News Release

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

Alabama Program to Receive Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award

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

WASHINGTON – The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) will honor the Alabama Department of Labor, Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Program during a national gathering of mine land reclamation professionals. Alabama's AML Program won the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Small Project Award for reclamation work at the Marvel Gob Fire project in Bibb County, Alabama.

An ongoing mine fire at Alabama's old Marvel mines caused havoc in a small community with surface temperatures reaching as high as 930 degrees Fahrenheit on the surface. More than an acre of gob material was burning, generating noxious odors, smoke and fog. Alabama's AML program put out the fire, and reclaimed the site in 50 working days. The project is considered small in scale by reclamation standards, but for people living nearby, Alabama's AML Program solved an important community concern.

In FY 2019, Alabama received $5.1 million in AML funding from OSMRE.

Alabama is among five recipients of the 2019 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards recognizing reclamation excellence. Awards are presented for the best reclamation project nationally, as well has the best projects from around the country, and for the project that costs less than $1 million and is in a state that receives less than $6 million in annual AML 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:

Regional Awards
Roger Cornett Slide
Kentucky Department for Natural Resources
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands
Interior Region 1

Narrow Lake AML Site 1805
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Abandoned Mine Land Program, Division of Reclamation
Interior Region 3

Wise Hill Underground Fire Mitigation
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
Inactive Mine Reclamation Program
Interior Region 7

National Award
Dessecker Mine Project
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Abandoned Mine Land Program, Division of Natural Resources

OSMRE will present the 2019 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards during the annual conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 9, 2019.

The Abandoned Mine Land 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 U.S. coal mining that occurred before SMCRA.