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**As Storm Triggers Mine-Related Landslides Across Kentucky, Federal Funding Freeze Could Hinder Emergency Response**

*Beshear Joins Multi-State Lawsuit to Unfreeze Mine Reclamation Funds*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** — As storms escalate the threat of landslides on abandoned mine lands (AMLs) across Kentucky, the Trump administration’s federal funding freeze—[under litigation](#) by Gov. Andy Beshear and leaders of other states—could impede the Commonwealth’s ability to respond to emergencies.

Many AML reclamation projects arise from landslides that have damaged residents’ property, including emergency situations where a family’s home has been hit by a slide. The 2022 flooding in Kentucky led to slides on AML sites, and it is likely that similar damage occurred over the weekend, as storms killed nine people across Kentucky.

“The Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands operates a [hotline](#) for emergencies from AMLs, and it is imperative that officials have the ability—and funding authorization—to move quickly once disaster strikes,” explained Senior Researcher Eric Dixon.

While residents should continue to call the hotline if they're harmed by damage from historic mining, the ability to move new projects forward is in jeopardy. Kentucky officials may have some state cash reserves, but the federal agency that must provide the official “Authorization to Proceed” on AML projects has said they have been ordered to stop work on the program.

In just the past few weeks, Kentucky officials posted RFPs for projects that would remedy landslides related to abandoned mines in Martin and Pike Counties. The project in Martin County, for example, would remediate a one-acre slide that collapsed into a home and moved it off its foundation. Both of the counties were hit hard by the recent floods.

Since 2022, the US Department of the Interior has awarded just under \$3 billion to states and tribes to clean up land and water damaged by the coal industry, including over \$315 million to Kentucky, according to Ohio River Valley Institute [research](#). If AML grants are frozen for an extended period, Kentucky could be at risk of losing out on an additional \$440 million in projected AML grants over the next four years.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear announced last Thursday that his office is [joining a multi-state lawsuit](#) challenging the Trump administration's federal funding freeze.

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