

Eligible Voters

Judges (one ballot accepted from each of the following or their official designee):

AML Manager, Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation
AML Program Manager, New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
AML Program Coordinator, Alaska Division of Mining
AML Program Specialist, OSM Lexington Field Office
Assistant Director Restoration, Indiana Division of Reclamation
Chief, OSM Alton Field Division
Chief, OSM Denver Field Division
Chief, OSM Federal Reclamation Program Division
Chief, OSM Pittsburgh Field Division
Chief, Missouri AML Section Land Reclamation Program
Chief, Montana Abandoned Mine Reclamation Bureau
Chief, West Virginia Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation
Chief, Surface Mining and Reclamation Division, Arkansas
Chief, Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program
Director, Alabama Mining and Reclamation Division
Director, Colorado Office of Active and Inactive Mines
Director, Crow Tribe AML Program
Director, Injection and Mining Division, DNR, Louisiana
Director, Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands
Director, Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Department
Director, North Dakota AML Division
Director, Oklahoma AML Program
Director, Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Director, Texas Surface Mining and Reclamation Division
Environmental Specialist, OSM Pittsburgh Field Division
Environmental Specialist – Senior, Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa
Field Office Director, OSM Tulsa Field Office
Field Office Director, OSM Wyoming Field Office
Field Office Director, OSM Birmingham Field Office
Field Office Director, OSM Casper Field Office
Field Office Director, OSM Charleston Field Office
Field Office Director, OSM Knoxville Field Office
Manager, Hopi Tribe Abandoned Mine Land Program
Manager, Illinois Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Division
Manager, OSM Olympia Office
Mining Section Chief, Kansas Surface Mining Section
Natural Resources Administrator, Ohio Division of Mines and Reclamation
Regional Director, OSM Appalachian Region
Regional Director, OSM Mid-Continent Region
Regional Director, OSM Western Region
Supervisor, Maryland Abandoned Mine Lands Section
Director, Tennessee AML Program
Director, Wyoming AML Program

In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by a team of OSM and State officials.

Organizations Eligible to Submit Nominations

Alabama Mining and Reclamation
Alaska Division of Mining
Arkansas Dept. of Pollution Control and Ecology
Colorado Office of Active and Inactive Mines
Crow Tribe AML Program
Hopi Tribe Abandoned Mine Land Program
Illinois Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Division
Indiana Division of Reclamation
Iowa AML Program
Kansas Surface Mining Section
Kentucky Division of Abandoned Mine Lands
Louisiana Injection and Mining Division
Maryland Abandoned Mine Lands Section
Missouri AML Section Land Reclamation Program
Montana Abandoned Mine Reclamation Bureau
Navajo Nation Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Department
New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division
North Dakota AML Division
Ohio Division of Mines and Reclamation
Oklahoma AML Program
Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Tennessee Abandoned Mine Land Program
Texas Surface Mining and Reclamation Division
Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program
Virginia Division of Mine Land Reclamation
West Virginia Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation
Wyoming AML Program



Nominations Due March 30, 2012

For further information, go to:
www.osmre.gov/topic/awards/Awards.htm

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Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Washington, D.C. 20240

2012

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards



Call for nominations

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement



Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards

History and objectives of the program

The Surface Mining Law was enacted to ensure that land mined for coal would be restored to beneficial use as part of the mining process, and that lands abandoned without reclamation prior to the law would be reclaimed as well.

Today, abandoned mine land reclamation funded under the Surface Mining Law has eliminated thousands of dangerous health, safety, and environmental problems resulting from abandoned mine lands throughout the country.

Abandoned mines can harm the environment and endanger the lives and health of those living in the coal fields. Eliminating these problems through reclamation requires specialized skills, innovative thinking, and dedication.

For the past 20 years, the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has recognized those responsible for the nation's highest achievements in abandoned mine land reclamation.

Begun in 1992, the annual Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards Program publicly recognizes outstanding abandoned mine land reclamation and publicizes exemplary reclamation techniques.

What projects are eligible for an award?

Abandoned Mine Land projects funded wholly or in part and completed by approved state or tribal programs are eligible for an award.

This includes all types of reclamation, including coal, non-coal, high-priority, and emergency projects. Abandoned mine reclamation completed by citizen groups or other non-state/non-tribal organizations are not eligible for these awards. One project may be submitted by each state or tribal program each year.

In 2011, OSM gave five awards: one national award, one national award for small projects (restricted to projects receiving less than \$1 million in a state or tribe that receives less than \$6 million annually in AML funding), and one award in each of OSM's three regions. Any entry is eligible for the national award.



Required Information and Format

A. A text-only cover sheet containing:

1. Name and location of the nominated reclamation project;
2. Name, address, phone numbers and email addresses of those submitting the nomination;
3. Project start and completion dates and construction costs;
4. Names of organizations responsible for the reclamation, including contractors; and
5. Date submitted.

B. A narrative description of the work that resulted in exemplary abandoned mine land reclamation.

The narrative should not exceed six single-spaced pages; it should fully describe the abandoned mine problem, including background and reclamation techniques used. The text should also contain photo captions and references to maps, diagrams, or other graphics.

C. Color photographs (including maps, diagrams, or graphics).

The photos should show both the specific activity and the surrounding conditions. They should provide a clear understanding of the reclamation accomplishments.

D. Format.

Each nomination package must be submitted electronically. Packages will be posted on the web in Adobe Acrobat format; they may be submitted as one file in Acrobat (containing text and photos), or as a Word file containing text and separate files containing photographs (or graphics) in .jpg format. All nominations must include the cover photo in .jpg format in a separate file.

For judging purposes, nominees should submit low-resolution photos (72 dpi). Nominees will be required to submit high-resolution photos (3.2 megapixel .jpg photos) if the project is selected for an award.

Judging Standards

Judging standards for the 2012 awards are as follows:

- 1. Clarity and Completeness of Nomination Package (5 pts.)**
- 2. Difficulty of Achieving Reclamation under Existing Conditions (17 pts.)**
 - a. Special and unique considerations (8)
 - b. On-site difficulty of the project (9)
 - c. Project start and completion dates and construction costs
 - d. Names of organizations responsible for the reclamation, including contractors
 - e. Date submitted
- 3. On-Site Effectiveness (30 pts.)**
 - a. Effective/innovative use of technology (8)
 - b. Landscape conforms to the natural environment (8)
 - c. Elimination of significant health and safety problem (14)
- 4. Funding (12 pts.)**
 - a. Effective use of funds (6)
 - b. Leveraging – use of partners for funding or technology (6)
- 5. Benefits to the Community (18 pts.)**
 - a. Community support for the project (6)
 - b. Long-term benefits to the community (12)
- 6. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (18 pts.)**
 - a. Exceeds the spirit and intent of SMCRA (10)
 - b. Increased public awareness of SMCRA (4)
 - c. Transferability to other AML projects (4)

Nominations Due March 30, 2012

State and tribal Abandoned Mine Land Programs must provide nominations directly to OSM Headquarters in Washington, D.C., by March 30, 2012. Nominations and questions about the awards should be e-mailed to:

pmali@osmre.gov or cjohnson@osmre.gov

