

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 690 permit authorizations for restoration efforts have been administered under 25 Pa. Code Chapters 102 and 105 since permit delegation in 2003. BAMR's AML Construction Inspection Section inspects projects in accordance with Chapter 102/105 permit conditions. [BAMR accomplishments](#) include several thousand AML sites across the coal fields of Pennsylvania. As of the end of 2022, the federal eAMLIS database reports more than 148,000 acres of abandoned coal mine sites have been reclaimed, with a construction cost of \$890 million. There are numerous [Pennsylvania Award Winning Reclamation Projects](#). These time periods reflect the most current data available for the 2024 Integrated Report.

AML funding is provided to Pennsylvania through grants from OSMRE. Over the last 10 years, Pennsylvania has received over \$923 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 SMCRA Section 402(g)(6) . 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. On November 15, 2021 President Biden signed Public Law 117-58, known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) or Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA). This law provided unprecedented funding for AML reclamation. Through the BIL/IIJA, Pennsylvania's AML program has received its first of 15 federal grants in the amount of \$244.9 million dollars. This funding will be used to reclaim both AML and AMD issues created by legacy mining.

From 2017 through 2022, total grant values used to reclaim eligible pre-1977 abandoned mine lands, in which water quality control and site restoration are achieved, exceed \$625 million (Table 1).

Table 1. Total grant values per fiscal year and fund type.

Fiscal Year	AML	AMLER	BIL/IIJA
2017	\$33,555,249	\$25,000,000	\$0
2018	\$55,657,898	\$25,000,000	\$0
2019	\$53,846,935	\$25,000,000	\$0
2020	\$32,171,975	\$25,000,000	\$0
2021	\$27,403,916	\$25,000,000	\$0
2022	\$26,463,897	\$26,630,000	\$244,904,000