



NASLR
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

Spring 2017

<http://www.naslr.org>

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***Rosebud and Big Sky Coal Mines located
near Colstrip Montana.***

2017 CONFERENCE DETAILS

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DEQ Approves Bond Releases for Coal Mines

HELENA – The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has approved completed reclamation work at four mine areas, totaling more than 1,400 acres of reclaimed mine land at the Rosebud and Big Sky Coal Mines located near Colstrip.

DEQ evaluated completed reclamation work including backfilling and grading of mined areas, soil replacement, and establishment of vegetation. The former mine lands are supporting sustained grazing and wildlife use and contain valuable permanent water features such as wetlands. In addition, a former Rosebud County landfill located within the Rosebud Mine permit boundary was found to be successfully reclaimed.

The Big Sky's Area and Rosebud Mines are requesting full bond release on 213 acres and partial bond release on 1,250 acres of mine lands in various stages of reclamation. Monetary bond release associated with the applications totals \$7,046,500.

Following these releases, a monetary bond of approximately \$90 million will remain in place for the associated mine areas.

For more information about bond releases please contact the DEQ Coal Program at 406-444-4970 or visit the [DEQ website at http://deq.mt.gov/Land/CoalUranium](http://deq.mt.gov/Land/CoalUranium).



Notes From the Field

Sustainability – Through Reclamation and Historical Preservation

By Dean Spindler

Illinois Office of Mines & Minerals

Even though our coal production from mines has been increasing in recent years, the number of mines has been decreasing. Mining has been an integral part of many communities as it usually was the major source of employment. Many times an individual coal mine may operate for several generations and a quarry may last a hundred years. Lately, there seems to be a renewed interest in ensuring that this history is preserved through local museums that may focus on or include mining. Our agency is getting numerous requests for information about specific mines, mining in general and any mining memorabilia we might be able to donate or loan. The mining industry has also been getting these same requests. As part of our efforts we have had a book published, *Photographic History of Coal Mining Practices in Illinois*, ISGS Circular 572, which provides a pictorial record of the coal mining equipment of yesterday and today. In addition, our Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Division salvages mining equipment, such as old underground coal cars, suitable for restoration for these museums, when encountered as part of their reclamation work.

As the term sustainability is one of the buzz words of today, it is obvious that reclamation is a key factor to ensure the land will sustain whatever land uses it is returned to. Supporting local history which enriches the community's heritage and also offers tourism opportunities can also be part of that sustainability.

INNOVATION

The National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) was formed to promote the use of research, innovative technology, and professional development to foster superior restoration of land and waters affected by mining.

Activities such as material logistics, equipment cleaning, processing or other operations that occur at mining locations are often exposed to stormwater. The runoff from these areas may discharge pollutants directly into nearby waterbodies or indirectly via storm sewer systems, thereby degrading water quality. In 1990, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed permitting regulations under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to control these stormwater discharges.

Pollution Control Measures such as site-specific best management practices (BMPs) must be identified in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implemented on site with regular maintenance and inspections to assure NPDES compliance.

The Colorado Department of Mining, Safety and Reclamation (DRMS) is

actively reclaiming and stabilizing many of its sites using many different BMPs. Several years ago, DRMS began using a new technology for protecting site perimeters and stabilizing slopes rather than continuing to use traditional silt fence. ERTEC's S-Fence™ is a silt fence substitute which enhances their program in several ways. S-Fence has significant functional longevity, very low maintenance requirements, higher sediment capture performance, low total cost, reusable and zero waste. DRMS likes the way it resists UV exposure, snow loads, high winds and high stormwater flows which would normally destroy silt fence quickly at high altitudes and harsh environments. Traditional perimeter or slope protection BMPs rapidly degrade from UV or are degraded by animals.

Since 2012, DRMS deployed thousands of feet of ERTEC S-Fence throughout the Colorado Rockies on many projects. During that period, DRMS often reclaimed S-Fence, once revegetation occurred, to redeploy on new projects. S-Fence will continue to perform for 4-plus years.

"ERTEC's S-Fence™ has proven to be an efficient and effective BMP for sediment control on both coal and hard-rock reclamation sites. S-Fence performs especially well in coal fire environments, where the vegetation was removed to minimize the surface fire danger. The product is durable, and effective for up to three years without maintenance, and it is reusable and recyclable. These benefits also make the product cost-effective. S-Fence is superior to traditional silt fence due to its longevity, UV resistance, and ease of installation."

