



## Abandoned Mine Land Pilot Program

### Overview

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- The Abandoned Mine Land Pilot Program, administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Mineral Resources Management (DMRM), is a federally funded program with the goal of reclaiming eligible coal mined lands for long-term economic and community site development purposes.
- Site development may include industrial, commercial, recreational, agricultural, renewable energy, or residential end uses.
- Site selection criteria includes significance of the existing public health and safety and/or environmental conditions of the abandoned mine site, the site's location, intended end use, anticipated economic and community benefits to be derived, project partnerships established, estimated project cost, and availability of leveraged funds.
- The Office of Surface Mining, the federal agency responsible for distributing Pilot funding to State Abandoned Mine Land Programs, developed a document entitled "Guidance for Project Eligibility Under the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2018.
- Ohio's Abandoned Mine Land Program, administered by the DMRM, has been awarded \$10 million in Pilot Program funding for calendar year 2019.

### Eligibility and Competitiveness

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- Sites eligible under the Abandoned Mine Land Pilot Program:
  1. Unreclaimed Priority 1 and Priority 2 sites (public health and safety concerns) – [https://www.osmre.gov/programs/AMLIS/priority1\\_2.shtm](https://www.osmre.gov/programs/AMLIS/priority1_2.shtm) and Priority 3 sites (environmental concerns) – <https://www.osmre.gov/programs/AMLIS/priority3.shtm>
  2. Previously reclaimed abandoned mine lands and polluted waters.
  3. Land adjacent to unreclaimed or previously reclaimed abandoned mine lands and polluted waters as justified by the State Abandoned Mine Land Program and/or communities impacted by historic coal production.  
Note: Currently permitted Title V mine sites are not eligible to receive AML Pilot funds. Formerly permitted mine sites reclaimed after August 3,

- 1977 that are adjacent to or connected with an eligible abandoned mine land Pilot project may be included in Pilot Program funding.
- No match is required, but project applicants are encouraged to identify and leverage other public and private funding sources to implement separate project phases.
  - Projects fall within one of two categories:
    - Category A: Reclamation with Development – This is a project intended to include economic and community development related activities as part of the project itself, as well as reclamation activities, and likely to result in positive economic and community development outcomes that can be measured.
    - Category B: Reclamation for Potential Development – This is a project that will likely create favorable conditions for economic development of the project site or promote the general welfare through economic and community development of the area in which the project is conducted.
  - Project funding requests must be directed toward construction costs.

## **Application Process**

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- Contact Rural Action to conduct a preliminary field review and vetting for potential projects.
- If Rural Action determines that the proposed project site meets selection criteria, Rural Action will schedule a meeting with DMRM.
- Upon concurrence by the DMRM, Rural Action will collaborate with the project partner and DMRM staff in the development and submittal of a project application to DMRM. There is no application deadline as projects are reviewed by DMRM for eligibility and funding in the order they are developed and received.
- DMRM will only submit approved applications to the federal Office of Surface Mining for final eligibility determination.
- Upon completion of project eligibility determination by the federal Office of Surface Mining, the DMRM will make the final determination on which projects are funded and implemented.

## **Project Implementation**

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- DMRM will design, bid, and manage the construction phase of each project.
- The local partner will be responsible for tracking and reporting project economic and/or community development outcomes. Performance measures could include jobs created, businesses created, served or improved, capital investment made, communities served or improved, and number of visitors (overnight and daytime), among other measures.