

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards Nomination Form & Instructions

About the Awards

In 1992, OSMRE launched the annual Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards program to recognize outstanding reclamation techniques and projects. The program mirrors the objectives of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to ensure that legacy coal mines are reclaimed and that active mine lands are restored to beneficial use.

Eligibility

AML projects completed by an approved state or Tribal program are eligible for an award, including coal, non-coal, high-priority and emergency projects. One project may be submitted by an approved state or Tribal program and must have been completed within two years of the call for nominations.

Abandoned mine reclamation completed by citizen groups or other non-state/non-Tribal organizations are not eligible for these awards.

Award Categories

OSMRE presents five awards each year. A **National Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the highest scored reclamation project. A **Small Project Award** is presented to the state or Tribe that receives less than \$6 million annually in AML funding and completes a project costing less than \$1 million. The **Appalachian States Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the best project within that region. The **Interior States Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the best project within that region. The **Western States and Tribes Award** is presented to the state or Tribe with the best project within that region.

Scoring Nominations

Each nomination is scored by a pool of judges recruited from OSMRE approved state and Tribal AML programs. A nomination has the potential to earn 100-points from each judge. Scores for each nomination are averaged to get the final score for each nomination. If there is a tie in any of the award categories, a pool of OSMRE judges reevaluate and rescore the tied projects. Nominations are evaluated in the following categories:

- Innovative use of Technology.
- Difficulty of achieving reclamation under existing conditions.
- On-site effectiveness.
- Funding.
- Benefits to the community.
- Exceeding the spirit and intent of SMRCA.

Deadline & How to Submit Your Nomination

Submit nominations by 11:59 p.m. ET, on **June 1, 2025** to awards@osmre.gov.

Questions?

For more information, email awards@osmre.gov.





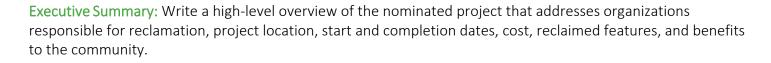


Nomination Form

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards

Date Submitted:		
Nominator's Contact Information		
Name:	Title:	
Phone:	Email:	
Address:		
Award Category (You may check more than one category	ory.)	
Appalachian States Award	Interior States Award	Western States and Tribes
Small Project Award	National Award	
Project Information		
AML Program:		
Project Name:		
Project Location:		
Project Start Date:	Project End Date:	
Project Estimate:	Actual Cost:	
Funding Type(s):		
Organizations responsible for reclamation:		

Project Narrative



Background: Provide a history of the mine, area, and any other pertinent information.

Innovation of Current Technology: Describe new/improved technology used in the project (i.e. LIDAR). (12 point	s)

Difficulty of Achieving Reclamation Under Existing Conditions: Describe special or unique considerations and on-site difficulty of project. (17 points)

On-site effectiveness: Describe effective or innovative use of technology, how the landscape conforms to the natural environment and elimination of significant health or safety problems. (23 points)

Funding: Describe effective use of funds and leveraging partners for funding or technology. (12 points)

Benefits to the community: Describe project support and long-term benefits to the community. (18 points)

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act: Describe how the project exceeded the spirit and intent of SMCRA, increased public awareness of SMCRA, as well as the transferability of reclamation strategies to other AML programs and projects. (18 points)

