



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Nomination Form

Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards

About the Awards

The Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards are presented to coal mining companies that achieve the most exemplary coal mine reclamation in the nation. Past winners have demonstrated a commitment to sound mining practices and effective reclamation plans that enhanced beneficial post-mining use of the land. OSMRE has honored high quality coal mine land reclamation since 1986.

Eligibility

Surface coal mining and reclamation operations conducted under a Title V permit (1978 - present) may be nominated for an award. In addition, non-permitted mining and reclamation completed using government financial reclamation contracts under the Enhanced Abandoned Mine Land regulations is eligible for nomination. Abandoned mine land reclamation projects carried out exclusive of active mining are not included in this program. If integrated with Title V permitted operations, AML projects are eligible for a national award.

Award Categories

OSMRE presents two awards each year. A **National Award** recognizes achievement in a specific aspect of reclamation or for overall performance in meeting goals of SMCRA. The nominated activity must have been performed within the past five years. The **Good Neighbor Award** is given to mine operators for successfully working with the surrounding landowners and the community while completing mining and reclamation. The nominated activity must have been performed within the past three years.

Scoring Nominations

A panel of OSMRE judges evaluates nominations in the following categories:

National Award:

- Difficulty of project and onsite effectiveness.
- Creativity and ingenuity.
- Transferability of the technique or practices used.
- Exceeds the spirit and intent of SCMRA.

Good Neighbor Award:

- Difficulty of project and onsite effectiveness.
- Increased public awareness of SMCRA.
- Long-term benefits to the community.
- Exceeds the spirit and intent of SCMRA.

Site Visit & SMCRA Compliance Check

An OSMRE representative will conduct a site visit to ensure on-the-ground performance conforms with the permit and is exemplary within that state or geographic area, information in the nomination accurately reflects current site conditions, and other mining activities at the site do not detract from award-winning activity. Nominee's surface mining law compliance record is examined to ensure that there are no outstanding violations and to determine that there is no past record of not abating violations.

Deadline & How to Submit Your Nomination

Submit nominations by 11:59 p.m. ET, on May 10, 2026 to your **regulatory authority**.

Questions?

For more information, email awards@osmre.gov.





Nomination Form

Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards

Date Submitted:

Nominator's Contact Information

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

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

National Award

Good Neighbor Award

Project Information

Company Name:

Project Name:

Project Location:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Permit Number:

Names/titles of individuals responsible for reclamation at nominated site:

National Award

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.

Difficulty of Project & On-site Effectiveness : Describe special or unique considerations and on-site difficulty of project. Include documented and quantifiable effective or innovative use of technology, how the landscape conforms to the natural environment and elimination of significant health or safety problems. (40 points)

Transferability of the Technique or Practices Used: Describe the transferability or value of the accomplishment(s) to other mining and reclamation operations. (25 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 programs and projects. (20 points)

Creativity & Ingenuity: Describe effective use of creativity and ingenuity used throughout the project. (15 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.

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Department of the Interior
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Washington DC 20240

awards@osmre.gov

Good Neighbor Award

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.

Difficulty of Project & On-site Effectiveness: Describe special or unique considerations and on-site difficulty of project. Include documented and quantifiable effective or innovative use of technology, how the landscape conforms to the natural environment and elimination of significant health or safety problems. (40 points)

Benefits to the community: Describe project support and long-term benefits to the community. (25 points)

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: Describe how the project exceeded the spirit and intent of SMCRA, as well as the transferability of reclamation strategies to other programs and projects. (20 points)

Increased Awareness of SMCRA: Describe how the project increased public awareness of SMCRA. (15 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.

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