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Mining and Minerals Division Presents 2014 Excellence in Reclamation Awards

Awards Presented at the 2014 New Mexico Mining Association Convention

Santa Fe, N.M. --The Mining and Minerals Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD-MMD) presented the 2014 Excellence in Reclamation Award to two companies performing abandoned mine safeguarding and reclamation work in the state. The awards were presented at the New Mexico Mining Association's 75th Annual Convention and Trade Show held in Santa Fe, N.M.

"The awards this year recognize creativity and craftsmanship in safeguarding abandoned mine openings, and the use of geomorphic reclamation methods contemporaneously with mining operations," stated EMNRD Secretary David Martin.

Durán Bokich Enterprises, LLC of Elephant Butte, New Mexico, was honored for its creativity in meeting access challenges and for displaying a high level of craftsmanship in safeguarding abandoned hard rock mines in Luna County in the Little Florida Mountains at the Bradley Group Mine Safeguard Project – Phase I. The project included constructing 21 different features at multiple abandoned mine openings, many incorporating designs that still allow bat and small animal access and one that includes a perch for barn owls that reside inside. Due to the lack of access at one feature that was too big to safeguard by conventional means, materials to build a steel picket fence to completely encircle the feature had to be hand-carried to the site after being conveyed part of the way by a pulley system built across the drainage.

Peabody Natural Resources Company of Grants, New Mexico, was recognized for excellence in achieving stable and productive post mine landscapes, contemporaneously with on-going surface coal mining operations, using geomorphic reclamation methods at the El Segundo Coal Mine in McKinley County. At the beginning of 2013, Peabody began implementing a geomorphic approach to reclamation at the mine site. An overall post mining topography was designed and checked to ensure the volume of cut and fill material was balanced and the overall drainage configuration of the post mining surface would be adequate. The final post mining topography design was then divided into smaller watersheds for geomorphic reclamation design. The end result was overall stable landforms with defined drainage and improvement over previous reclamation efforts. First year re-vegetation on the watersheds has been impressive.



Secretary Martin with Sylvia, Conrad and John Bokich of Durán Bokich Enterprises, LLC



Secretary Martin with Emily Worthen and Ross Hall of Peabody Natural Resources Company

Instituted in 1996, the Excellence in Reclamation Award recognizes excellence and innovation in coal, hard rock and aggregate mine reclamation and abandoned mine land projects, and for raising public awareness of mining issues through outreach projects conducted around the state. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department presents the awards at the annual New Mexico Mining Association Convention.

Copies of the award presentation and information on award winners can be found on the Mining and Minerals Division website at:

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/mmd/ExcellenceReclamation.html>.

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