



NASLR
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

Spring 2016

<http://www.naslr.org>

44th Annual NASLR Conference

September 25-28, 2016



In conjunction with the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) at the **GranTree Inn in Bozeman, Montana**

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44th Annual NASLR Conference

“The State of Montana is incredibly excited and honored to host the 2016 joint conference between the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) and the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR). The conference will be held in Bozeman from September 25-28 with an optional preconference tour held September 23-25. This conference is an excellent training opportunity as well as a fantastic opportunity for networking and outreach among reclamation professionals.” Edward L. Coleman, Bureau Chief of Montana’s Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality

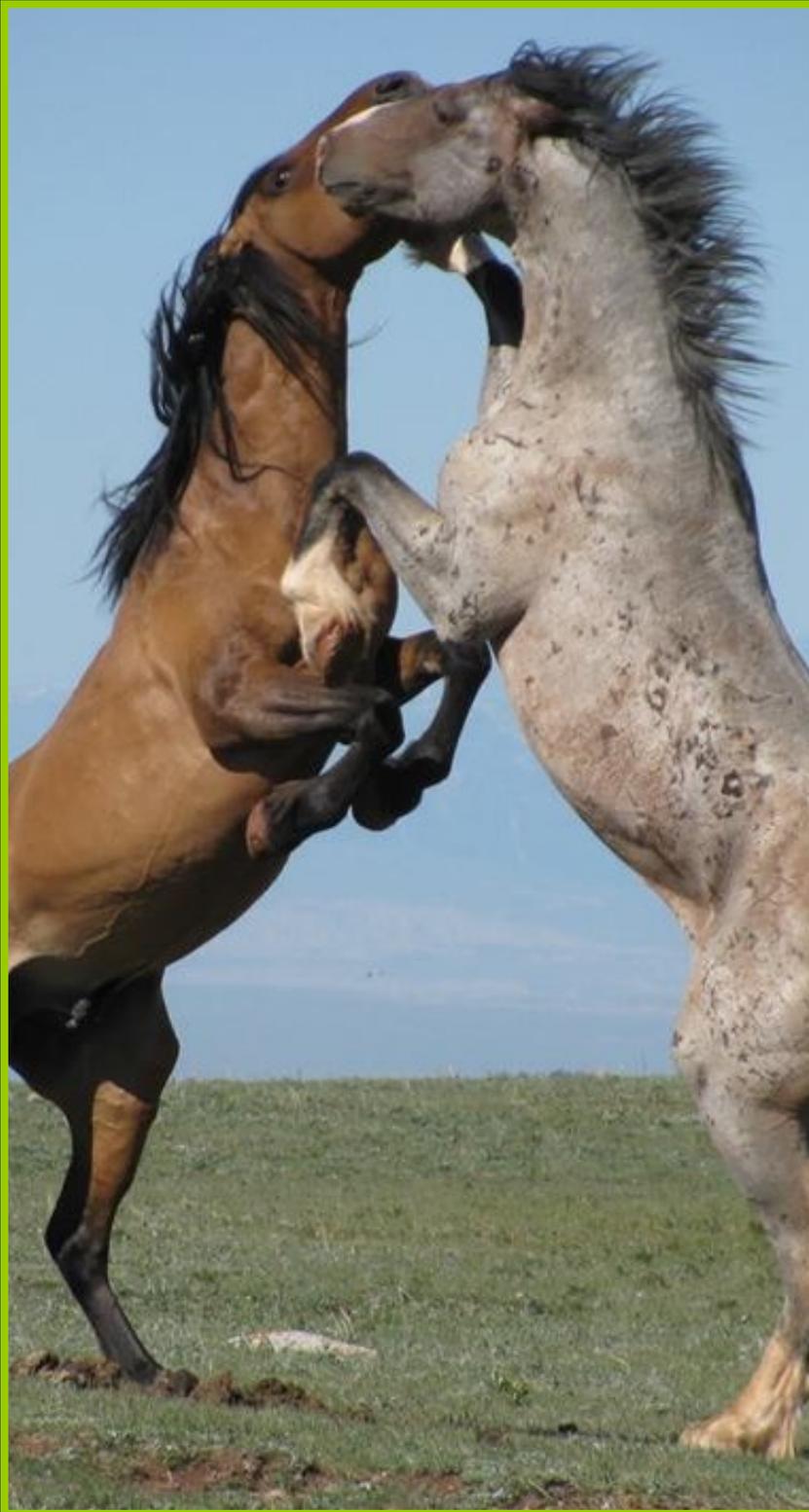


Awards

July 1st is the deadline to nominate companies and individuals in your state for the NASLR Mined Land Reclamation Award, the NASLR Outreach Award, and the Dean Spindler Reclamationist of the Year Award. More information is available on our website. <http://naslr.org/awards/>

Scholarships

NASLR is seeking applicants for the 2016 educational grant. Applications must be received no later than July 1st. The grant application can be downloaded from our website. <http://naslr.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NASLR-Scholarship-application.pdf>



Call for Papers

We are looking for speakers to present on any topic related to mining and reclamation for the NASLR Session. While NASLR is listed for three talks in one session, we are looking to help with providing speakers in other sessions as well. To submit a paper, please email your abstract to NAAML2016@mt.gov no later than May 2, 2016.

Additional information on how to submit your abstract is available on their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/MTDEQ/photos/pcb.1017582518300636/1736806893218341/?type=3&theater>

Please indicate that you are a NASLR member when submitting your abstract.

Sponsors and Exhibitors

