



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Announces Winners of the 2016 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) today announced the winners of the 2016 [Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards](#), which honor the highest quality projects across the nation to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

Part of OSMRE's mission is to ensure that coal mines are reclaimed after mining is complete, including the reclamation of mines abandoned before Congress passed the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 \(SMCRA\)](#).

Only projects that are funded wholly or in part by [Abandoned Mine Land funds](#) and completed by approved state or tribal regulatory programs, are eligible to win an Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award. A panel of judges, composed of directors of state reclamation programs and OSMRE managers, voted to determine the winners.

This year's winners are:

### **National Award**

*Sand Coulee Water System Restoration Project*

Cascade County, Montana

Montana Department of Environmental Quality Abandoned Mine Lands Program

### **Small Project Award**

*The 2015 Halleck Mine AML Project*

Bowman, North Dakota

The North Dakota Public Service Commission AML Division

### **Appalachian Region Award**

*Reclaiming a Company Town*

Morgan Township, Green County, PA

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation

### **Mid-Continent Region Award**

*Highway 15 Pit Subsidence Emergency*

St. Clair County, Illinois

Illinois Department of Natural Resources



## **Western Region Award**

*Coyote Canyon Coal Fire Mitigation*

Coyote Canyon, New Mexico

Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program

[OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik](#) will present the 2016 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation awards at the [Annual Conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs](#) in Bozeman, Montana on September 26, 2016.

*The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) 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. For instant updates on OSMRE, follow the bureau's Twitter feed [@OSMRE](#).*

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