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## Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Announces Winners of 2012 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards and 2012 National Awards for Excellence in Surface Mining

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement today announced the winners of the bureau's two award programs that honor top-quality projects that reclaim surface coal mines.

Part of OSM's Congressionally mandated mission is to ensure that coal mines are reclaimed after mining is complete, including the reclamation of mines abandoned before the enactment of a Federal surface mining law in 1977. As part of that mission, the bureau has for decades recognized deserving state regulatory agencies and coal mining companies with two annual award programs: one for high-quality reclamation projects at mines abandoned prior to when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, (SMCRA), the other for reclamation of mines that began operating after the passage of the law.

**The Abandoned Mine Land 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. A panel of judges composed of directors of state reclamation programs and OSM managers vote to determine the winners.

### **The five winners of the 2012 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards are:**

- **National Winner:** The Dents Run AML/AMD Ecosystem Restoration Project, Benezette Township, Elk County, Pennsylvania
- **Appalachian Region Winner:** Lower Rock Creek Watershed Restoration Project, McCreary County, Kentucky
- **Mid-Continent Region Winner:** I-72 Piers 3 Sag Subsidence Emergency, Sangamon County, Illinois
- **Western Region Winner:** Spring Meadow Lake Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project, Helena, Lewis and Clark County, Montana
- **Small Project Winner:** Maclean 3 Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project, Carbon County, Utah

OSM will present the awards at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs' annual conference in Des Moines, Iowa, September 23-26.

**The Excellence in Surface Coal 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 2012 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Award winners are:**

- **National Award:** Cottage Grove Mine, Peabody Energy, Equality, Illinois
- **National Award:** Dave Johnston Mine, Glenrock Coal Company, Glenrock, Wyoming
- **National Award:** North Antelope Rochelle Mine, Peabody Powder River Mining, LLC, Wright, Wyoming
- **Good Neighbor Award:** Alcoa Sandow Mine, Alcoa, Inc., Rockdale, Texas
- **Good Neighbor Award:** Antelope, Cordero Rojo, and Spring Creek Mines, Cloud Peak Energy Resources LLC, Gillette, Wyoming

OSM will recognize each company's achievements on September 26 as part of the MINExpo conference.

For instant updates on OSM, and more on the bureau's reclamation awards, follow OSM on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/OSMRE](http://www.twitter.com/OSMRE) or visit the OSM home page at [www.osmre.gov](http://www.osmre.gov).

*The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement carries out the requirements of SMCRA 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.*

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