

2004 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program

Sponsored by the United States Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management

The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's principal conservation agency. Its mission is to protect America's treasures for future generations, provide access to our nation's natural and cultural heritage, offer recreation opportunities, honor our trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives and our responsibilities to island communities, conduct scientific research, provide wise stewardship of energy and mineral resources, foster sound use of land and water resources, and conserve and protect fish and wildlife. DOI manages 507 million acres of surface land, or about one-fifth of the land in the United States, including 95 million acres managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, 84 million acres managed by the National Park Service and 262 million acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Much of this land is managed for resource protection, such as at Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, two of the nation's crown jewels, but other lands are managed for multiple use benefits including mineral development.

The DOI created the Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program to showcase some of the finest examples of responsible mineral resource development. The 2004 award winners will illustrate our understanding of sustainable development - development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Secretary's four C's initiative: Consultation, Cooperation and Communication—all in the service of Conservation—is also integral to the nomination and approval of these awards. The Secretary's recognition of outstanding examples of the application of the four C's and sustainable development benefits public land and furthers our mission because it encourages others to adopt these successful ideas and practices.

The Department of the Interior through the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) has presented reclamation awards to coal operators for the past seventeen years. In 2003, the Department requested that the BLM institute its own annual award program and that the program be open to non-coal solid mineral operations nationally without regard to land ownership. The BLM's awards program includes two categories of awards, *The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award* and *The Hardrock Mineral Award for Community Outreach and Economic Security*. The purpose of both awards is to recognize work in any of the three components of sustainable development: environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security. Coal mining operators will not be eligible for recognition through this program, but are encouraged to participate in the reclamation award program managed by the OSM.

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award:

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award highlights the component of sustainable development that relates to environmental stewardship. This award recognizes achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed Federal, State or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight.

Outstanding efforts to work with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area would qualify candidates for this award. In addition to high quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, reducing the need for reclamation. When evaluating nominations in this category, the judges will consider the extent to which the operator consulted and cooperated with other stakeholders to determine the goals of reclamation and post mining land use when evaluating nominations in this category. Recognition with this award may be granted to organizations that provide outstanding examples of any of the following:

- Adopting best practices to minimize environmental degradation and adapting them to local conditions as necessary.
- Preventing pollution and minimizing noise and dust during operations.
- Handling hazardous materials safely.
- Reclaiming the land to prevent erosion and planting native species targeting the same plant communities as existed prior to mining.
- Being a leader in developing, establishing and implementing good environmental practices.

The Hardrock Mineral Award For **Community Outreach and Economic Security**:

The Hardrock Mineral Award For Community Outreach and Economic Security highlights the component of sustainable development that relates to concern shown for community responsibilities and the economic benefits of mineral development. This award recognizes the successful coordination of projects with local and regional stakeholders. Projects that contribute to the quality of life or demonstrate concern for the long-term health of the local community can be recognized in this category. Additionally, this award is also appropriate to recognize operators whose use of new or innovative techniques allow them to successfully operate in technically challenging conditions or in critical environmental settings. When evaluating nominations in this category, the judges will also consider any particularly creative ways operators incorporated community concerns in their development or closure plans. Particularly notable examples of the following kinds of activities could qualify a nominee for an award:

- Engaging local communities and other affected organizations in an open, honest and effective process of consultation for the entire project life.
- Promoting health and safety both on and off the project site.
- Investing in programs that improve the skills and productivity of the workforce.

- Developing strategies for sustaining the local economy after mine closure.
- Being a progressive and constructive partner in advancing the economic, educational and social infrastructure of the community.

Who is eligible for an award?

Operators in the solid mineral industries (non-coal) can be nominated for either *The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award* or *The Hardrock Mineral Award for Community Outreach and Economic Security*. Solid mineral development includes mining for a wide variety of commodities including precious metals, base metals, industrial minerals, and construction materials. Operators who are nominated must clearly demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Please note that nominations need not be limited to operations on land managed by the BLM even though BLM is providing administrative support for this award to the DOI.

How do I nominate an operator or organization for an award?

Nominations are the beginning of the selection process. Mining companies, regulatory authorities, nearby landowners and members of the general public may nominate operations for these awards. Company officials and employees may nominate their own operations for recognition.

Nominations must contain all of the information listed in the “Required Information” section of this announcement and indicate the award category for the nomination. Nominations should be sent to the BLM State Office (Attention: Solid Minerals) with jurisdiction for public lands in the State where the operation is located. Nominations are to be received by the BLM State Office by **March 1, 2004**. The addresses for these State Offices and areas of their jurisdiction are shown in the following table.

