



OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Mission – The mission of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is to ensure, through a nationwide regulatory program, coal mining is conducted in a manner that protects communities and the environment during mining, restores the land to beneficial use following mining, and mitigates the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

Budget Overview – The 2018 budget request for OSMRE is \$129.4 million in current appropriations, \$110.7 million below the 2017 CR baseline level. The OSMRE estimates staffing will equal 383 full time equivalents in 2018, a decrease of 38 FTE from 2017.

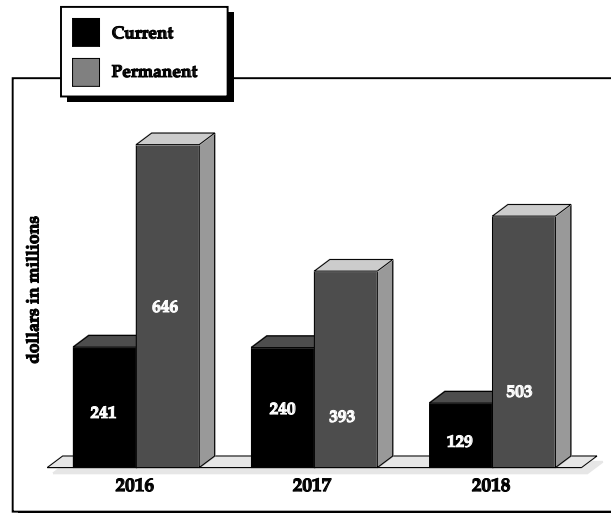
Regulation and Technology – The 2018 budget request for Regulation and Technology is \$109.4 million, a decrease of \$13.6 million below 2017. The request includes \$8.1 million, a programmatic decrease of \$647,000 below 2017, for the implementation of existing laws and support of State and tribal programs. The budget includes \$60.2 million for State and tribal regulatory grants, a decrease of \$8.3 million below 2017.

The OSMRE’s statutory role is to promote and assist its partner States and Tribes in establishing a stable regulatory environment for coal mining. The proposed level of regulatory grant funding provides for the efficient and effective operations of programs at a level consistent with the anticipated obligations of State and tribal regulatory programs to account for the Nation’s demand for coal mine permitting and production.

As in prior years, the budget proposes to recover the cost of reviewing, administering, and enforcing permits for surface coal mining and reclamation in Federal programs and on Indian lands where OSMRE is the regulatory authority and encourages States to further pursue cost-recovery options. The OSMRE expects to recover \$40,000 in permitting fees in 2018.

In addition to the reductions highlighted above, the 2018 budget request includes further programmatic decreases of \$5.3 million across other Regulation and

OSMRE Funding



Technology business lines primarily in the areas of Technology Development and Transfer and Executive Direction and Administration.

Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund – The 2018 budget request for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund is \$20.0 million, a decrease of \$97.1 million below 2017. The budget eliminates \$89.8 million for the AML Economic Development Grants pilot program. Although beneficial, funding for this pilot program overlaps with existing mandatory AML grants. The budget also includes additional programmatic reductions of \$7.5 million below 2017 across all Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund business lines.

Effective State, tribal, and Federal partnerships support local economies to continue coal mine operations, and help to ensure expeditious return of mined lands to effective post mining land uses. The OSMRE’s proposed budget fulfills this statutory goal by preserving funding for these critical requirements.

Fixed Costs – Fixed costs of \$873,000 are fully funded in this request.

**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
FACTS**

- Created in 1977 when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.
- Ensures coal mining operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Requires land is adequately reclaimed and restored to beneficial use during and following the mining process through regulation.
- Institutes nationwide programs to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations.
- Trains hundreds of State and tribal professionals in a broad range of reclamation skills such as reestablishing wildlife habitat.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2018 Request with 2017 CR Baseline

