

OBJECTIVES OF FUND
[30 U.S.C. 1233]

SEC. 403. (a) Expenditure of moneys from the fund on lands and water eligible pursuant to section 404 for the purposes of this title, except as provided for under section 411, shall reflect the following priorities in the order stated:

Note: Subsection 403(a) amended November 5, 1990 and October 24, 1992.

(1) the protection of public health, safety, general welfare, and property from extreme danger of adverse effects of coal mining practices;

(2) the protection of public health, safety, and general welfare from adverse effects of coal mining practices;

(3) the restoration of land and water resources and the environment previously degraded by adverse effects of coal mining practices including measures for the conservation and development of soil, water (excluding channelization), woodland, fish and wildlife, recreation resources, and agricultural productivity;

(4) the protection, repair, replacement, construction, or enhancement of public facilities such as utilities, roads, recreation, and conservation facilities adversely affected by coal mining practices; and

(5) the development of publicly owned land adversely affected by coal mining practices including land acquired as provided in this title for recreation and historic purposes, conservation, and reclamation purposes and open space benefits.

(b)(1) Any State or Indian tribe not certified under section 411(a) may expend up to 30 percent of the funds allocated to such State or Indian tribe in any year through the grants made available under paragraphs (1) and (5) of section 402(g) for the purpose of protecting, repairing, replacing, constructing, or enhancing facilities relating to water supply, including water distribution facilities and treatment plants, to replace water supplies adversely affected by coal mining practices.

(2) If the adverse effect on water supplies referred to in this subsection occurred both prior to and after August 3, 1977, or as the case may be, the dates (and under the criteria) set forth under section 402(g)(4)(B) section 404 shall not be construed to prohibit a State or Indian tribe referred to in paragraph (1) from using funds referred to in such paragraph for the purposes of this subsection if the State or Indian tribe determines that such adverse effects occurred predominantly prior to August 3, 1977, or as the case may be, the dates (and under the criteria) set forth under section 402(g)(4)(B).

Note: Subsection 403(b) added November 5, 1990 and amended October 24, 1992.

(c) For the purposes of assisting in the planning and evaluation of reclamation projects pursuant to section 405, and assisting in making the certification referred to in section 411(a), the Secretary shall maintain an inventory of eligible lands and waters pursuant to section 404 which meet the priorities stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a). Under standardized procedures established by the Secretary, States and Indian tribes with approved abandoned mine reclamation programs pursuant to section 405 may offer amendments to update the inventory as

it applies to eligible lands and waters under the jurisdiction of such States or tribes. The Secretary shall provide such States and tribes with the financial and technical assistance necessary for the purpose of making inventory amendments. The Secretary shall compile and maintain an inventory for States and Indian lands in the case when a State or Indian tribe does not have an approved abandoned mine reclamation program pursuant to section 405. On a regular basis, but not less than annually, the projects completed under this title shall be so noted on the inventory under standardized procedures established by the Secretary.

Note: Subsection 403(c) added November 5, 1990.

ELIGIBLE LANDS AND WATER
[30 U.S.C. 1234]

SEC. 404. Lands and water eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under this title are those which were mined for coal or which were affected by such mining, wastebanks, coal processing, or other coal mining processes, except as provided for under section 411 and abandoned or left in an inadequate reclamation status prior to the date of enactment of this Act, and for which there is no continuing reclamation responsibility under State or other Federal laws.

For other provisions relating to lands and waters eligible for such expenditures, see section 402(g)(4), section 403(b)(1), and section 409. Surface coal mining operations on lands eligible for reclamation shall not affect the eligibility of such lands for reclamation and restoration under this title after the release of the bond or deposit for any such operation as provided under section 519. In the event the bond or deposit for a surface coal mining operation on lands eligible for reclamation 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 authority under section 410.

Note: Section 404 amended November 5, 1990 and October 24, 1992.
