0	
Services	\$ 0	
Commodities	\$ 0	
Capital Outlay	\$ 3,000,000	Healy Reclamation Project
Grants	\$ 0	
PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 3,000,000	