

# News Release

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement  
A Bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 23, 2018

Contact: [Christopher Holmes](#) (202) 208-7941

## **Kentucky Program Wins Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award for Second Year in a Row**

*OSMRE to Honor Top Abandoned Mine Land  
Reclamation Projects at Awards Presentation*

**Washington, DC** – The Federal Bureau that oversees the regulation of coal mining and restoration of abandoned mine lands is honoring a Kentucky environmental agency award for abandoned mine reclamation.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) will honor the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (KDAML) during a national gathering of mine land reclamation professionals. KDAML won the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Appalachian Region Award for reclamation work at the Joan Bernat Slide reclamation project.



Last year KDAML won the Appalachian Region Award for reclamation work on the [Bell Central School HP AML](#) reclamation project.

The Joan Bernat Slide High Priority Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project was completed at the historic coal camp town of Hardburly, near Hazard, Kentucky. In May 2016, local residents reported to KDAML that a slide had occurred on a hillside above multiple residences and feared that further movement of the slide would threaten their homes.

Hazard KDAML Emergency Branch personnel expedited a design for a project aimed at re-routing and controlling the drainage above the slide, controlling silt, and improving drainage structures near the homes. The time between the initial complaint to the completion of the project spanned 16 months and brought peace of mind to the residents of Hardburly.

In FY 2018, Kentucky received \$19 million in [AML funding](#) from OSMRE.

Kentucky is among five recipients of the 2018 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards given for reclamation excellence. Awards are presented for the best reclamation project nationally, as well as the best project in each of OSMRE's three regions and for the project that costs less than \$1 million and is in a state that receives less than \$6 million in AML



## OSMRE News Release continued

---

funds. A panel of judges composed of directors of state and tribal reclamation programs and OSMRE managers voted to determine this year's awardees.

The other award winners are:

### National Award

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Mines and Minerals Bureau, Division of Soil Conservation  
*Logan Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project*

### Mid-Continent Region Award

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Reclamation  
*Abandoned Mine Land Site 882 - Snow Hill*

### Western Region Award

Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Abandoned Mine Land Program, Division of Mining, Land and Water  
*Hydraulic Pit Reclamation Project*

### Small Project Award

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy  
Division of Mined Land Reclamation  
*Mid-Lothian Mines Park*

OSMRE will present its Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards during the annual conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs in Williamsburg, VA on September 10, 2018.

The AML Reclamation Awards, established in 1992, recognize exemplary state and tribal reclamation projects that reclaim coal mine sites that were abandoned prior to the signing of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Eligible projects are funded wholly or in part by OSMRE's [AML Reclamation Fund](#). [OSMRE's AML Reclamation Program](#) addresses the hazards and environmental degradation posed by two centuries of US coal mining that occurred before SMCRA.

---

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.

