

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Mining and Minerals Division Presents 2013 Excellence in Reclamation Awards

Awards presented at the 2013 New Mexico Mining Association Convention

Albuquerque, N.M. --The Mining and Minerals Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) presented the 2013 Excellence in Reclamation Award to two companies performing reclamation work and educational outreach on projects in the state. The awards were presented recently at the New Mexico Mining Association Annual Convention held in Albuquerque, N.M.

"The awards recognize advances in reclamation science for applying innovative reclamation techniques and geomorphic landform designs; and for educational outreach projects teaching New Mexicans about the importance of balancing the use of the Earth's resources with responsible environmental stewardship," stated EMNRD Secretary David Martin.

Ames Construction, Inc. of Scottsdale, AZ, was honored for exceptional skill in equipment operation and excellent reclamation of the La Plata Transportation Corridor. The La Plata Transportation Corridor is a 22-mile long road where coal was hauled to be burned at the San Juan Generating Station from 1986 to 2003. When the transportation corridor reclamation began in 2009, San Juan Coal Company had just received a National Reclamation Award for the geomorphic reclamation completed at La Plata Mine. Ames personnel toured La Plata Mine to help produce comparable work along the transportation corridor.



Secretary Martin with Curtis Bilow (l) and Jerry Miller (r) from Ames Construction, Inc.

River Source Inc. of Santa Fe, N.M., was recognized for using innovative educational and outreach techniques to instill the importance of environmental stewardship in rural communities of the Raton Coal Basin. River Source Inc. provided stellar education and outreach services to communities affected by the decommissioned Swastika Coal Mine which lies on the Vermejo Park Ranch in northern New Mexico. River Source Inc. traveled to area schools to teach about the dangers of entering abandoned mines. Additionally, the students learned the importance of wetland habitats, the ecological role they play, and the Abandoned Mine Land Program's plans to reclaim the valley using geomorphic techniques. River Source gained crucial community support for this project.



River Source Inc. representatives Carlos Herrera (l) and Richard Schrader (r) receiving the 2013 Excellence In Reclamation Award from Secretary Martin

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 growing 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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