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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Seeks Nominations for its 30th Annual Excellence in Surface Coal Mine Reclamation and Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards

(Washington, D.C.) — The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) is soliciting nominations for the 2016 awards that recognize outstanding efforts to reclaim active and abandoned coal mines.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the awards that honor companies that carry out the best reclamation practices on active mine sites. Known as the [Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards](#), OSMRE honors those operators that go beyond the requirements outlined in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Similarly, the [Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards](#) honor state reclamation programs that address the adverse effects of mining carried out prior to 1977.



Previous winners in both categories often introduce or refine 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.

The 30th Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards will be presented on September 26- 28, 2016, at MINExpo International in Las Vegas, Nevada. OSMRE will present the 2016 AML Reclamation Awards at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs, September 25-28, 2016, in Bozeman, Montana.

The deadline for Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards nominations is March 25, 2016. The deadline for AML Award Nominations is April 22, 2016.

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.

