

Abandoned Mine Lands Program

DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation ([BAMR](#)) administers and oversees the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program in Pennsylvania. BAMR is responsible for resolving abandoned mine land (AML) problems such as mine fires, mine subsidence, dangerous highwalls, open shafts and portals, mining impacted water supplies and other hazards which have resulted from past coal mining (pre-1977) practices in accordance with requirements established by the federal Office of Surface Mining under authority of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), ([OSMRE Reclaiming Abandoned Mine Lands](#)).

Over 660 permit authorizations for restoration efforts have been administered since permit delegation in 2003 through Pennsylvania Chapter 102 and 105. AML construction inspection section inspects projects in accordance to 102/105 permits conditions. BAMR accomplishments includes several thousand AML sites across the coal fields of Pennsylvania ([Program Accomplishments](#)). As of the end of 2018, the federal eAMLIS database reports more than 98,737 acres of abandoned coal mine sites have been reclaimed, with a construction cost of \$674 million. There are numerous [Pennsylvania Award Winning Reclamation Projects](#). These time periods reflect the most current data available for the 2022 Integrated Report.

AML funding is provided to Pennsylvania through grants from OSMRE. Over the last 10 years, Pennsylvania has received just over \$500 million in AML grant funding ([Oversight Documents](#)). SMCRA allows AML Programs to set-aside up to 30% of their AML grants into an [AMD Set-Aside Program](#) account for the treatment or abatement of abandoned mine drainage (AMD) in Qualified Hydrologic Units (QHUs) as defined within Section 402(g)(6) SMCRA. From the AML grant funding received over the last 10 years, Pennsylvania has set-aside just over \$100 million. The AML Program has awarded reclamation contracts using the AML Program, AMD Set-Aside, [AMLER Program](#) (formerly the AML Pilot Program), [Growing Greener](#), and State Capital Budget funds. The 2019 through 2021 total grant values used to reclaim eligible pre 1977 abandoned mine lands, in which water quality control and site restoration are achieved, exceed \$113 million, Table 1.

Table 1. AML total grant values per fiscal year.

Fiscal Year	Grant Values
2021	\$27,403,916
2020	\$32,171,975
2019	\$53,846,935