Kentucky Program Wins Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award for Third Year in a Row

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 Kentucky Department for Natural Resources, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (KDAML) during a national gathering of mine land reclamation professionals. KDAML won a regional Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Award for work at the Roger Cornett Slide reclamation project in Perry County, Kentucky.

Last year KDAML won for reclamation work on the Joan Bernat Slide Reclamation Project in Perry County, Kentucky.

On a rainy Friday night in April 2018, KDAML received a call from a resident concerned about a sudden landslide near his home, his rental properties, and a neighbor’s house. The landslide brought down tons of mud, trees, and old coal, threatening people’s lives and property. Kentucky’s quick response abated the threats to the residents and the safety of their property.

In FY 2019, Kentucky received $18.2 million in Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding from OSMRE.

Kentucky 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:

Small Project Award
Marvel Gob Fire
Alabama Department of Labor
Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program
Regional Awards

**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.