

# News Advisory

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



## **Office of Surface Mining Extends Deadline for 2011 Excellence In Surface Coal Mining and 2011 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards**

(Washington, D.C.) The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) is once again seeking the best examples of reclaiming active coal mines, and state or tribal regulatory abandoned mine reclamation programs, and giving potential entrants more time to provide an award nomination.

Since 1977, OSM has recognized the mining operators who have most effectively conceived and executed a comprehensive plan to reclaim coal mines once mining has been completed. 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 has produced 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 now March 30, 2011. For additional details on the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation awards, please visit the OSM web site at <http://www.osmre.gov/topic/awards/docs/2011NomActive.shtm>.

OSM has also extended the nomination deadline for the 2011 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards by 15 days. The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) reclamation awards recognize the best results in reclaiming mines abandoned before Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). These awards recognize the best AML project nationwide, the best projects in each of OSM's three regions, and the best small-scale AML project. Nominations are now due to OSM Headquarters in Washington, D.C., by April 19, 2011.

For details on the AML awards, please visit the OSM web site at <http://www.osmre.gov/topic/awards/docs/2011NomAML.shtm>.

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