

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

John Bemis
Cabinet Secretary

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Fernando Martinez, Director
Mining and Minerals Division



**Federal Director of Surface Mining Presents National Award
To New Mexico Mining Division Employee During Visit to Santa Fe**

*Director Joseph Pizarchik Presents Inspector David Clark
With ECHO AWARD at Governor Martinez's Office*

Santa Fe – New Mexico Mining and Minerals Coal Mine Program Manager David Clark was presented with the inaugural ECHO award by U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement Director Joseph Pizarchik this afternoon during a special presentation in the Governor's office.

"I'm overwhelmed by this award," said Clark. "To have the federal director fly in from Washington, D.C. to present this award in front of Governor Martinez in her office is a real honor. While I graciously accept this award, it is really a reflection of the strong mining programs we have in place here in New Mexico."



New Mexico Mining & Minerals Director Fernando Martinez, Governor Susana Martinez, ECHO Award Recipient David Clark & U.S. Office of Surface Mining Director Joseph Pizarchik at Tuesday afternoon's presentation in the Governor's Office.

"The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) has never honored a single individual for their work," Director Pizarchik said. "For that reason we decided that our 35th anniversary is the time to remember the power of a single person defending the environment and the people where coal mining occurs. With his extensive background in mine reclamation, David Clark was an easy choice for this ECHO award."

The ECHO Award recognizes an outstanding person who has been a model government employee defending principles of reclamation that impact **E**nvironment, **C**ommunity, **H**umanity and **O**wnership (ECHO). In presenting the award, Director Pizarchik called David Clark a dedicated public servant who has worked in coal mine

regulation for over 20 years. He has contributed to two state regulatory programs, writing permits and rules, and in inspection and enforcement.

“David Clark is an example for all state employees,” said Governor Susana Martinez. “New Mexico is proud of David’s work, which is a model for mine reclamation across the country. On behalf of New Mexicans, I congratulate David on this award and thank him for his work.”

Clark has led the development of a reclamation technique, known as Geomorphic Reclamation, where mined land is restored to look and function the way it did before mining. Not only does it restore the landscape, it also reduces pollution. It also allows natural drainage patterns to occur to create functional watershed systems.

With Clark’s oversight, several New Mexico mines have won state and national awards using the technique. Today, using revegetation guidelines and bond release guidelines he developed, he has worked with operators to achieve some of the highest levels of bond release in the West. As an ecologist, he is considered a regional expert in the establishment and restoration of diverse, native plant communities on reclaimed lands.

Clark was initially honored with the award during a ceremony last summer at the South Interior Building in downtown Washington, D.C. Attendees of that ceremony included U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Deputy Secretary David Hayes, along with OSM Director Pizarchik. Because of the prestige of the award, Director Pizarchik decided to travel to New Mexico to deliver it in person to Clark today.

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