	2017 CR		2018 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Regulation and Technology	298	123,019	283	109,432	-15	-13,587
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund	123	117,080	100	20,007	-23	-97,073
Subtotal, Current (<i>w/o cp and oc</i>)	421	240,099	383	129,439	-38	-110,660
Civil Penalties	0	100	0	100	0	0
Offsetting Collections	0	40	0	40	0	0
Subtotal, Current (<i>w/ cp and oc</i>)	421	240,239	383	129,579	-38	-110,660
Permanent						
Payments to UMWA Health Plans (AML)	0	32,140	0	47,285	0	+15,145
Payments to UMWA Health Plans (Treasury Funds)	0	179,785	0	134,712	0	-45,073
Payments to States in Lieu of Coal Fee Receipts (Treasury Funds)	0	46,239	0	114,200	0	+67,961
Mandatory Grants to States and Tribes (AML)	0	134,725	0	207,300	0	+72,575
Subtotal, Permanent	0	392,889	0	503,497	0	+110,608
TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT (<i>w/o cp and oc</i>)						
	421	632,988	383	632,936	-38	-52
TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT (<i>w/ cp and oc</i>)						
	421	633,128	383	633,076	-38	-52

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Regulation and Technology

	2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 Request	Change
Environmental Protection.....	91,832	91,657	82,185	-9,472
Permitting Fees.....	40	40	40	0
Offsetting Collections.....	0	-40	-40	0
Technology Development and Transfer...	15,205	15,176	12,801	-2,375
Financial Management.....	505	504	510	+6
Executive Direction and Administration.	15,711	15,682	13,936	-1,746
TOTAL APPROPRIATION <i>(w/o civil penalties)</i> ..	123,293	123,019	109,432	-13,587
Civil Penalties.....	133	100	100	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION <i>(w/ civil penalties)</i> ...	123,426	123,119	109,532	-13,587

Detail of Budget Changes

	<u>2018 Change from 2017 CR</u>
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	-13,587
Environmental Protection.....	-9,472
State and Tribal Regulatory Grants.....	-8,290
Operational Travel.....	-77
Staffing Levels.....	-1,499
Fixed Costs	+394
Technology Development and Transfer.....	-2,375
Electronic Permitting Development	-704
Technology Innovation and Professional Services Training	-60
National Technology Training Program.....	-115
Operational Travel.....	-40
Staffing Levels.....	-1,620
Fixed Costs	+164
Financial Management	+6
Operational Travel.....	-1
Fixed Costs	+7
Executive Direction and Administration.....	-1,746
Field Office Closures.....	-116
Contract Efficiencies.....	-196
Operational Travel.....	-17
Staffing Levels.....	-1,489
Fixed Costs	+72
Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple Subactivities	
Operational Travel.....	[-135]
Staffing Levels.....	[-4,608]
Fixed Costs	[+637]

APPROPRIATION: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund

	2016 Actual	2017 CR	2018 Request	Change
Environmental Restoration.....	99,480	99,291	6,272	-93,019
Technology Development and Transfer...	3,544	3,537	2,087	-1,450
Financial Management.....	6,396	6,384	5,182	-1,202
Executive Direction and Administration.	7,883	7,868	6,466	-1,402
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	117,303	117,080	20,007	-97,073

Detail of Budget Changes

	2018 Change from 2017 CR
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	-97,073
Environmental Restoration.....	-93,019
Eliminate Watershed Cooperative Agreement Funding	-1,545
Eliminate Volunteers in Service to America Funding	-200
Eliminate AML Economic Development Grants Pilot Program	-89,829
Operational Travel.....	-24
Staffing Levels.....	-1,512
Fixed Costs	+91
Technology Development and Transfer.....	-1,450
Applied Science Projects	-750
Technology Innovation and Professional Services Training	-20
National Technology Training Program.....	-75
Operational Travel.....	-11
Staffing Levels.....	-626
Fixed Costs	+32
Financial Management	-1,202
Operational Travel.....	-19
Staffing Levels.....	-1,262
Fixed Costs	+79
Executive Direction and Administration.....	-1,402
Field Office Closures.....	-60
Contract Efficiencies.....	-365
Operational Travel.....	-9
Staffing Levels.....	-1,002
Fixed Costs	+34
Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple Subactivities	
Operational Travel.....	[-63]
Staffing Levels.....	[-4,402]
Fixed Costs	[+236]