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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Announces Winners of the 2015 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) today announced the winners of the 2015 [Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards](#), which honor coal mine operators who have carried out exemplary reclamation of the land they have mined after production is completed. In many cases, the mining companies have created or improved upon processes to achieve the highest quality reclamation projects across the country.

The Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award goes to operators who ensure that their on-the-ground performance not only conforms with the mining permit, but is exemplary within that state or geographic area; that other mining activities at the site do not detract from the award-winning activity, and that they have no outstanding violations or past record of not abating violations.

The judges based their selections on:

- The difficulty of achieving reclamation under existing conditions;
- The effectiveness of the on-site work;
- The transferability of the on-site practice to other reclamation projects;
- Whether the project increased public awareness of the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act](#) (SMCRA);
- The project's long-term benefit to the community; and
- The extent to which the project exceeds the spirit and intent of SMCRA.

The winners of the 2015 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards are:

2015 Good Neighbor Award

Mingo Logan Coal Company
Left Fork Surface Mine
Logan County, West Virginia

2015 National Award – Appalachian Region

Paramont Coal Company Virginia LLC
Hawks Nest Surface Mine
Buchanan County, Virginia



2015 National Award – Western Region

Cloud Peak Energy
Cordero Rojo Mine
Gillette, Wyoming

2015 National Award – Mid-Continent Region

Vigo Coal Operating Company
Red Brush Mine
Evansville, Indiana

OSMRE will present the 2015 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards at the annual meeting of the National Mining Association, co-sponsors of the awards, at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 Ninth Street NW, Washington, D.C. on November 9, 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. 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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