

Funds shall be used to carry out the reclamation plan approved under part 884 of this chapter and projects approved under part 888 of this chapter.

[47 FR 28595, June 30, 1982, as amended at 59 FR 28169, May 31, 1994]

§872.12 State/Indian Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds.

(a) Accounts to be known as State or Indian Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funds shall be established in each State or Indian tribal government with approved reclamation plans. These funds will be managed in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-102.

(b) Revenue shall include—

(1) Amounts granted by the OSM for purposes of conducting the approved State reclamation plan;

(2) Moneys collected from charges for uses of land acquired or reclaimed with moneys from the State Fund under part 879 of this chapter;

(3) Moneys recovered through the satisfaction of liens filed against privately owned lands;

(4) Moneys recovered by the State from the sale of lands acquired under Title IV of the Act; and

(5) Such other moneys as the State decides should be deposited in the Fund for use in carrying out the approved reclamation programs.

PART 873—FUTURE RECLAMATION SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

Sec.

873.1 Scope.

873.11 Applicability.

873.12 Future set-aside program criteria.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 95-87, (30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*); and Pub. L. 101-508.

SOURCE: 59 FR 28170, May 31, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§873.1 Scope.

This part provides requirements for the award of grants to States or Indian tribes for the establishment of special trust accounts that will provide funds for coal reclamation purposes after September 30, 1995.

§873.11 Applicability.

The provisions of this part apply to the granting of funds pursuant to Section 402(g)(6) of the Act and their use by the States or Indian tribes for coal reclamation purposes after September 30, 1995.

§873.12 Future set-aside program criteria.

(a) Any State or Indian tribe may receive and retain without regard to the three-year limitation referred to in Section 402(g)(1)(D) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1232, up to 10 percent of the total of the grant funds made annually to such State or Indian tribe pursuant to the authority in Sections 402(g) (1) and (5) of the Act, if such amounts are deposited into either of the following: (1) A special fund established under State or Indian tribal law pursuant to which such amounts (together with all interest earned on such amounts) are expended by the State or Indian tribe solely to achieve the priorities stated in Section 403(a) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1233, after September 30, 1995; or (2) An acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund pursuant to 30 CFR part 876.

(b) Prior to receiving a grant pursuant to this part, a State or Indian tribe must:

(1) Establish a special fund account providing for the earning of interest on fund balances; and

(2) Specify that monies in the account may only be used after September 30, 1995, by the designated State or Indian tribal agency to achieve the priorities stated in Section 403(a) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1233.

(c) After the conditions specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section are met, a grant may be approved and monies deposited into the special fund account. The monies so deposited, together with any interest earned, shall be considered State or Indian tribal monies.

PART 874—GENERAL RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

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874.1 Scope.

874.11 Applicability.

874.12 Eligible coal lands and water.

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874.13 Reclamation objectives and priorities.

874.14 Utilities and other facilities.

874.15 Limited liability.

874.16 Contractor responsibility.

AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, as amended.

SOURCE: 47 FR 28596, June 30, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

§ 874.1 Scope.

This part establishes land and water eligibility requirements, reclamation objectives and priorities, and reclamation contractor responsibility.

[59 FR 28171, May 31, 1994]

§ 874.11 Applicability.

The provisions of this part apply to all reclamation projects carried out with monies from the AML Fund.

[59 FR 28171, May 31, 1994]

§ 874.12 Eligible coal lands and water.

