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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS

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PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES

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LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION
MEMORANDUM NO. 95-4

TO: All Coal Mine Operators

DATE: March 2, 1995

FROM: Scott Schmitz, Supervisor SS
Land Reclamation Division

RE: Land Reclamation Award Program

The Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division invites you to participate in the ninth annual Mined Land Reclamation Award Program.

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

The award application describes the details of the Mined Land Reclamation Award Program. A copy of the application is enclosed. 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.

Should the Illinois award winner choose, they will be nominated for three (3) national reclamation awards - the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Excellence in Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Award, the Interstate Mining Compact Kenes C. Bowling National Mine Reclamation Award and the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) Reclamation Award. Illinois has been well represented in the past and we look forward to receiving more winning submittals.

The deadline for submitting the application is June 1, 1995. Our field representatives are prepared to assist you in this effort as well and Linda Hiltabrand or myself.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND MINERALS
LAND RECLAMATION DIVISION

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 operations (i.e., acreage, type of mining, mineral being mined, depth, etc.).

3. Describe the reclamation work done and site specific techniques or technologies employed, (attach photographs).

4. Describe the basis and highlights of the exemplary performance.

5. Provide the name, address and telephone 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 Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division 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 in 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 submitted for the Office of Surface Mining's Excellence in Surface Mining Award.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

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

Compliance: Although the Land Reclamation Division 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 application will be evaluated on the degree to which the operation has accomplished the spirit and intent of the law and regulations.

Contemporaneous: Regulatory guidelines require mining and reclamation activities both occur contemporaneously. The techniques, time limits and distance limitations employed can result in substantial reclamation cost savings.

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

Bond Release: Preplanning for the desired post-mining land use including: vegetation, planting evaluation procedures, reporting methods can all result in effective time release of bond monies.

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.

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 benefit both the industry and society.

Transferability of Techniques: 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 your application must be submitted to the Land Reclamation Division by June 1st. 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 be an aerial or overview of as much of the site as possible. All photographs 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 Land Reclamation Division will evaluate all nominations received and select one to receive Illinois' Mining Land Reclamation Award in the coal category and one in the non coal category.

The recipient will be nominated by the Land Reclamation Division to represent Illinois in the IMCC, NASLR and Excellence in Surface Mining Reclamation Award Programs. The winner, therefore, should be prepared to submit an additional six (6) copies of the application package.