

## DTSC's Abandoned Mine Lands Initiatives

DTSC addresses AML sites through a variety of programs and activities. A brief summary of these initiatives follows.

- **Voluntary Cleanup Program:** The Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) is a program in which the landowners and project proponents voluntarily sign agreements with DTSC to investigate and, if necessary, clean up their property. DTSC provides oversight for the investigation and cleanup of VCP sites. Counties often refer development projects with AML issues to DTSC under the VCP, and, as a result, it has become the primary program for assessing AML sites. For more about the VCP program, [click here](#).
- **Federal programs:** DTSC coordinates with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to provide technical support and operation and maintenance work for AML sites on the National Priorities List (NPL). NPL sites are those that the U.S. EPA has identified as having a hazardous substance release, or releases, that could pose a significant threat to public health, ecosystems or water quality. For these sites, DTSC participates in technical oversight and typically pays 10 percent of construction and remediation costs. For examples of AML NPL sites, [click here](#).
- **Orders and orphan sites:** Projects also can come under DTSC's oversight by way of an order, where DTSC has issued an administrative or consent order to a responsible party to order it to cooperate with DTSC to investigate and, if necessary, remediate the land. AML responsible parties includes individuals or corporations who own, once owned or have affected land with their mining-related operation. The issuance of an order is reserved for responsible parties that refuse to clean up a site that poses a threat to human health and the environment. DTSC also manages orphan sites, which are sites where the threat to public health is imminent or substantial, or both, and the responsible party for the site could not be located or has become unable to pay for any immediate response. These sites are eligible to be handled as state orphan sites, with DTSC managing their cleanup and working with potentially responsible parties to seek cost recovery.
- **Grants:** DTSC seeks assessment and cleanup grants through the U.S. EPA Brownfields Program, seeks other grants, and provides support to local agencies or other stakeholders that are seeking or have acquired grants for AML assessment or cleanup. For more information on grant projects, [click here](#).
- **AML Initiative Team:** DTSC implemented the AML Initiative Team to provide multidisciplinary support for AML projects. For more information about the AML Initiative Team, [click here](#).

