



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards Nomination Form & Instructions

About the Awards

In 1992, OSMRE launched the annual Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards program to recognize outstanding reclamation techniques and projects. The program mirrors the objectives of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure that legacy coal mines are reclaimed and that active mine lands are restored to beneficial use.

Eligibility

AML projects completed by an approved state or Tribal program are eligible for an award, including coal, non-coal, high-priority and emergency projects. One project may be submitted by an approved state or Tribal program and must have been completed within two years of the call for nominations.

Abandoned mine reclamation completed by citizen groups or other non-state/non-Tribal organizations are not eligible for these awards.

Award Categories

OSMRE presents five awards each year. A **National Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the highest scored reclamation project. A **Small Project Award** is presented to the state or Tribe that receives less than \$6 million annually in AML funding and completes a project costing less than \$1 million. The **Appalachian States Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the best project within that region. The **Interior States Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the best project within that region. The **Western States and Tribes Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the best project within that region.

Scoring Nominations

Each nomination is scored by a pool of judges recruited from OSMRE approved state and Tribal AML programs. A nomination has the potential to earn 100-points from each judge. Scores for each nomination are averaged to get the final score for each nomination. If there is a tie in any of the award categories, a pool of OSMRE judges reevaluate and rescore the tied projects. Nominations are evaluated in the following categories:

- Innovative use of Technology.
- Difficulty of achieving reclamation under existing conditions.
- On-site effectiveness.
- Funding.
- Benefits to the community.
- Exceeding the spirit and intent of SMRCA.

Deadline & How to Submit Your Nomination

Submit nominations by 11:59 p.m. ET, on May 10, 2026 to awards@osmre.gov.

Questions?

For more information, email awards@osmre.gov.





Nomination Form

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards

Date Submitted:

Nominator's Contact Information

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Award Category (You may check more than one category.)

Appalachian States Award

Interior States Award

Western States and Tribes

Small Project Award

National Award

Project Information

AML Program:

Project Name:

Project Location:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Project Estimate:

Actual Cost:

Funding Type(s):

Organizations responsible for reclamation:

Project Narrative

Executive Summary: Write a high-level overview of the nominated project that addresses organizations responsible for reclamation, project location, start and completion dates, cost, reclaimed features, and benefits to the community.

Background: Provide a history of the mine, area, and any other pertinent information.

Innovation of Current Technology: Describe new/improved technology used in the project (i.e. LIDAR). (12 points)

Difficulty of Achieving Reclamation Under Existing Conditions: Describe special or unique considerations and on-site difficulty of project. (17 points)

On-site effectiveness: Describe effective or innovative use of technology, how the landscape conforms to the natural environment and elimination of significant health or safety problems. (23 points)

Funding: Describe effective use of funds and leveraging partners for funding or technology. (12 points)

Benefits to the community: Describe project support and long-term benefits to the community. (18 points)

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: Describe how the project exceeded the spirit and intent of SMCRA, increased public awareness of SMCRA, as well as the transferability of reclamation strategies to other AML programs and projects. (18 points)

Videos, Graphics & Photography: Submit links to videos and photography/graphics with captions below. Photographs, images and videos submitted as part of the nomination may be used to highlight the project for other purposes than the awards.

You certify that any photographs, images, or videos (the Works) that you submit with your nomination can be used, published, reproduced and distributed by OSMRE in any of its digital and print materials indefinitely, without any fee or other form of compensation. This use of the Works includes but is not limited to OSMRE's website, instructional materials, reports, social media sites, videos, publications, emails, press releases, etc. The materials you submit can be used in any OSMRE program/publication and are not limited to a single program/publication. You certify that you are the copyright holder or owner of the materials, you are 18 years or older, and you have acquired the necessary permissions from all person(s) depicted in the materials. You further agree that if the above representations concerning copyright ownership are determined to be incorrect or false, resulting in OSMRE or the U.S. Government being sued for copyright infringement, that you shall indemnify OSMRE and/or the U.S. Government for any resulting out-of-pocket expenses arising from defending and/or settling such litigation. If OSMRE uses any of the Work in its products or services, it agrees to provide proper attribution to the copyright holder.

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