Corporate sponsorships and exhibit sites are available for \$750.00 per exhibit and includes one individual conference registration fee. All sponsorship and exhibitor funding will be handled through NAAML2016 this year. There are only two vendor booths left, For more information, please contact Bill Snoddy at 406-444-6458 or via email at NAAML2016@mt.gov . Checks for exhibitors and sponsors should be payable to “NAAML2016” and addressed to “NAAML2016, c/o Autumn Coleman, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901.”

NASLR has reserved rooms at four area hotels and we strongly suggest you make your reservations as early as possible to ensure you get the accommodations you need for the conference.

The GranTree Inn is almost booked so if you want a room at the conference hotel don't delay. The Holiday Inn next door is offering the same great low rates. The overflow hotels are located immediately adjacent to the GranTree. Make sure to mention the code NAAML P when reserving your room. Each of the hotels offers a free shuttle service from the Bozeman airport to their facility.



Best Western GranTree Inn

1325 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-5261-Ask for Kayla

Holiday Inn Bozeman

5 East Baxter Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-4561



**NAAML P 2016 Explore
Wyoming Pre-Conference
Tours:**

*Hosted by Wyoming Abandoned Mine
Lands Program*



September 23, 2016—Bozeman to Pryor Mountain Wild Mustang Center, Big Horn Mountain Medicine Wheel and Heart Mountain Interpretive Center WWII Japanese Internment Camp. Stay in Cody, WY at the Cody Cowboy Village

September 24, 2016— Buffalo Bill Center of the American West Tour, Yellowstone National Park Tour and Stay at Lake Village Cabins in Yellowstone National Park

September 25, 2016 - Yellowstone National Park Tour and Return to Bozeman, MT
Tour Fee – estimate \$250 (covers transportation, YNP/Buffalo Bill/Heart Mtn. entrance fees, two lunches and Friday's dinner)

Questions: contact Don Newton at
mailto:don.newton@wyo.gov or 307.335.6965

Detailed Agenda for the 2016 Annual Meeting:

<http://naamlp2016.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2016-NAAML P-Conference-Agenda-January-1.pdf>



“Share the Wealth”

By Sam Faith

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Wealth.

According to Marcus Aurelius, “The only wealth which you will keep forever is the wealth you have given away.” And that’s what I am asking each of us to do today... Give our wealth away.

Only in this case I’m not talking about money or other tangible assets – I’m referring to the wealth of knowledge we have as an organization.

