



**ODNR
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

Acid Mine Drainage Program Guidelines for the State of Ohio

Mission Statement

To restore, to the greatest extent possible, Ohio's acid mine drainage polluted streams to a healthy condition that will support a normal assemblage of aquatic life

1. The Ohio AMD Program is a science based program and relies primarily on water quality and aquatic biology data to make program decisions. Chemical, biological, physical, and habitat data are utilized to analyze streams and waterways.
2. Ohio will continue to develop Acid Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment (AMDAT) plans for watersheds significantly impacted by acid mine drainage (AMD). A prioritized schedule for AMDAT plan initiation will be developed for watershed assessment.
3. An official list of all watersheds that are eligible for AML set-aside funding through the AMD Program will be maintained. A watershed is deemed eligible if it has a completed AMDAT plan approved by ODNR-DMRM.
4. Sufficient funding for treatment or abatement of all AMD sources in Ohio is not available; therefore decisions for implementation of AMD treatment projects and/or initiation of watershed restoration activities will include a ranking methodology. The methodology will incorporate the likelihood of restoration being achieved (i.e. number of stream miles restored) with the proposed costs. Generally, streams or watersheds with a higher likelihood of recovery for the least cost will be given higher priority.
5. Water quality goals for watershed restoration will be consistent and based on existing state and federal water quality standards and criteria. The AMD Program will seek to restore a stream or waterbody to achieve its designated use as defined by Ohio EPA. Biological data to be collected are for fish (IBI, MIWB), macroinvertebrates (ICI, MAIS), and habitat (QHEI). Chemical restoration goals for the protection of aquatic life are: pH 6.5 – 9.0, total iron < 1.0 mg/l, total aluminum < 0.75 mg/l, and net alkalinity.
6. While the selection and implementation of AMD projects is not dependent on the existence of local watershed groups, partnership with established and newly forming watershed groups is preferential. This may allow for the utilization of leveraged funding, qualified data collectors trained through Ohio EPA's Volunteer Monitoring Program, and the development of an operation and maintenance system for projects.
7. Ohio's AMD Program will continue to partner with other Local, State and Federal agencies with water quality improvement missions for funding, maintenance of AMD projects, and for monitoring and planning.
8. Priority will be given to supporting the completion of restoration work in watersheds where substantial abatement work has been undertaken prior to developing a statewide ranking methodology. This policy assumes that continued improvement from AMD remediation will be observed and that no other limiting factors exist.