

**Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Federal Program**

**FY2016 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:** Jean Davis

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2020

**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2422

**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.

<b>Funding:</b>	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	Total
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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P57 L8 SB 119 \$3,200,000
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P71 L12 SB 18 \$3,000,000
- 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:**

The project provides receipt authority for the ongoing federally funded program to inventory and remediate abandoned coal mining sites and facilities under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) guidelines.

The Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (AML) program performs reclamation on qualifying sites within Alaska.

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The Bill Pit (hydraulic pit east of Healy) is approximately 2,500 feet long, bordered by highwall 120-140 feet high along most of its northern length. There are also minor issues from water discharge out of the north-east corner of the pit.

The federal grant award to be received in FY2016 will be combined with the federal award expected to be received in FY2017 and a contract will be awarded to begin the project. Estimated expenditures for each year is as follows:

Est Start Date: **4/1/2017**  
Est End Date: **9/30/2019**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Estimated Amount to be Expended</b>
FY2016	0.0
FY2017	\$200.0
FY2018	\$200.0
FY2019	\$500.0
FY2020	\$2,300.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,200.0</b>

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
71000 - Personal Services	\$409.8
72000 - Travel	\$20.0
73000 – Contractual/Services	\$161.3
74000 - Commodities	\$10.0
75000 - Capital Outlay	\$2,598.9
77000 – Grants	0.0
<b>Total Request</b>	<b>\$3,200.0</b>

**Position Detail:**

All are existing positions located in Anchorage  
(10-8201) Administrative Assistant II, PFT  
(10-8249) Engineering Associate, PFT  
(10-2097) Hydrologist I, PFT

**Status Quo**

Loss of federal funding for remediating abandoned mine lands as described in SMCRA.

**What was accomplished?**

(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.

(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 5 acres of land known as the historic Vitro Camp in the Healy Valley. This work consisted of removing derelict equipment and disposing of asbestos.

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

(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.

(2014) The AML program is starting work on demolishing the old Healy Creek Washplant. This will greatly improve public safety as the building is mostly dilapidated and is an attractive nuisance.

(2014) The AML Program has begun backfilling 3 shafts on Ester Dome known as the Equinox Trail Shafts. This project will protect the public as they are located in high-traffic recreational areas.

(2014 and 2015) The AML Program is starting reclamation work on the Healy Hydraulic Pit Reclamation Project. This project addresses dangerous highwalls and severe erosion issues in the Healy Creek area.

(2015) The AML Program will reclaim 3 adits and dispose of 2 cases of old dynamite at the historic Inspiration Mine. This mine is on State land but located adjacent to the Klondike Gold Rush National Park which is a high traffic recreational area for both local people and tourists.