



“AML Reauthorization: The Present Landscape”

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Reauthorization on the Horizon

- Fee Collection Authority Expires in September, 2021
- \$4 Billion in Remaining High Priority AML Problems
- Last Reauthorization Effort Required 10 Years of Effort
- States and Tribes are Beginning to Gear Up Now for a Renewed Effort
- What Will Reauthorization Look Like This Time Around?



Key Reauthorization Questions

- Who Will the Players Be?
- What are Their Interests and Positions?
- How Have Things Changed since 2006?
- What are the Pressing Issues Today?
- Who Will be Our “Champions” on the Hill?
- What Ground Work Needs to be Laid?



State and Tribal Issues

- The Unappropriated Balance
- AMLIS and Remaining AML Problems
- Fee Amounts Going Forward
- Program Elements – Changes Needed?
- Sequestration Impacts
- Keeping the Coalition Together



Key Questions and Concerns

- How are States and Tribes Spending the Money They Receive in Annual Grants?
- Interrelationship with Title V Programs – the “Carrot and Stick” Approach
- Hardrock AML Reclamation Fee and Program
- Good Samaritan Protections
- Keeping the Funding Off-Budget



Congress

- Where Congress Finds Itself These Days
- Communicating with Congress
- Congressional Support
- Who Will be Our Champion?
- Importance of Key Congressional Committees, i.e. Senate Energy and House Natural Resources



The Coal Industry

- Role of BCOA, especially with regard to the UMW Combined Benefit Fund
- CBF Shortfalls and Funding Needs
- Role of National Mining Association
- Interrelationship between Coal and Hardrock AML Reclamation



Environmental and Citizen Groups

- National Groups
- Watershed Groups
- Potential Interplay between Title IV and Title V Issues
- Larger Sustainability Issues and Concerns



Federal Government

- OSM's Role as Fee Collector and Oversight Authority
- OMB's Role re Administration Policy
- Recent AML Legislative Proposals
- Program Priorities and Competing Interests



Continuing Threats to AML Trust Fund

- Beyond Sequestration Cuts, a Large Unappropriated Balance Becomes a Tempting Target
- Certified States (WY in Particular) Took A Hit in 2010 with MAP-21
- Administration Proposals to Eliminate Funding for Certified States and Tribes
- Adjustments to Project Priorities and Program Protocols



Sequestration Impacts to AML Trust Fund

- Annual Percentage Cuts Apply to Certain Mandatory Funding
- AML Trust Fund is NOT Exempt
- Combined Benefit Fund (part of AML Fund) is Exempt
- States are Seeking Exemption for AML Funding
- Without It, Valuable Dollars and AML Work are Lost
- \$40 million So Far; Upwards of \$135 million by 2022
- Wreaks Havoc on Other Program Elements



Present Issues and Future Challenges

- Undelivered Orders
- Veracity of AMLIS
- Grant Administration
- “Staffing up” Impacts re Fixed Costs
- The Certification Landscape
- Status of Minimum Programs



Issues and Challenges Continued

- Declining Coal Production
- Relative Importance of AML Projects
- Overall Landscape for AML Problems
- Justifying our Existence