



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IDNR accepting public comment on next round of mine reclamation projects

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is accepting public comment through Jan. 31, 2026, about the abandoned mine lands reclamation projects that have been selected for work through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

IDNR's Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Division has applied for \$75.7 million for land and water reclamation work at 44 abandoned mine sites throughout Illinois to reclaim in the next 5 years. IDNR will continue to be eligible to receive \$75.7 million per year through 2037 for a total of 15 years to address additional reclamation projects.

The Abandoned Mine Land program addresses serious environmental and safety problems at coal and non-coal mines that were abandoned before Aug. 3, 1977.

States may use federal grants to address coal-abandoned mine land problems, including hazards resulting from legacy coal mining that pose a threat to public health, safety, and the environment; water supply restoration; and coal-abandoned mine land emergencies.

Comments can be emailed to lance.l.range@illinois.gov or mailed to Lance Range, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield IL 62702.

Projects proposed for the fourth year of the grant include:

Bond County

- Illinois Pocahontas – A smokestack will be demolished and removed or buried.

Christian County

- 1275 North Sag – Address a 0.5-acre sag subsidence that causes drainage issues on a nearby roadway.

Franklin

- Ward Mine – A main shaft will be excavated to stable material, filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

Fulton County

- Dallefeld & Glore – A vertical opening and portal will be filled with mine refuse, rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.
- Truax Traer SM-8 – Erosion issues at a low water crossing will be addressed.
- Eagle Mine – A main shaft will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.
- New Bridge Embankment – Address 425 linear feet of dangerous embankments near an adjacent roadway.

Gallatin County

- Eagle Strip - Area 2 – 0.1 acres of dangerous piles will be stabilized by constructing 5H:1V slopes with earthen material. 1,200 linear feet of highwall will be made safe by cutting back, or placing fill, to create a 5H:1V, or less, slope. 1.7 acres of haul road will be excavated to remove the Gob mine refuse, and/or covered with rock. Four pits may be filled with gob mine refuse and/or spoil material. 24 acres of spoil area may be used as fill for the highwall and/or pits, or graded and stabilized with vegetation.
- National Mining Company - 2,200 linear feet of dangerous highwall will be made safe by cutting back, and/or placing fill, to create a 5H:1V slope.
- Peabody Eagle Bridge – A hazardous bridge will be replaced.

Grundy County

- Northern IL Coal Corp. Bass Lake – Investigate a 15-acre lake, and address drainage and flooding impacts on an adjacent roadway.
- Northern IL Coal Corp. Deer Lake – Steep slopes and embankments will be graded to safer slopes near an adjacent roadway.

Jackson County

- Tab Simco Coal Company – Rebuild bioreactor for effective treatment of acid mine drainage.
- Burning Star #1 – 2.8 acres of dangerous piles and embankments will be stabilized by constructing a 5H:1V, or less, slope with earthen material, or shot rock at, or less than, the angle of repose. 0.14 acres of gob mine refuse will be removed to a landfill. 10 acres of spoil area will be used for pile and embankment stabilization.

Kankakee County

- Northern Mine Pit 11 – Mine refuse will be covered and vegetated in order to address drainage and erosion issues.

La Salle County

- Osage Coal Company – Eroded areas will be regraded, or stabilized with rock and/or earthen material. Drainage will be restored by removing sediment or regrading.
- Osage Illman - A 3.5-acre barren mine spoil area will be graded and appropriate soil amendments applied to sustain vegetation. Drainageways will be constructed and lined with rock.

Livingston County

- West Cornell Mine Opening – A vertical opening will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

Macoupin County

- Jarden Mine – A vertical opening will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

Montgomery County

- Indiana & Illinois C.C. #15 – A deteriorating building will be demolished and debris removed or recycled, or buried as clean fill. An airshaft will be investigated, and securely filled and covered.

Morgan County

- Wagstaff & Smith – Two shafts will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

Moultrie County

- Lovington Mine – A settled shaft will be excavated to stable material, filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

Peoria County

- McDaniel Mine – A vertical opening will be filled with rock and/or concrete and covered with soil. Facility concrete and brick remnants will be removed or buried on site.
- Beachum Mine – A portal will be filled with mine refuse, rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

- Pioneer Collieries – Hazardous mine equipment will be recycled or disposed. Concrete and brick will be buried onsite as clean fill.
- Elmwood Coal Company – Steep portions of a one-acre mine refuse area will be regraded, and barren areas will be covered with earthen material and vegetated.
- Midland Coal Company Edwards – 8,900 linear feet of dangerous highwalls will be graded to safer slopes and erosion issues will be addressed.

Sangamon County

- Peabody Coal Company Peerless Mine – Seven acres of barren mine refuse will be buried, or covered with earthen material and vegetated.
- Denkert Coal Company – A main shaft and air shaft will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.

Schuyler County

- Demaree Road Highwall – Rock will be placed to stabilize 2,500 linear feet of dangerous highwalls. A guardrail or other barrier may be installed.

St. Clair County

- Fullerton Mine – An air shaft will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.
- Roachtown Road Embankments – 450 linear feet of dangerous embankments near a roadway will be graded to a more stable slope or protected with measures such as guardrail.
- Old Schoolhouse Court Sag – Address a 0.5-acre sag subsidence that causes drainage issues on a nearby roadway.

Vermilion County

- Consolidated C.C. Fairmount Mine – A shaft will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.
- Kedas Mine – Two hazardous mine ponds will be investigated and stabilized to provide a safer environment.

Warren County

- E.J. Bailey – A settled air shaft and three collapsed slopes will be filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material. Drainage out of the collapsed slopes will be addressed.

Will County

- Chicago, Wilmington, & Vermilion D – A vertical opening will be excavated to stable material, filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.
- Murphy and Keenan #3 – Steep portions of three acres of mine refuse will be regraded, and barren areas will be covered with earthen material and vegetated.

Williamson County

- Blue Bird – Turner Coal Company – 1.2 acres of gob mine refuse will be regraded and buried or covered with earthen material. Hazardous equipment and structures will be recycled/disposed of off-site or buried if clean fill.
- Carterville Mining and Engineering – Seven mine openings and one acre of slump will be excavated to stable material, filled with rock and/or concrete, and covered with earthen material.
- Delta Collieries Tecumseh – A system will be selected and constructed for the effective treatment of acid mine drainage.
- Veterans Airport – 2,250 linear feet of dangerous embankments will be stabilized by constructing a 5H:1V slope with earthen material, or placing shot rock at, or less than the angle of repose. Ten acres of gob refuse will be removed to a landfill. Spoil area will be used for embankment stabilization and to fill five hazardous water bodies.
- Wenzel Brothers Surface Mine – 3,500 linear feet of dangerous highwall will be made safe by cutting back, and/or placing fill, to create a 5H:1V slope. 3,500 linear feet of dangerous highwall will be made safe by placing fill to create a 5H:1V slope.

Woodford County

- Roanoke Coal Company – A 10-acre mine refuse pile will be regraded and covered with earthen material.

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About IDNR

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is celebrating 100 years of conservation and service to the people of Illinois throughout 2025. The department was established July 1, 1925, as the Illinois Department of Conservation, bringing under one umbrella oversight of fish and game, forestry, public works, and lakes.

Today, IDNR's work encompasses management of about 400 sites across Illinois, including state parks and historic sites; wildlife, fisheries, forestry, and natural heritage; Lake Michigan water allocation and coastal management; conservation police; mines and minerals; oil and gas; issuance of licenses, permits, and numerous grants; the World Shooting and Recreational Complex in Sparta; and the Illinois State Museum. Visit <https://dnr.illinois.gov> for more information.