

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Albert C.S. Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



June 2, 2025

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to announce that the Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) is accepting nominations for the **2025 Excellence in Reclamation Awards. Nominations are due to MMD by 4:00 PM Wednesday, July 16, 2025.** The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department will present the awards during the annual New Mexico Mining Association Convention, to be held this year at Drury Plaza Hotel and Santa Fe Country Club in Santa Fe from September 7-9, 2025.

View past awardees on MMD's website at: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/mmd/excellence-in-reclamation-award/>.

Examples of appropriate nomination topics include, but are not limited to:

1. Advancing reclamation science through studies at the mine site, using the scientific method.
2. Applying state-of-the-art, innovative reclamation techniques which mitigate mining-related impacts to people and/or the environment (surface water, ground water, livestock, wildlife habitat, plants, soils, or cultural resources).
3. Developing state-of-the art, innovative post-mine land use applications to reclaimed portions of the mine site.
4. Voluntary reclamation of a mine by an operator that is not required by any regulatory program.
5. Increasing public awareness of mining issues through open public processes (e.g., stakeholder meetings, voluntary public meetings, publications, etc.).

Please tell us why the nominee or you deserve this award.

Selection Criteria:

1. **Eligible** nominees include any entity involved in the reclamation of a mine site or portion of a mine site in New Mexico, or other deserving efforts or initiatives.
2. **Non-eligible** nominees include those currently in violation of any state or federal environmental laws.
3. Nominations can be for a site that is either an active or inactive mining operation in the state, regardless of whether they are under MMD's jurisdiction.
4. Nominations can include reclamation or safeguarding on abandoned mine land.

5. Nominations for awards may be made by any interested person, group, or company including: consulting groups, environmental groups, the owner or operator of the mine, government agencies, or the contractor performing the reclamation.

Each nomination should include the following:

6. The party making the nomination (include address and phone number).
7. The party responsible for the reclamation, safeguarding or permitting process innovation (include address and phone number).
8. Location of the site (must be in New Mexico).
9. Nominations should characterize the degree of effort and level of innovation related to the reclamation or safeguarding project and why it is worthy of recognition.
10. Electronic images or photographs of reclamation/safeguarding also should be provided and may be used in a presentation on the day of the awards.

Nominations are due to MMD by 4:00 PM Wednesday, July 16, 2025.

Please send your nominations to:

Stephanie Rodriguez
EMNRD – Mining and Minerals Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe NM 87505

Electronic submissions may be sent to stephanie.rodriquez@emnrd.nm.gov. If you have any questions do not hesitate to email Stephanie or call (505) 660-4777. All nominations will be evaluated by MMD staff.

Sincerely,



Albert C.S. Chang, Director
Mining and Minerals Division