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

(Washington, D.C.) — The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](http://www.osmre.gov) (OSMRE) is soliciting nominations for awards that recognize outstanding efforts to reclaim active and abandoned coal mines.

OSMRE offers two programs — the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards and the 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 the 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.

OSMRE will present the AML Reclamation Awards at the 2015 Annual Conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs, September 27-30, 2015, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards will be presented on November 9, 2015, at the Renaissance Washington Hotel in Washington, DC.

To nominate a reclamation project from an active mine site, visit the [Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards web page](#). The deadline for nominations for this award is March 27, 2015. To nominate a reclamation project from an abandoned mine site visit the corresponding page for [the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards](#). The deadline for AML Award Nominations is April 24, 2015.

*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. OSMRE'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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