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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Welcomes New Regional Director for Mid-Continent Region

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Acting Director Glenda Owens today swore in Al Clayborne as the new Regional Director for the Mid-Continent Region of the [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE).

From 2007-2013, Clayborne served as the Tulsa field office director for OSMRE. Prior to his return to the bureau, he served as the Deputy Director for Special Enforcement, Investigations and Accountability within the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In that post, he was responsible for administering MSHA's nationwide whistleblower and internal inspection requirements programs pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act. , Clayborne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with regulatory programs and SMCRA in particular.

“I am very pleased to welcome Al back to our professional team at OSMRE,” said [Acting Director Owens](#). “Al is very familiar with applying the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act](#) on several levels, as has served in a variety of state and Federal mining and reclamation positions. That experience prepares him well for this critical position.”

Clayborne has more than 25 years of experience in regulating natural resources including oil, gas and coal, including an extensive background in all aspects of the surface coal mining regulatory program. His past service includes working as an enforcement attorney and as a Special Assistant Attorney General.

He will report to the Alton (IL) Mid-Continent Regional office the week of February 20.

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.

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