Sure, NASLR is a great stage for our member states and the regulated industry to show off their accomplishments, and it’s nice to receive recognition for those accomplishments from our peers through the various awards we hand out. Also, I’m sure the scholarships we grant are both well-deserved and greatly appreciated. We have even played an important role as an advocate for our membership on certain issues. But our most important role, and our main reason to exist as a group, is to share our collective knowledge among ourselves.

A solution that worked (or didn’t work) in Pennsylvania may apply to a situation in Texas, or a unique scenario in Alaska could trigger an “Out-of-the-Box” idea in someone in New York. The only thing required is a way to share these success stories – and even harder but more important, the failure stories – with each other.

This is where NASLR shines. Whether it’s through this newsletter, our website or our new Facebook page, I encourage everyone to get the word out. Write an article about one of your projects or even a short blurb (that’s an official editor’s term – I think) identifying a particular issue you are trying to resolve. I’m sure someone, somewhere will share their thoughts with you.

Even better.... Consider attending our annual conference in September. This year we will be in Bozeman, Montana. Not only will you get to hear about various reclamation projects “straight from the horse’s mouth” and get to ask questions in real time, you will have an opportunity to make the kind of personal connections with others in your field that will last your entire career. How do you put a price on that?

I started this article with a quote from an ancient Roman and I think I will end it with one from a Founding Father. “An investment in Knowledge always pays the best interest” – Benjamin Franklin.

Increase your Wealth – Share your Knowledge.

-Sam

NASLR President Sam Faith is with the Pennsylvania DEP in the New Stanton Office.

“Permit Decisions”

By Dean Spindler

Illinois Office of Mines & Minerals

One of the worst headaches in a reclamation technical staff’s career is defending a permit decision in a permit challenge. It does make you a better decision maker but it is a painful way to learn. It also consumes an inordinate amount of time.

It seems in many states that permit decisions are being challenged on an increasing frequency. Part of this may be due to the increasing financial backing to oppose coal mining, but it appears all minerals are being challenged locally. Another factor may be that there is a new generation of challengers who are questioning decisions and raising issues that may have been dealt with 25 and 30 years ago and some of the institutional knowledge has been lost.

Some of this article is taken from the OSM sponsored class called Permit Findings. The class was created a number of years ago to assist states

in making permit decisions which will both meet the requirements of the rules and also have a better chance to stand up to challenges. Although the format

of the permit finding is state specific, SMCRA has very specific wording which is required when issuing a permit. Some of the key regulatory words are “find” and “determine”. Some of

these are universal to all permits, while others are situation specific. When a statute or regulation says “find”, you must address the issue in writing and then discuss the reasoning behind that decision under the regulations.

Challenges to a permit must argue either no decision was made or it was made improperly due to flawed information or misinterpretation of the regulations. Another recent tactic is to challenge to see if state regulations comply with state statutes. This can be

“There will always be experts for hire out there that will testify that a state decision is flawed scientifically or the regulation has been misinterpreted. “

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significant in the application process regarding public input and challenges. It is not uncommon to see a disconnect between a statute and a poorly written regulation.

There will always be experts for hire out there that will testify that a state decision is flawed scientifically or the regulation has been misinterpreted. When defending a decision or interpreting a regulation, a response of “that’s the way we have been doing it for all these years” doesn’t work very well in the legal system. It seems there is always a rule out there that reads poorly but an interpretation was made to come to some decision how to implement it. Some states may have well documented internal records on these, including their original program submittals.

There are national reference resources out there to help. The COALEX site is available on the OSM site, although I have recently learned it is no longer funded for additional work. Benny Wampler now retired head of the Virginia regulatory program had a great response on this same question. “What does the federal preamble say?” In addition, OSM used to distribute IBLA decisions which were good references as well. These are not available conveniently either.

In these days of tight budgets, few states have the luxury of extra staff to double and triple check all decision documents. Here are a few suggestions: Go to the OSM Permit Finding class or have one set up in your state to teach the permit staff the significance of this document. Revisit your application to see if it asks all the questions that have to be asked to allow you to make an affirmative finding. Revisit your permit decision document to ensure all the required findings. And, revisit your state statute to see if it has any conflicts with your regulations.

