



News Advisory

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

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Extends Deadline for 2012 Active Mine Reclamation Award Nominations to March 30

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has extended the deadline for submitting nominations for its annual award program recognizing the best examples of reclaiming coal mines. Nominations for the Excellence in Surface Mining Reclamation Awards are now due to state regulatory authorities or the OSM field office in non-primacy states by March 30. OSM Field Offices will evaluate and forward the nominations to the OSM Headquarters in Washington, DC, by May 11 for judging.

OSM annually recognizes coal mining operations that showcase high-quality reclamation of active coal mines. Previous winners of the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards have helped develop new reclamation techniques that have shown outstanding on-the-ground results. Operators are eligible to win awards in three categories: Director's, National, or Good Neighbor.

Specific criteria for the awards, nomination brochures, forms, and additional information is available [here](#). In addition, the nomination deadline for OSM's Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Reclamation Awards remains March 30.

For instant updates on OSM, subscribe to the bureau's Twitter feed at www.twitter.com/OSMRE, or visit www.osmre.gov.

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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.