



U.S. Office of Surface Mining

News Release



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Five State Regulatory Agencies, Six Mining Companies Win Reclamation Awards from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

(Washington, D.C.) – They represent the best of American mining and reclamation efforts in the coal mining industry and state and tribal regulatory programs. This fall, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will recognize the accomplishments of several state regulatory agencies and mining companies under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (the Surface Mining Act).

OSM is pleased to announce the winners of the 2010 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards and the 2010 National Awards for Excellence in Surface Mining.

“In considering the nominees for these awards, we take into account their practice of protecting the environment over the long term,” said OSM Director Joe Pizarchik. “OSM believes it is important to recognize a job well done, and these state agencies and companies have demonstrated the importance and benefits of reclamation, as envisioned in the Surface Mining Act.”

The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Awards recognize outstanding abandoned mine land reclamation in the United States and showcase exemplary reclamation techniques. Only projects funded wholly or in part and completed by approved state or tribal regulatory programs are eligible to win. Past award winners have encompassed all types of reclamation, including coal, non-coal, and emergency projects. A panel of judges comprised of directors of state reclamation programs and certain OSM managers, vote to determine the winners.

The five winners of the 2010 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards are:

The Crellin Elementary School Environmental Remediation and Education Project
State of Maryland Department of the Environment, Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Barnes-Watkins Refuse Pile Reclamation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Cranes Nest Gob Pile

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mined Land Reclamation

The 61st Street North SW Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Abandoned Mine Land Program

The Temple Mountain Project

Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program

OSM will profile each agency’s exemplary works in a short video presentation and present each award at a banquet as part of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Association’s annual conference. This year’s [NAAML P conference](#) will be held in Scranton, PA, September 19-22, 2010, with the awards banquet occurring on September 20.

The Excellence in Surface Mining Awards are presented to coal mining companies that achieve the most exemplary mining and reclamation in the country. Typically, winners demonstrate a commitment to using sound mining practices and executing highly effective reclamation plans designed to enhance post-mining beneficial use of the land.

The six 2010 Excellence in Surface Mining Award winners are:

Coal-Mac, Incorporated
Holden, WV

Western Fuels-Wyoming, Inc.
Gillette, Wyoming

Larry D. Baumgardner Coal Company, Inc.
Lanse, Pennsylvania

ICG Beckley, LLC
Eccles, West Virginia

Antelope Coal, LLC
Gillette, Wyoming

Energy West Mining Company
Huntington, Utah

OSM will recognize each company’s achievements in a video presentation, and present the winners with their respective awards at a banquet sponsored by the [National Mining Association](#) on October 18, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

For instant updates on OSM, the AML and Active Mining Awards, follow OSM on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OSMRE or visit the OSM home page at www.osmre.gov.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSM’s objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.