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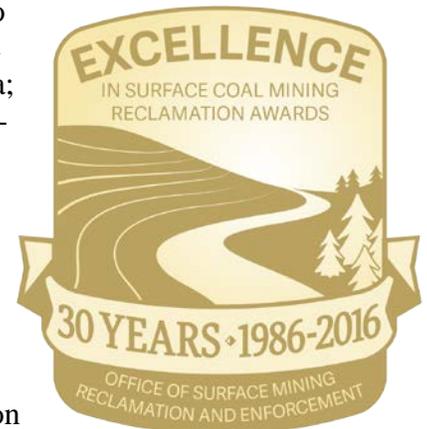
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## Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Announces Winners of the 2016 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards

Washington, DC – The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#) today announced the winners of the [2016 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.

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that OSMRE will give awards to operators who ensure 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.



This year's honorees are as follows:

### **National Award**

Northampton Fuel Supply Company, Inc.  
PA Surface Mine Permit, Loomis Bank Operation  
Hanover Township, Luzerne County, PA

### **Appalachian Region Award**

Oxford Mining Company, LLC  
Daron-Consol Mine  
Harrison County, Ohio



## **Mid-Continent Region Award**

Solar Sources, Inc.  
Cannelburg Mining Complex  
Daviess County, Indiana

## **Western Region Award**

BHP Billiton Mine Management Company  
Navajo Mine  
Fruitland, New Mexico

The 2016 Excellence in Surface Mining Awards will be presented at the 2016 International MINExpo in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 28, 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](https://twitter.com/OSMRE).*

