

General Correspondence

cc: Luci
Dana

STAY AHEAD OF THE HEADLINES

5. MINING:

Obama admin distributes \$300M for reclamation as sequester looms

Manuel Quinones, E&E reporter
Published: Thursday, February 21, 2013

The federal Office of Surface Mining announced today the distribution of more than \$300 million to 28 states and tribes to help reclaim abandoned mine sites.

The grant distribution, which usually happens in December, was delayed because of the ongoing uncertainty over pending automatic spending cuts.

OSM is also handing out about 90 percent of the almost \$340 million available under the abandoned mine land (AML) program in case the so-called sequester actually happens on March 1.

Even though fees on mining companies help pay for AML grants, White House budget officials have determined that the money is eligible for cuts.

If sequestration does happen, OSM says it will likely mean that dozens of abandoned mine sites will not be reclaimed, more than 1,800 acres of land will not be cleaned up and more than \$4 million will not be set aside for acid mine drainage water pollution.

OSM has been helping states deal with issues associated with funding delays and potential cuts ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 15).

Pennsylvania is getting the most, more than \$58 million, followed by West Virginia, with more than \$56 million.


Last year, Wyoming, the nation's top coal-producing state, received more than \$150 million. But an offset in last year's transportation legislation capped the state's grant amount to \$15 million, largely because it is certified to have finished cleaning up its abandoned coal mine sites ([Greenwire](#), Sept. 24, 2012).

Advertisement

Advanced Energy is a \$1 trillion opportunity for U.S. companies and workers.

Discover the power of Advanced Energy | AdvancedEnergynow.net

advanced energy now



E&E Home | About | Start a Trial | Get E-mail Alerts | Advertise | Staff Directory | Reports | Public Site | RSS

The Premier Information Source for Professionals Who Track Environmental and Energy Policy.

© 1996-2013 E&E Publishing, LLC [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Map](#)