

## AMLER Grants Important Terms

**AML Nexus** – A required characteristic of AML relatedness for applications to be deemed eligible for selection

- Defined as a connection to or proximity with AML eligible Priority 1, 2, or 3 sites listed in eAMLIS
- <https://amlis.osmre.gov/Map.aspx>
- Previously reclaimed AML sites and polluted waters
- Land adjacent to unreclaimed or previously reclaimed AML sites and polluted waters as justified by the State, Tribe and/or the communities impacted by historic coal production
- Currently permitted ***Title V mine sites are not eligible*** to receive AMLER funds

**OSMRE** – Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- Housed with the United States Department of Interior
- The federal oversight agency for AML and for the AMLER Program grants
- Approves Vetting and Issues ATP for all grants
- Virginia Energy AMLER staff are the first line of review for Virginia AMLER grants

**Vetting** – A conceptual review of an AMLER Project proposal

- Conducted by OSMRE
- The first step in the process of approval of a selected application
- May require several rounds of questioning from OSMRE staff from the Big Stone Gap field office, the Pittsburgh Regional Office, or Washington D.C.
- OSMRE questions are conveyed to Virginia Energy AMLER staff and then on to the potential grantee

**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act, signed into law in 1970

- Establishes a basic framework for environmental protection in the United States
- Ensures that federal agencies consider environmental concerns equally with technical, social and economic concerns

**EA** – Environmental Assessment – the assessment of the environmental consequences of a plan, policy, program, or actual projects prior to the decision to move forward with the proposed action

- OSMRE requires, at minimum, that an EA be prepared for each AMLER project
- Categorical Exclusions (CE's) will not be accepted

- OSMRE reviews and approves all EA's
- OSMRE issues an FONSI and ATP upon approval of the projects EA

**FONSI** – Finding of No Significant Impact

- A document that presents the reason why the agency has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts projected to occur upon implementation of the action.

**ATP** – Authorization To Proceed

- Issued by OSMRE
- Final step required for actual implementation or construction of an AMLER Grant
- May require several rounds of questioning from OSMRE