

Award-Winning Reclamation

2006 Excellence in Mining Reclamation Awards



Director's Award
TXU Mining Company, D1 Mining Area
Oakhill, Texas

OSM's 2006 Director's Award honors innovation leading to greater efficiency and superior reforestation. TXU Mining Company set out from the very beginning to make its D1 Mine an innovative example of long term, post-mining value. Today, the site is comprised of hardwood forests and wildlife wetlands. Selective thinning has already produced nearly 1,700 tons of pulp wood and pine straw is harvested for commercial and residential landscaping. Early planning and commitment have enabled the D1 Mine to surpass regulatory standards and achieve long-term benefit for both nature and commerce.



National Award
Pritchard Mining Company
Lens Creek Mine #2
Kanawah and Boone Counties,
West Virginia

Pritchard recognized that the steep slopes in the mine's location called for innovative techniques in grading, backfilling and mining steep contour pits. Careful planning by the engineers, advances in equipment and fine tuning of practices by skilled equipment operators resulted in a competitive product with reclamation that meets or in many cases exceeds all State and Federal regulations. The resulting forest growing on steep topography – with scenic ponds – blends in with the surrounding natural growth.



*"Engrained
in the
American
spirit*

is a credo that the needs of today's generation must not outweigh the inheritance of future generations.

We celebrate this attribute with these awards, as they represent innovative reclamation projects in which the operators went that extra mile to ensure the land was restored and, in some cases, was made even more productive after mining was concluded."

*Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior*

**National Award
Peabody Coal Company, Lynnville Mine,
Warrick County, Indiana**

Since 1958, Peabody's Lynnville mine has shipped more than 150 million tons of coal, primarily for electric generation. Throughout its operation and the many changes in regulation and advances in equipment, Lynnville's post-mining land use blends with the neighboring rural community. Water and forest, wildlife, cropland, pasture and hay, are all envisioned along with the necessary roads.

Thanks to carefully planned work with soil placement and selection, there has been remarkable success with trees. Of the 3,382 permitted acres, 1,721.6 are forest land use, and 1,617.5 are wildlife habitat. Today at the Lynnville mining complex, closed since 1999, a substantial forest is growing—the result of the high survival rate from the planting of over 6.7 million trees.



**National Award
Peabody Energy Seneca Coal Company
Seneca II West Mine
Routt County, Colorado**

Peabody's Seneca II West Mine before (above) and after reclamation (below).



Part of a three-mine complex that includes Seneca II and Yoast mines, the short, 65-day growing season, high elevation, and 18 to 35 percent pitching grade presented challenges when the reclamation plan called for wildlife habitat and grazing. With the assistance of reclamation manager Roy Karo, who personally gathered native seeds not available commercially, the goals of maximum establishment of native species, high levels of utility for livestock and wildlife, and good forage potential have been achieved. In an additional effort monitored by USDA's Forest Service, Seneca has begun a demonstration project reintroducing native Aspen stands at this site. With mining complete in 2005, over 4,000 acres were returned to natural use.

Best-of-the-Best Award : Roy Karo

Each year the individual who was directly responsible for the most outstanding reforestation is honored. The 2006 Best-of-the-Best award was presented to Roy Karo for his work at the Seneca II West Mine, Peabody Energy. Karo spent hours of his own time gathering native species of plant seeds – which were not commercially available -- to ensure the Seneca II was reclaimed using the truly unique native vegetation. This was but one example of Roy's dedication to ensuring Seneca II West Mine's reclamation excellence.

National Award

United Minerals and Black Beauty Coal Company's West Fork Mine
Davies County, Indiana

The West Fork Mine includes an area suitable for re-mining. It has a history of unreclaimed mining activity where shallow coal seams had been extracted leaving deeper seams behind. Large portions of the area had been severely eroded with several gullies stretching 12 feet deep and 30 feet wide. Acid water from this prior activity was discharging off the site at nearly one cubic foot per second — truly, a grave danger to public health and safety.

Despite these obstacles, United Minerals took on an aggressive reclamation program which included reforestation, creation of both land and aquatic habitat as well as eliminating the health, safety and environmental problems.

National Award

Black Beauty Coal Company, Cedar Creek Mine
Schuyler County Illinois

The Cedar Creek Mine is a 440 acre site in central Illinois that produced approximately 500,000 tons of bituminous coal annually. Innovative mining at this area by contract miner United Minerals involved replacing subsoils to depths of five to seven feet as a non-compacted, extended rooting material resulting in high yields of corn and soybeans, and terraces were constructed to control erosion.

