



NEWS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C.
WWW.OSMRE.GOV

March 28, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Christopher Holmes
(202) 208-7941
cholmes@osmre.gov

Nomination Deadline Updated for OSMRE's Annual Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards

(Washington, D.C.) — The [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) is soliciting nominations for its 2017 active coal mine reclamation awards.

The [Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards](#) honors coal mine operators that go beyond reclamation requirements and best practices in the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977](#) to restore active mine sites. Coal companies, regulatory authorities, state or Federal mine inspectors, interest groups, or landowners may submit nominations. Company officials and employees may nominate their own operations. To submit a nomination, [click here for the official form](#).

[Previous winners](#) often introduce or refine innovative techniques to achieve superior results in returning a site to productive use after the completion of mining. To see video of the winning projects from 2016, visit [OSMRE's YouTube page](#).

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. By raising the profile of successful reclamation techniques, the awards programs demonstrate to regulators, as well as mine operators, the feasibility of such methods.

OSMRE and its sponsoring partner, the National Mining Association, will present the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards on Monday, November 6, 2017 at the Renaissance Washington Hotel in Washington, DC.

The deadline to submit Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards nominations is **April 27, 2017**.

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.

