


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Reclamation Division

Memorandum

TO: Commissioners Christmann, Fedorchak, and Kroshus
Darrell Nitschke
Illona Jeffcoat-Sacco

FROM: Dean K. Moos, Reclamation Division
DATE: May 5, 2017
SUBJECT: 2018 Administration and Enforcement Grant for the coal regulatory program,
Case No. RC-17-179

Normally, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) announces federal grant allocations to the states early in the year and then the states would submit their grant request based on those allocations. Due to the current uncertainties in the federal budget, OSM has been unable to provide an grant allocation estimate to the states of how much money will be available for the upcoming grant period. While they anticipate that adequate funding for the state grants will be available, they previously requested that the states not submit their grant applications until the actual grant allocations were known. On May 4th, the OSM Casper Field Office suggested that we submit the 2018 grant application based on our projected budget needs so it will be ready for processing once the grant allocations are known. Based on their recommendation, the 2018 Administration and Enforcement Grant Application for the coal regulatory program has been prepared and is ready to submit to OSM.

The total amount of the grant application, including the state share, is \$1,554,121. This includes both direct and indirect costs. Of this total, the federal share is \$994,638 and the state share is \$559,483. The federal/state funding split will be 64% federal and 36% state based on OSM's federal lands funding formula. This formula considers the federal coal acreage in existing permits and pending applications that will permit new acreage.

The operating items proposed in the 2018 grant budget are about half of the total operating funds that were budgeted for the Reclamation Division for the 2017-2019 biennium. The approved indirect cost rate for the 2017-19 biennium of 33.41% was used in the grant application.

Attached is a motion for the May 10th Commission meeting to submit the grant application to OSM.

Attachment

Minedata/OSM/Grant&Budget/2018 Grant/2018_A&E_grant_memo_5-5-17

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Public Service Commission Staff
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