- Tara Tafi, Project Manager – Inactive Mines Program



Many operating mines also take advantage of ERTEC's S-Fence. Light weight and easily deployed, mine technicians like to work with it. Most importantly, there is virtually no maintenance in most cases, even on multi-year projects. Some of the largest operating surface mines rotate S-Fence through several locations over many years. S-Fence is made from HDPE, is 100% recyclable and is 100% American Made.

2017 NASLR Conference October 1-4

Williamsport, PA, Home of Little League Baseball



The 2017 NASLR conference in Williamsport, PA is not to be missed. Located on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, Williamsport is most famous as home of the Little League World Series. But its origins sprung from the

region's natural resources. During the 19th century, Williamsport became the lumber capital of the world. At the time, the city boasted more millionaires per capita than any other and 4th street became known as millionaire's row, owing to the

concentration of lumber baron mansions. As a tribute to its lumber baron heritage, the high school mascot is the Millionaire (think that guy with the top hat on Monopoly). Small manufacturing eventually replaced lumbering



but more recently, Williamsport became a headquarters of Marcellus gas well drilling. In addition to the Little League Museum, Williamsport has an excellent paved walkway along the river, a restored theatre, a microbrewery and many recreational opportunities in the surrounding state forest land for hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing. The NASLR conference will include a dinner cruise on the West Branch on the Hiawatha paddleboat. The West Branch at one time was severely degraded by acid mine drainage but is now a thriving smallmouth bass fishery. The annual field trip will visit one of the largest bituminous surface mines in Pennsylvania and one of the few



remaining mines using two Marion 7500 electric draglines. The mine site is the most northerly bituminous coal mine east of the Mississippi. This mine was a recent recipient of the NASLR coal reclamation award and has incorporated many wildlife-friendly features in its reclamation. From there, we will visit an acid mine drainage treatment plant that generates electricity from the treated discharge and stop for lunch at the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. On the return trip, we will visit an operation that mines glacial sand and gravel deposits and an innovative passive mine drainage treatment system restoring the Tioga River.



The Holiday Inn in downtown Williamsport is the conference headquarters and has set aside a block of rooms at both the Holiday Inn and connecting Holiday Inn Express for the conference. Be sure to mention that you are attending the NASLR conference to get the discounted room rate of \$91. The Williamsport Airport provides commercial air service on American Airlines. Other nearby airports are at Harrisburg, State College, and Elmira NY.

National Association of State Land Reclamationists JOIN NASLR FOR OUR UPCOMING CONFERENCE

OCT 1-4, 2017

WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA



Reservations should be made at the Holiday Inn– Williamsport under NASLR, please visit the NASLR website to Register or the form attached in this newsletter.

*Continuing education credits will be available.



NASLR

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

**45th Annual NASLR Conference Registration October 1 - October 4, 2017
The Holiday Inn, Williamsport, PA**

Name: _____ Name Tag (if different): _____

Title: _____

State / Organization / Dept.: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ @ \$250.00 NASLR Conference Registration

_____ @ \$125.00 Spouse / Guest Registration Name: _____

October 2 Banquet - Please indicate with a ✓ your choice of an entrée for your banquet meal:

_____ Roast Beef _____ Roast Turkey _____ Three-Cheese Lasagna

October 3 Field Trip – Please indicate with a ✓ your choice of a deli sandwich for your boxed lunch:

_____ Turkey _____ Ham _____ Tuna _____ Vegetarian

Sponsorship

_____ \$750.00 (Includes one conference registration, plus one exhibit set up)

Total Fees \$ _____

Indicate with a ✓ if you want a certificate for professional development hours _____ Yes _____ No

Make checks payable to NASLR and mail to:

NASLR
ATTN: Jeffrey Meitrott
PA DEP
186 Enterprise Drive, Philipsburg, PA 16866

The 45 Annual NASLR Conference will be held October 1-4, 2017 in Williamsport PA.



If you are not already a member or know someone interested in becoming involved with a group of reclamation professionals promoting excellence in reclamation please contact us or forward this newsletter to them. You are cordially invited to join NASLR, a group of member state reclamation agencies throughout the United States, as well as government reclamation professionals and industry associates that seek to develop resources and strive to restore mined lands to productive uses.

The four categories of membership are *State, Individual, Associate and Corporate Sponsor.*

To join, see conference information or request additional information, please visit our website at: www.naslr.org

NASLR NEWLETTER SPRING 2017

naslr.org



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

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

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