

News Advisory

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
Washington, D.C.



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to Issue the Call for Nominations for the 2010 Excellence In Surface Coal Mining and Abandoned Mine Reclamation Awards.

(Washington, D.C.) The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is seeking the best examples of reclaiming active and abandoned coal mines for its annual awards.

Since 1977, the Office of Surface Mining has recognized *the mining operators* who have most effectively conceived, committed to and executed a comprehensive plan to bring mining sites to productive use. Traditionally, the winners of the [*Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards*](#) have developed new and innovative reclamation techniques or have completed work on reclaiming land that concluded with outstanding on-the-ground results. Operators are eligible to win the Director's, National, or Good Neighbor Awards. Nominations can come from a wide variety of sources, including mine operators themselves. The entry submission deadline for the *Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards* competition is March 15, 2010.

Beginning in 1992, OSM began a similar recognition program to honor *state and tribal government* efforts to reclaim abandoned mine lands. The [*Abandoned Mine Reclamation Awards*](#) are designed to honor those state or tribal programs responsible for achievements in renewing lands that were mined and abandoned before OSM's establishment. All reclamation projects, including coal, non-coal, high-priority and emergency projects are eligible for recognition. The entry submission deadline for the *Abandoned Mine Reclamation Awards* competition is April 2, 2010.

Brochures, entry forms and additional information for both competitions will soon go online at www.osmre.gov.

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