***Reclamation bonds US-wide***

This database, built by Climate Home News, is the most complete known dataset of reclamation performance bonds that are held by regulators to guarantee the reclamation of Title V (post-1977) coal mines, as prescribed by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Each state holds this data in a unique format, so once it was gathered through records requests, it was cleaned and organized into normalized data fields. The column entitled “notes” describes places where more granularity is needed in the data or other general notes on that specific entry. If a cell in the “amount of bond” column has an asterisk (\*), then that means it is covered by bonds listed elsewhere. The corresponding “notes” column cell will specify with which other permits it shares a bond.

The column entitled “date data pulled” signifies the date that state employees ran the data from their internal database or sent it to CHN. The state-level databases are living, meaning their contents change whenever new data is input, removed or otherwise changed.

If additional information came in from state regulators and online state databases, that was entered into this database and updated accordingly. Blank cells indicate missing data. All coal-producing states reported their bonds except those for which the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) holds direct oversight duties. These include Tennessee, Washington and tribal land. The total number of bonds held in the country is slightly higher than what is shown in this database because this data only deals with per-permit and per-bond data, not communal pools of money held by some states.

***Post-mining land use, incident and inspection data***

CHN built this database, by scraping the statistics held in what are called “Reg-8 tables”, usually held in Appendix I of each state’s and tribe’s annual evaluation report compiled by an OSMRE field office and submitted to the agency’s head office. The first sheet in the table – “various historical data points” – includes reclamation- and closure-related statistics over the past decade, while the second sheet – “post-mining land use acreage” – speaks to the number of acres that were granted final bond release that year and were released into various land use designations.

Unless otherwise noted, the data in this spreadsheet corresponds to OSMRE’s evaluation years. In this method, evaluation year 2017, for example, runs from July 1, 2016 until June 30, 2017. In both sheets, a blank does not mean the value equals zero. Rather, a blank cell mainly signifies missing data. In some cases, it means data was clearly incorrect and was removed. Asterisks were used on several occasions to mark unique situations. These are as follows:

\* = The type of inspections (complete vs. incomplete) was unspecified so was dropped into one category for counting purposes.

\*\* = This year’s data from Kentucky was removed because it was clearly incorrect, stating that about -29,000 acres of forfeited land were unreclaimed.

\*\*\* = This is post-mining land use acreage that is listed as either grazing land or fish/wildlife habitat.

\*\*\*\* = This is post-mining land use acreage that is listed as either forestry or fish/wildlife.

These reports are available for download from OSMRE’s ODocs online portal: [www.odocs.osmre.gov](http://www.odocs.osmre.gov).

***Federal reclamation information***

This spreadsheet was compiled by OSMRE in response to a CHN records request. This contains some information on all permits for which the agency has direct oversight and makes mention of whether the permit has an outstanding reclamation performance bond, as of December 8, 2017. It is missing requested information on amount of bonds, type of bonds and bonds’ third party guarantors.