Coal lands and water are eligible for reclamation activities if—

(a) They were mined for coal or affected by coal mining processes;

(b) They were mined prior to August 3, 1977, and left or abandoned in either an unreclaimed or inadequately reclaimed condition; and

(c) There is no continuing responsibility for reclamation by the operator, permittee, or agent of the permittee under statutes of the State or Federal government, or as a result of bond forfeiture. Bond forfeiture will render lands or water ineligible only if the amount forfeited is sufficient to pay the total cost of the necessary reclamation. In cases where the forfeited bond is insufficient to pay the total cost of reclamation, additional moneys from the Fund may be sought under parts 886 or 888 of this chapter.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, coal lands and waters in a State or on Indian lands damaged and abandoned after August 3, 1977, by coal mining processes are also eligible for funding if the Secretary finds in writing that:

(1) They were mined for coal or affected by coal mining processes; and

(2) The mining occurred and the site was left in either an unreclaimed or in-

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adequately reclaimed condition between August 4, 1977, and:

(i) The date on which the Secretary approved a State regulatory program pursuant to Section 503 of the Act (30 U.S.C. 1253) for a State or September 28, 1994, for an Indian tribe, and that any funds for reclamation or abatement that are available pursuant to a bond or other form of financial guarantee or from any other source are not sufficient to provide for adequate reclamation or abatement at the site; or

(ii) November 5, 1990, that the surety of the mining operator became insolvent during such period and that, as of November 5, 1990, funds immediately available from proceedings relating to such insolvency or from any financial guarantee or other source are not sufficient to provide for adequate reclamation or abatement at the site; and

(3) The site qualifies as a priority 1 or 2 site pursuant to Section 403(a)(1) and (2) of the Act. Priority will be given to those sites that are in the immediate vicinity of a residential area or that have an adverse economic impact upon a community.

(e) Any State or Indian tribe may expend funds may available under paragraphs 402(g)(1) and (5) of the Act (30 U.S.C. 1232(g)(1) and (5)) for reclamation and abatement of any site eligible under paragraph (d) of this section, if the State or Indian tribe, with the concurrence of the Secretary, makes the findings required in paragraph (d) of this section and the State or Indian tribe determines that the reclamation priority of the site is the same or more urgent than the reclamation priority for the lands and water eligible pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of this section that qualify as a priority 1 or 2 site under Section 403(a) of the Act (30 U.S.C. 1233(a)).

(f) With respect to lands eligible pursuant to paragraph (d) or (e) of this section, monies available from sources outside the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund or that are ultimately recovered from responsible parties shall either be used to offset the cost of the reclamation or transferred to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund if not required for further reclamation activities at the permitted site.

(g) If reclamation of a site covered by an interim or permanent program permit is carried out under the Abandoned Mine Land Program, the permittee of the site shall reimburse the Abandoned Mine Land Fund for the cost of reclamation that is in excess of any bond forfeited to ensure reclamation. Neither the Secretary nor a State or Indian tribe performing reclamation under paragraph (d) or (e) of this section shall be held liable for any violations of any performance standards or reclamation requirements specified in Title V of the Act nor shall a reclamation activity undertaken on such lands or waters be held to any standards set forth in Title V of the Act.

(h) Surface coal mining operations on lands eligible for re-mining pursuant to Section 404 of the Act shall not affect the eligibility of such lands for reclamation activities after the release of the bonds or deposits posted by any such operation as provided by § 800.40 of this chapter. If the bond or deposit for a surface coal mining operation on lands eligible for re-mining is forfeited, funds available under this title may be used if the amount of such bond or deposit is not sufficient to provide for adequate reclamation or abatement, except that if conditions warrant the Secretary shall immediately exercise his/her authority under Section 410 of the Act.

[47 FR 28596, June 30, 1982, as amended at 59 FR 28171, May 31, 1994]

§ 874.13 Reclamation objectives and priorities.

(a) Reclamation projects should be accomplished in accordance with OSM's "Final Guidelines for Reclamation Programs and Projects" (45 FR 14810-14819, March 6, 1980).

(b) Reclamation projects shall reflect the priorities of Section 403(a) of the Act (30 U.S.C. 1233). Generally, projects lower than a priority 2 should not be undertaken until all known higher priority coal projects either have been accomplished, are in the process of being reclaimed, or have been approved for funding by the Secretary, except in those instances where such lower priority projects may be undertaken in conjunction with a priority 1 or 2 site in accordance with OSM's "Final Guide-

lines for Reclamation Programs and Projects."