Today, to the casual observer, there is no visual evidence that this area was ever mined for coal. Where crops are not grown, one sees forest, grassland, water and a diverse population of wildlife.

National Award

North American Coal Corporation
Red Hills Mine, Ackerman, Mississippi

This mine is in an area where abundant rain and clay-like soil posed erosion challenges. The hot summers and cool wet winters leave little time for planting, further complicating the reclamation process.

North American Coal took the challenge head on. The company put a level of design and construction rarely seen into its drainage channels, using erosion control fabrics, rock check dams and large rip-rap. Limestone coverings to complete the channels were trucked in from 170 miles away. Innovative sequential plantings of millet and Bermuda grass -- developed with landscape experts -- enabled native trees, shrubs and grass to naturally move into the reclaimed area establishing a healthy foundation for a long term use of commercial forestry.

The Excellence in Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation awards program began in 1986 to publicly recognize outstanding active coal mine reclamation and to highlight exemplary reclamation techniques.

National Award Alcoa Sandow Mine, Rockdale, Texas

For 53 years Alcoa's Sandow Mine has been an example of excellence in surface mine reclamation.

Alcoa Sandow has demonstrated the highest commitment to the environment and the community with over 10,000 acres reclaimed to date. The Sandow reclamation plan established diverse plant species in support of habitat and is based on its commitment to returning mined land to a more productive level than existed before mining.

Sandow has reclaimed previously mined land at this site in addition to reclaiming land as its own mining proceeded. This award recognizes this commitment to excellence in mine reclamation.



Paramont mine superintendent Jimmy Adkins shows off awards.

Paramont's Black Bear Mine Earns Regional, National Awards

Innovative reclamation practices, assistance in educational research and successful reforestation practices - all of which resulted in environmental improvements - have earned Paramont Coal Company Virginia, LLC's Black Bear #1 Surface Mine national and regional recognition. In one ceremony in May, the mine was presented with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission's (IMCC) National Reclamation Award, the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) Reforestation Award and the first of Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation's Excellence in Reclamation Awards. The Virginia Mining Association also selected the Black Bear mine as its top reclamation award winner for 2006. The mine was recognized for a combination of activities and cooperative spirit that make the operation unique and set a standard for environmental quality. The mine's stream channel mitigation project and wetlands are highlights of the reclamation work, as is its reforestation effort.

'Good Neighbor' Awards

Recognizing service to communities



Gold Award:

Western Energy Company
Rosebud Mine
Colstrip, Montana

Western Energy Company's Rosebud Mine was the first mine in the nation to receive a permit under the Surface Mining Act and has demonstrated commitment to the community from the beginning. Rosebud is part of a farming and ranching community near the Northern Cheyenne reservation. The company's outreach extends to all its neighbors. It has mined around and preserved petroglyphs from ancient peoples, established buffalo herds for traditional ceremonies and opened reclaimed land for cattle grazing and crop production by local farmers and ranchers at no cost. Protecting the area's history, settlers cabins and an early post office have been preserved for future generations. For the ranchers and farmers as well as the Cheyenne, Western Energy has established an enduring heritage as a good neighbor.

Silver Award

Thunder Basin Coal Company
Black Thunder Mine, Wright, Wyoming

Arch Coal subsidiary Thunder Basin Coal Company's Black Thunder mine is one of the largest surface coal mines in the world, producing nearly six thousand pounds of coal every second, every day. This company has long been a good neighbor to the community providing educational mine tours, awards for outstanding teachers in the area, and partnering with State and Federal agencies.

When a tornado struck the nearby town of Wright, Thunder Basin's response was immediate. Surface Mine Rescue teams arrived to search for survivors, provide first aid, supplies, and electric generators. Thunder Basin employees gave up their company picnic to provide a community meal to the people of Wright.

To expedite cleanup, the mine arranged with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to dispose of non-hazardous debris from the town as backfill at the mine, thereby saving the county over \$200,000. Throughout the year and in times of need, Thunder Basin has been an exemplary good neighbor.

OSM's Good Neighbor Awards were established to recognize coal operators who contribute to the communities in which they work.

Bronze Award

AEP Kentucky Coal
Lick Creek, Kentucky

AEP Kentucky coal's operation near the community of Lick Creek is a beautifully reclaimed area with a post-mining land use of wildlife habitat, forestry and pastureland, all important uses for this rural area and difficult to accomplish given the steep slope conditions there.

Not only did AEP Kentucky give careful consideration to the community in its reclamation plan, the company met with the community, discussed their concerns and rerouted the coal haul road so the entire deposit was mined without disturbing the homes and schools of Lick Creek.