



NEWS RELEASE

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Solicits Nominations for Awards Honoring Excellence in Active Coal Mine and Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation

(Washington, D.C.) — The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSM) is soliciting nominations for awards that recognize outstanding efforts to reclaim active and abandoned coal mines.

[OSM offers two programs](#) — the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards and Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards — that honor the Nation's highest-quality reclamation projects. Previous winners not only exceeded the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, but often devised or refined innovative techniques to achieve superior results in returning a site to productive use after completion of mining.

Previous projects have showcased the benefits of reforestation in reclaiming mined areas; techniques that shape the land to more closely resemble the appearance and function of the area prior to mining; and the creation of wetlands to mitigate water pollution from abandoned mine sites. By raising the profile of successful reclamation techniques, the awards programs demonstrate to regulators as well as mine operators the feasibility of such methods.

OSM will present the AML Reclamation Awards at the 2014 Annual Conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs, September 21-24, 2014, in Columbus, Ohio. The Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards will be presented on October 27, 2014, in Washington, DC.

The 2014 awards have some notable new features. For the first time, each program displays its own logo, and starting this year, nominations for the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards will be submitted and judged entirely via the Internet, with nomination forms available from OSM's website. This will make submitting nominations easier than ever.

To nominate a project, visit the respective home pages for the [Active Coal Mining Reclamation Awards](#), and the [Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards](#).

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSM's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

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Additional Resources: High resolution copies of the award logos ([Active Coal Mining Reclamation Awards Logo](#) and [Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards Logo](#))

