



DIVISIONS

ENERGY
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GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2015

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Virginia Coal Mining Site Wins National Reclamation Award

~VA Dept. of Mines Minerals and Energy Hosts Annual National Association of State Land Reclamationists Conference~

Wise, VA- Paramont Coal Company Virginia's Hawks Nest Surface Mine received the Coal Reclamation Award from the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) conference. The winner was announced at the annual NASLR conference in Wise, Virginia on September 15, 2015. The conference was hosted by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy this year.

Located in Buchanan County, Hawks Nest was chosen due to the variety of reclamation projects on site and for the work done by Paramont to remove any hazards left behind by coal mining before environmental regulations were in place.

Deputy Director of DMME, Butch Lambert, said he was not surprised when NASLR announced Hawks Nest the winner. "Protecting the environment is DMME's business and operators like Paramont are testaments to successful environmental regulations in Virginia. We especially like to see reclamation that saves tax payers' dollars and improves tourism in the region."

Paramont reclaimed land to serve as roadbed for the future Coalfields Expressway through a public/private partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation. The formerly mined land is also equipped with gas wells and pipelines for residential and industrial development. And, reforestation efforts have attracted newly released elk to roam on the permit—a site that will be ideal for tourists looking to view the animals. In addition, the company also restored over 4,500 feet of streams through re-mining.

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“It is truly an honor to receive this award from those professionals tasked with assuring that high standards are achieved nationwide,” said Eddie Bateman, Senior Vice President of Mining Operations for Alpha Natural Resources. “This is an excellent example of the creativity, attention to detail and hard work of the employees at Paramount. That, coupled with the diligence by the state agency, DMME, has resulted in a very beneficial post-mining land use that will benefit the community in the years to come.”

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission recognized Paramount with an honorable mention award for the Hawks Nest permit. DMME also nominated Hawks Nest for a national award from the federal Office of Surface Mining.

The awards presentation was part of the three day conference based at the Inn at Wise in Wise, Virginia. Reclamationists from across the United States traveled to Virginia to see best practices at work. The conference included presentations and field trips on best environmental practices, stream protection, technology in coal and mineral reclamation and evening visits to local attractions.

Other recognized by NASLR at the event included:

Scholarship Winner: Kara Dallaire, West Virginia University

Non-Coal Reclamation Award: Suffern Quarry, Tilcon, New York, Inc., Nyack, NY

As a nationally recognized authority on the reclamation of mined lands, the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) advocates the use of research, innovative technology and professional discourse to foster the restoration of land and water affected by coal and mineral mining activities.

DMME’s Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR) promotes environmentally sound coal mining through regulating surface effects of coal mining, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, issuing permits, performing inspections, assisting small operators and responding to citizen concerns. For more information on DMLR visit: <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DMLR/DmlrLandingPage.shtml>

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