Virginia's Abandoned Mined Land Enhancement Project

McCoy Gob Pile

by Tom Mackey

Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation



Location of the McCoy Gob Pile and the New River

The McCoy gob pile was a refuse pile created by Great Valley Anthracite Coal Company. The mine stopped operating in 1949. The coal seam that supplied the pile was the Merrimac. The Merrimac seam is described as a sub-anthracite coal seam. It is rumored that the Merrimac seam was used to power the Merrimac in the battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac during the Civil War.



The refuse pile before the enhancement started

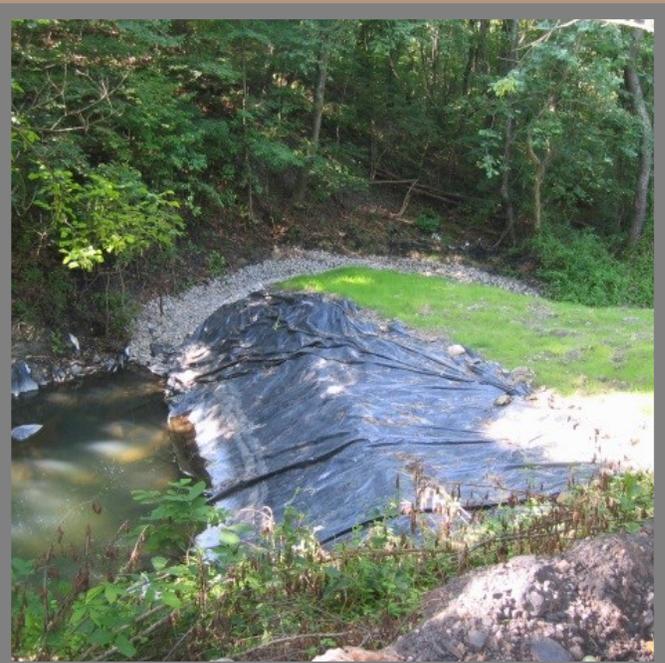
Prior to this site becoming an enhancement project it was first permitted by the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining. The permittee was E. O. Sheppard Trucking. The company had a contract to provide material to a company called Weblite located in Webster in Botetourt County, Virginia. Weblite produced a lightweight block (cinderblock) and the material from McCoy was used to fire their kiln. They were eventually shut down as they couldn't comply with the air pollution regulations. The gob pile site was released by Mineral Mining in 1998.

In 2007 DMME was approached by G & J Coal Co., Inc. about the possibility of an AML enhancement project. The McCoy Gob Pile qualified as Abandoned Mined Land Enhancement Project.

The project was set up as a two phase operation. In Phase I of the project the contractor was allowed to use up to 5,000 tons to see if the gob could be processed through the company's equipment and if there was a market for the product. If Phase I was successful then the contractor would proceed to Phase II. In Phase II the gob would be removed to natural ground.

The operation recovered a total of 188,054.75 tons of coal

Because of the proximity of the New River to the site, the Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation required that a sediment pond be constructed for drainage control. The pond had to have a liner to prevent leaking.



The company was also required to start recovery from the back of the refuse pile and move to the front. The company used an Extec screener to separate the coal from the refuse.



Production

When the company completed the back part of the pile they reclaimed it.



Once the coal recovery was complete the company reclaimed the entire site.



The Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation required the company to re-establish stream channels in the hollows once the recovery was completed.



Ditch Construction and Reclamation

Completed Site



Jim Bowling from Illinois and the PRE Committee have constructed a Facebook page to keep you even more updated on NASLR events and information. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/NationalASLR> and like us on our new Facebook page!

[Like us on Facebook](#)



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To submit material for future newsletters please contact Jeff Meitrott jmeitrott@pa.gov

Please use a [NASLR Newsletter Submission Form](#)

Editor: Jeff Meitrott PA DEP

Layout and Design: Lesa Baker VA DMME