27-50.100(207) Land eligible for acquisition.

50.100(1) Land adversely affected by past coal mining practices may be acquired with moneys from the fund if approved in advance by OSM. OSM will determine if:

a. The acquired land will serve recreation, historic, conservation, or reclamation purposes, or provide open space benefits after restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse effects of past coal mining practices; or

b. Permanent facilities such as a mine drainage treatment plant or a relocated stream channel will be constructed on the land for the restoration, reclamation, abatement, control, or prevention of the adverse effects of past coal mining practices.

50.100(2) Coal refuse disposal sites and all coal refuse thereon may be acquired with moneys from the fund if approved in advance by OSM and if the acquisition of the land is necessary for successful reclamation and will serve the purposes of the program or if public ownership is desirable to meet an emergency situation and prevent reoccurrence of adverse effects of past coal mining practices.

50.100(3) The division shall acquire only such interests in the land as are necessary for the reclamation work planned or the postreclamation use of the land. Interest in improvements on the land, mineral rights, or associated water rights may be acquired if:

a. The interests are necessary to the reclamation work planned or the postreclamation use of the land; and

b. Adequate written assurance cannot be obtained from the owner of the severed interest that future use of the severed interest will not be in conflict with the reclamation to be accomplished.