

What is the Division of Reclamation?

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Reclamation (DoR) is responsible for regulating the mining of coal and the restoration of lands disturbed by legacy mining. It has two program areas, which are regulatory and restoration.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

This program oversees active coal mining operations and the reclamation of land after the work is completed by the coal company.

RESTORATION PROGRAM

The restoration program has two portions. The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program reclaims areas disturbed by coal mining for which no company is responsible for restoring, focusing on areas mined prior to passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA).

The other portion of DoR's restoration program, bond forfeiture, focuses on the restoration of abandoned mine sites since SMCRA's passage.

The purpose of land reclamation is to alleviate the safety, health, and environmental hazards of past coal mining practices while improving the mined area's productivity and enhancing the landscape.

AML FACT SHEET

AML Program from 1982-present

RECLAIMED LAND	
AML Reclaimed Acres	9,924.75
Bond Forfeiture Reclaimed Acres	2,759.62
All Reclaimed Acres	12,684.37
RECLAIMED SITES	
Aml Construction Sites	819
Emergency Sites	369
Clean Streams Sites	23
Total AML Sites	1,211
AML CONSTRUCTION COST	
AML Construction Only	\$179,191,342.22
AML Pe, Pi, D	\$14,429,606.00
Total Costs	\$193,620,948.22



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CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO INDIANA'S Abandoned Mine Land Program



DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF
RECLAMATION

The Reclamation Process

Potential reclamation sites are investigated to determine eligibility. Work comes at no cost to the landowner as long as the project meets AML criteria. Sites approved for reclamation work are inventoried and prioritized based on the severity of the problem. Upcoming projects are inventoried in the federal Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS), which allows AML to monitor the costs and priority of each project. This database can be accessed at amlis.osmre.gov and can be used to identify upcoming AML projects.

Once a project is identified, a project manager is assigned to work with the landowner to identify the scope of work and goals for the potential project. When a plan is agreed upon, the landowner is asked to sign a Right of Entry legal document granting the State of Indiana and/or its agents permission to conduct the reclamation work. Projects can take up to a year to complete, depending on complexity.

Public Participation

Members of the public can contact the DoR office anytime with questions or concerns about mining activity. The DoR website includes the Coal Mine Information system (dnr.IN.gov/dnr/reclamation/abandoned-mines/coal-mine-information-system), a map of current and historic coal mines in the area.

Funding

AML projects are funded by grants from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Those grants are derived from a fee on active mining coal sales and money appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. If you think you have a pre-1977 mining related problem, contact the AML program to arrange a site inspection. Remember, these projects are done at no cost to the landowner.

Problem Types and Priorities

There are three project priority categories. Priority 1 is for sites that have documented occurrences of mine-related deaths or serious personal injuries and sites where such occurrences appear imminent. Priority 2 is for sites that adversely impact public safety, health, or general welfare. Priority 3 is for sites that cause environmental degradation.

PRIORITY 1 & 2

- Clogged Stream
- Clogged Stream Lines
- Dangerous Highwalls
- Dangerous Impoundments
- Dangerous Piles and Embankments
- Dangerous Slides
- Gases: Hazardous/Explosive
- Hazardous Equipment/Facilities
- Hazardous Water Bodies
- Industrial/Residential Waste
- Portals
- Polluted Water: Agricultural & Industrial
- Polluted Water: Human Consumption
- Subsidence
- Surface Burning
- Underground Mine Fires
- Vertical Openings

PRIORITY 3

- Bench
- Industrial /Residential Waste
- Equipment/Facility
- Gob
- Highwall
- Haul Road
- Mine Opening
- Other
- Pits
- Spoil Area
- Slurry
- Slump
- Water Problems
- Water Supplies



Dangerous highwall located in Sullivan County , IN

