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Illinois Department of
Natural Resources

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Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

MEMORANDUM

To: All Coal and Aggregate Producers

From: Scott Fowler, Supervisor
Land Reclamation Division

Michael L. Woods, Manager
Office of Mines and Minerals

Date: April 19, 2011

Subject: Reclamation Award Program

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation and Mine Safety and Training Divisions have established an annual Land Reclamation Award Program. This is the twentieth-fifth year for the program.

The purpose of the program is to recognize outstanding and exemplary achievements in reclamation and is intended to promote high quality reclamation.

The award application can be found on the Office of Mines and Minerals' web page at www.dnr.state.il.us/mines/lrd/forms/lrdaward.pdf, or hard copy can be received by contacting Don Pflederer of the Land Reclamation Division at (217)782-4970 or Mike Falter of the Mine Safety and Training Division at (217)782-9976. We hope the award program creates an atmosphere which increases the exchange of information and technologies and increases public awareness of achievements made by your industry in reclamation and protection of the environment.

The Illinois award winner will also be nominated for two national reclamation awards, the National Association of State Land Reclamationists Reclamation Award and the Interstate Mining Compact Kenes C. Bowling National Mine Reclamation Award. The coal winner will also be nominated for the national OSM award.

We invite your company to participate in the program. Please submit two complete packages of your application. Our field representatives are prepared to assist you in this effort. The deadline for submittal of the application is October 1, 2011. The aggregate winner should be prepared to submit five additional copies of the application package and the coal winner, eight more copies to be submitted to the other contests mentioned above.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF MINES & MINERALS

RECLAMATION AWARD APPLICATION

_____
Company Name

_____
Name of Mine

_____
Location (County)

_____
City, State

1. Nomination for ( ) Coal or ( ) Non-coal minerals.

2. General description of the mining operation, (i.e. acreage, type of mining, mineral being mined, depth, etc.).

3. Describe the reclamation work done and site specific techniques or technologies employed (including specific problems, solutions and unusual circumstances) [attach photograph(s)].

4. Describe the basis and highlights of the exemplary performance (including on-site effectiveness of the work, the transferability or value of the accomplishments to other mining and reclamation operations and the long-term benefits to the landowner and local/regional community).

5. Provide the name, address, and telephone number and fax number for a contact person at the nominated mine or company who is familiar with the nomination.

MINED LAND RECLAMATION AWARD
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals (OMM) has established an annual Mined Land Reclamation Award Program to recognize outstanding achievements in reclamation in Illinois.

The Mined Land Reclamation Award Program is intended to identify and recognize companies and individuals who maintain compliance with regulatory requirements and apply innovative techniques to reclaim land following mining activities. Through this award we are commending companies that have taken extra efforts implementing techniques which protect the public and the environment from any adverse effects of mining, while at the same time providing access to minerals that are vital to our state's economy and society.

The winner of Illinois' Mined Land Reclamation Award will be nominated by Illinois to compete in the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC), and National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) Reclamation Award programs. The coal winner will also be nominated for the national OSM award.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Criteria to be considered in judging for the Illinois Mined Land Reclamation Award include:

Compliance: Although the OMM provides standard guidelines, and permitting requirements, the ways and means in which compliance is achieved by companies can vary greatly. Thus, the degree, effort and innovation for compliance can result in financial savings to the company. The nominated site will be evaluated on how the operator's effort has exceeded the spirit and intent of the law.

Contemporaneous: Regulatory guidelines require mining and reclamation activities both occur contemporaneously. The techniques, time limits and distance limitation employed can result in substantial reclamation cost savings. The difficulty in achieving reclamation under the existing conditions will also be considered.

Drainage: Design, maintenance, and technologies employed can result in effective and efficient water quality treatment resulting in environmental benefit and cost savings for the operator.

Post -Mining Land Use: Preplanning for the desired post-mining land use including vegetation, planting evaluation procedures, reporting methods can all result in effective timely release of bond monies. This criterion will consider the success of vegetation and erosion control and the degree to which the post-mining land use has been established. Innovative land use planning and site stability will be considered.

Innovative Practices: Creative development and application of new technologies or techniques can result in resolution of reclamation problems, consequently resulting in substantial reclamation cost savings and environmental benefits. This criterion will also examine the presence of any long-term benefits to the surrounding community and the increased awareness of the law.

Effectiveness of Reclamation Techniques: An evaluation will be made of the positive results of overall reclamation at a site or for a particular reclamation technique or practice.

Cost Effectiveness: Reduction in reclamation costs benefits both the industry and society.

Transferability of Technology: Reclamation techniques which can be performed at other sites will provide benefit to the industry and the environment.

Land Use/Capability: An assessment will be made as to the operator's positive impact upon long-term land use and capability.

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

To participate in the awards program two copies of your application must be submitted to the OMM by October 1. The application shall be in the form of a narrative naming the candidate, describing the specific job and techniques employed, summarizing the basis and highlights of the exemplary performance, and should include four (4) 8" x 10" photographs and a map (indicate scale) of the site. The narrative must not exceed five (5) typed, single spaced pages. If possible, at least one photograph should indicate the date when taken and should be coordinated with the map or aerial photograph of the site and the information in the nomination package. Support documentation may include pertinent facts about the site which shows that it stands apart from other similar projects in an extraordinary way.

The OMM will evaluate all nominations received and select one to receive Illinois' Mined Land Reclamation Award in the coal category and one in the non-coal category.

The recipient will be nominated by the OMM to represent Illinois in the IMCC and NASLR awards. Additionally, the recipient in the coal category will be nominated for the national OSM award. The winner, therefore, should be prepared to submit an additional five (5) copies of the application package and the coal winner, eight (8).