

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dept. of Environmental Protection

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Pennsylvania Announces Funding Availability to Boost Economic Development Projects at Abandoned Mine Land Sites

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now accepting applications for funding for environmental cleanup projects focused on economic development or community revitalization project proposals at abandoned mine land (AML) locations across Pennsylvania.

“The funding provides opportunities to transform abandoned mine lands, creating economic opportunity, and transitioning our coal communities to a new and brighter future,” said DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell. “I strongly encourage anyone planning a project that includes developing or revitalizing abandoned mine land to consider applying for this program.”

Federally funded through DEP’s Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program, \$25 million in grant funding is available for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands in conjunction with economic and community development reuse goals.

Since 2016, 42 projects have received a total of \$80 million in funding through this program. Last year, DEP [approved](#) \$25 million in funding for fifteen projects.

The cleanup of abandoned mines is a priority of the Wolf Administration and has been included in the [Restore Pennsylvania](#) initiative, a statewide plan to aggressively address the commonwealth’s vital infrastructure needs. Funded through a commonsense severance tax, Restore Pennsylvania is the only plan that would help make Pennsylvania a leader in the 21st century.

DEP’s Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation can assist in determining eligible sites. To discuss a particular project involving land reclamation or to get assistance determining a project’s eligibility, contact either Patrick Webb for projects located in western Pennsylvania (Bituminous Region) at pawebb@pa.gov, 814-472-1830, or Bernie Walko for projects located in eastern Pennsylvania (Anthracite Region) at bwalko@pa.gov, 570-830-3178. To discuss a particular project involving abandoned mine drainage (AMD) treatment or abatement, contact either Dave Leiford for AMD-related projects located in western Pennsylvania (Bituminous Region) at dleiford@pa.gov, 814-472-1886, or Todd Wood for AMD-related projects located in eastern Pennsylvania (Anthracite Region) at twood@pa.gov, 570-830-3171.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00 PM on Friday, January 31, 2020. View the project proposal form and the guidelines on [DEP's Abandoned Mine Land Pilot Program site](#).

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