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 rerouting 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 has 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 funding.
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.