BLM State Office and Mailing Address	Area of Jurisdiction
Alaska State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 222 West 7th Avenue, # 13 Anchorage, AK 99513-7599 907-271 –5960	Alaska
Arizona State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 222 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004-2203 602-417-9200	Arizona

<p>California State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 2800 Cottage Way, W1834 Sacramento, CA 95825 916-978-4400</p>	<p>California</p>
<p>Colorado State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 2850 Youngfield Street Lakewood, CO 80215-7093 303-239-3600</p>	<p>Colorado</p>
<p>Eastern States State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 7450 Boston Boulevard Springfield, VA 22153 703-440-1600</p>	<p>Subsurface Federal Lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin</p>
<p>Idaho State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 1387 South Vinnell Way Boise, ID 83709-1657 208-373-3889</p>	<p>Idaho</p>
<p>Montana State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 5001 Southgate Drive Billings, MT 59101 406-896-5004</p>	<p>Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota</p>

<p>Nevada State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 1340 Financial Boulevard Reno, NV 89502 (PO Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006) 775-861-6400</p>	<p>Nevada</p>
<p>New Mexico State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 1474 Rodeo Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505-0115 505-438-7400</p>	<p>Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas</p>
<p>Oregon State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 333 SW 1st Avenue PO. Box 2965 Portland, OR 97208-2965 503-808-6001</p>	<p>Oregon and Washington</p>
<p>Utah State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 324 South State Street P.O. Box 45155 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155 801-539-4001</p>	<p>Utah</p>
<p>Wyoming State Office Bureau of Land Management Public Room 5353 Yellowstone Road PO. Box 1828 Cheyenne, WY 82003 307-775 -6256</p>	<p>Wyoming And Nebraska</p>

Required Information

Each nomination should include the following:

Cover sheet containing:

- Company, organization or person's name making nomination
- Name and location of the nominated operation
- Award category
- Name, address, phone number and email address (if available) of a contact person in the company or organization and of the person submitting the nomination, if different.

Narrative Description including:

- Brief history and background of the mining practice, reclamation or community activity nominated for the award
- Description of the specific activity or practice, including specifics on problems, solutions, benefits and unusual circumstances
- Effectiveness of the work, quantified where possible
- Transferability of the work or value of the accomplishments to other mining or mineral management operations
- Long term benefits to the land owner, neighboring properties and the community
- Statement summarizing why the award is deserved

Photographs:

Photographs should be included if they help to document the success of the nominated activity. Not all nominated activities can be photographed, but pictures should be included when available. Photographs should be 8" by 10" or smaller and include a description explaining what is illustrated and a date.

Format:

Please submit five copies of the nomination on 8½" by 11" paper. A copy of the nomination will be provided to each judge. Please limit your nomination to 6 pages of text. There is no limit on the number of photographs you can include.

Supporting documentation, such as letters of recognition from regulators or community officials, is not required but may be submitted with the nomination.

Selection of Award Winners

Each BLM State Office will review the nominations submitted to that office, verify the information contained in the nomination and that the operation or program complies with applicable regulations. All nominations will be accompanied by a Statement of Findings, prepared by the BLM State Office, and will be forwarded to the BLM Headquarters Office for referral to a panel of judges.

The panel of judges will consist of mining experts and may be State or Federal employees, employees of academic institutions or members of the public. Each judge will rate each application based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points
Clarity and thoroughness of the nomination	10
Effectiveness of the project or program	25
Transferability of the technique, practice or program	20
Difficulty presented by the problem addressed by the project or program	20
Extent to which the project or program exceeds regulatory requirements or public expectations	25

The judges' scores are then tallied and the finalists are selected. The judges will be encouraged to use their personal experience to guide them when evaluating the unique aspects of each application. There may be situations where the categories above do not adequately capture all of these unique characteristics. The judges may modify the categories by consensus if there is a need to do so. The award winners will then be selected from the list of finalists. The judges determine the number of finalists that are selected. There is no minimum or maximum number of awards that may be granted in any one year. There may not be a winner in both categories in each year.

Important Dates

Nominations for the 2004 awards program are due to BLM State Offices by March 1, 2004. BLM State Offices will complete their review and forward nominations to BLM headquarters by March 30, 2004. It is anticipated that the results of the judging will be announced in late July. The awards will be presented on September 27, 2004, in Las Vegas, Nevada, in conjunction with the National Mining Association's MINExpo International 2004.