[59 FR 28171, May 31, 1994]

§ 874.14 Utilities and other facilities.

(a) Any state or Indian tribe that has not certified the completion of all coal-related reclamation under Section 411(a) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1241(a), may expend up to 30 percent of the funds granted annually to such State or Indian tribe pursuant to the authority in Sections 402(g) (1) and (5) of the Act for the purpose of protecting, repairing, replacing, constructing, or enhancing facilities relating to water supplies, including water distribution facilities and treatment plants, to replace water supplies adversely affected by coal mining practices.

(b) If the adverse effect on water supplies referred to in this section occurred both prior to and after August 3, 1977, the project shall remain eligible, notwithstanding the criteria specified in 30 CFR 874.12(b), if the State or Indian tribe finds in writing, as part of its eligibility opinion, that such adverse effects are due predominately to effects of mining processes undertaken and abandoned prior to August 3, 1977.

(c) If the adverse effect on water supplies referred to in this section occurred both prior to and after the dates (and under the criteria) set forth under Section 402(g)(4)(B) of the Act, the project shall remain eligible, notwithstanding the criteria specified in 30 CFR 874.12(b), if the State or Indian tribe finds in writing, as part of its eligibility opinion, that such adverse effects are due predominately to the effects of mining processes undertaken and abandoned prior to those dates.

(d) Enhancement of facilities or utilities under this section shall include upgrading necessary to meet any local, State, or Federal public health or safety requirement. Enhancement shall not include, however, any service area expansion of a utility or facility not necessary to address a specific abandoned mine land problem.

[59 FR 28171, May 31, 1994]

§ 874.15 Limited liability.

No State or Indian tribe shall be liable under any provision of Federal law

for any costs or damages as a result of action taken or omitted in the course of carrying out an approved State or Indian tribe abandoned mine reclamation plan. This section shall not preclude liability for costs or damages as a result of gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the State or Indian tribe. For purposes of this section, reckless, willful, or wanton misconduct shall constitute gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

[59 FR 28172, May 31, 1994]

§ 874.16 Contractor responsibility.

To receive AML funds, every successful bidder for an AML contract must be eligible under 30 CFR 773.15(b)(1) at the time of contract award to receive a permit or conditional permit to conduct surface coal mining operations. Bidder eligibility must be confirmed by OSM's automated Applicant/Violator System for each contract to be awarded.

[59 FR 28172, May 31, 1994]

PART 875—NONCOAL RECLAMATION

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AUTHORITY: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*, as amended.

SOURCE: 47 FR 28596, June 30, 1982, unless otherwise noted.

§ 875.1 Scope.

This part establishes land and water eligibility requirements and for noncoal reclamation.

§ 875.10 Information collection.

The collection of information contained in part 875 have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* and assigned clearance number 1029–0103. The information will be used to determine if noncoal reclamation is being accomplished according to legislative mandate. Response is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with Public Law 95–87. Public reporting burden for this information is estimated to average 32 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Information Collection Clearance Officer, room 640 N.C., 1951 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20240 and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1029–0103), Washington, DC 20503.

[59 FR 28172, May 31, 1994]

§ 875.11 Applicability.

The provisions of this part apply to all reclamation projects on lands or water mined or affected by mining of minerals and materials other than coal and are to be carried out with money from the Fund and administered by a State or Indian tribe under an approved reclamation program according to part 884 of this chapter.

§ 875.12 Eligible lands and water prior to certification.

Noncoal lands and water are eligible for reclamation if:

- (a) They were mined or affected by mining processes;
- (b) They were mined and left or abandoned in either an unreclaimed or inadequately reclaimed condition prior to August 3, 1977;
- (c) There is no continuing responsibility for reclamation by the operator, permittee, or agent of the permittee under statutes of the State or Federal Government or by the State as a