



NASLR
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

SPRING 2018

<http://www.naslr.org>



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2018 Conference

**46th Annual NASLR
Conference**

September 9-12, 2018

(see pages 6-12 for details)

Why I like NASLR

Mike Smith, Pennsylvania

I was attending my first NASLR conference in 2005 at Lake Placid New York. The technical sessions were good, as I recall, with presentations from state reclamation professionals who do exactly the same type of work that I did. Not so much of the overly academic, theoretical, or commercial presentations that you often encounter in conferences. "So far, so good," I thought. Then there was the hospitality suite. I had the opportunity to meet people from other state reclamation agencies in a relaxed setting and compare notes and experiences. Very interesting. The next day was the annual NASLR field trip. This one was to look at some abandoned mining and reclamation sites in the heart of New York's Adirondack mountains. We departed from Lake Placid on a beautiful September morning with the trees just beginning to show their fall colors. The New York state geologist accompanied us on the tour bus. As the bus threaded its way through the High Peaks, past Cascade and Pitchoff Mountains, past Upper and Lower Cascade Lakes, and then past Noonmark and Giant Mountains, he explained the geology of the Adirondacks as we proceeded to our first field trip stop. Very interesting. Did you know that the Adirondack High Peaks are composed of the same type of rock as the moon, anorthosite, a type of granite.

The first stop was to an abandoned ilmenite mine in the heart of the High Peaks, likely one of the most remote areas of New York. Ilmenite was mined there during WWII and into the 1980's as a source of titanium. Cell phone service? No way. Unfortunately, the local town supervisor whom we picked up for that part of the tour, directed the bus to drive up on the mine tailings to get a good panoramic view of things, which was indeed stupendous. Our next stop was a short distance away to one of the earliest iron mines and furnaces in the region, just past the hunting cabin where Teddy Roosevelt was staying when McKinley was shot and he was summoned to Buffalo to become President. It was even more remote than the first stop, literally at the end of the road. And that's where we found out that our tour bus had a flat tire, and no spare, and no cell service, and no one else within miles. Our hosts from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation made a heroic effort at trying to remove the bus's tire but as I recall, tour busses don't carry spares and apparently can't run with even one of their multiple tires missing. So the DEC guys started on a long walk back to the mine, which was in the beginning stages of reclamation, where they could find someone to get help. In the meantime, the

rest of us hung out in a truly magnificent area enjoying the scenery, checking out the Mr. McIntyre's iron furnace, eating our lunch, and even taking some hikes. Our heroes from DEC eventually returned to save the day with a service vehicle and a new bus tire. All-in-all, although the field trip ended prematurely, it was a wonderful introduction to the Adirondacks and to NASLR.

On the way back from Lake Placid, it occurred to me that the annual NASLR meeting must be one of the best deals going - reasonable registration fees, great technical sessions and field trip, nice banquet, friendly hospitality suite, the opportunity to socialize and compare notes with your colleagues from other states and lots of fun. Best of all, everything about the conference is geared to advancing the cause of quality mine reclamation, and chiefly from the perspective of state regulators. Over the next 15 years, I rarely missed a NASLR annual conference. As with most state employees in these times of austere state finances, my ability to attend technical conferences was very limited, so I chose my conferences very judiciously: New York, Virginia, West Virginia, all two times each, and Tennessee, North Carolina, Illinois, Arkansas, Montana, and of course, my home state of Pennsylvania, also two times. Through the NASLR conferences I got to meet many of my peers in other states and see how their mining programs operate. I also learned a lot about not only new reclamation technologies, but also about different types of mining and mineral products, and the different types of reclamation and regulatory approaches in different states. I experienced mining and minerals that were exotic to me: garnets in Montana, fluorescent minerals in North Carolina and diamonds in Arkansas. I learned about and observed innovative reclamation techniques in New York, Illinois, and Virginia, mine drainage treatment in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and of course, coal, lots of coal.

NASLR President Ed Coleman sums it up very well in his recent letter to OSM that is included in this newsletter. I hope you'll take the opportunity to read his letter and to consider attending this year's NASLR conference and even better, to submit a technical presentation for the conference.



NASLR

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

January 7, 2018

Ms. Glenda Owens
Acting Director
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Director Owens:

On behalf of the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR), I am writing you to formally request OSMRE's participation in NASLR. If you are not familiar with NASLR, we are an organization that has been around for 45-years and are comprised of reclamation professionals advancing scientific, and preferably tested, solutions to "on the ground" challenges associated with mining and reclamation.

It is my understanding that OSMRE was once a NASLR member who shared knowledge and expertise with the group through participation in the annual conference and by providing technical presentations. As both OSMRE and NASLR member states are suffering attrition as well as budgetary challenges, it seems to be in everyone's best interests to share information and work together to find the most efficient and effective reclamation techniques.

Membership in NASLR is not burdensome and the benefits are significant. We hold an annual conference where the cost of attendance would cover annual membership fees for OSMRE staff. The conference is typically attended by managers, lead workers, up-and-comers, and top-notch technical people from both the public and private sectors looking to present their work and/or learn from their peers. There are technical presentations that count towards professional development hours, field trips, and networking opportunities.

I hope that you are supportive of OSMRE participation and membership in NASLR, and humbly request that you have the appropriate staff member contact me for additional information. The NASLR website also has more detailed information about the organization and is located: www.naslr.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Coleman
NASLR President
(406) 444-4973
ecoleman@mt.gov

cc via email: Dave Berry – WRD, Tom Shope – ARD, Alfred Clayborne MCRD

Notes From the Field

Temporary Cessation

A time for increased diligence for certain field issues

By Dean Spindler

With many coal markets down, mines will commonly go into temporary cessation until markets rebound. How long they be in this status is a vexing issue for regulatory agencies and the industry alike. Regardless, site conditions must continue to be monitored while in temporary cessation.

Several issues have risen that seem intuitive after they have occurred, but are easy to overlook, as the site has gone inactive. This is particularly true for some of the geochemical processes which will see an increase in activity. When slurry ponds are active, it is very common that the decant water is neutral. Similarly, mine pit water has the same characteristics. When the pumps are turned off, the pyrites are given a longer time period to oxidize and the water can become acidic. Although coarse coal refuse will create acidic water quicker, increased water residence time due to the inactivity can make bad water worse in a hurry. Acidic water is not the only water quality concern. As TDS and sulfate standards become increasingly more stringent, those same potential acid forming chemical processes, when neutralized, create higher than normal concentrations of TDS and sulfates. This can be an issue when pits are allowed to fill with water, are later dewatered, and the effluent is discharged. Suddenly, a sediment pond with no history of problems has an excursion.

Temporary cessation status is also a time when industry staff presence at the site is minimized and their second set of eyes (other than the state inspectors) are not as available to catch problems. It is easy to become complacent to site conditions due to the inactivity.

Other items that seem to crop up are increases in trespassing by ATVs, vandalism, and occasional thefts. ATVs can do a lot of damage in a hurry to impounding structures and revegetated areas. A common joke around the mines is there should be a hunting season for ATVs.

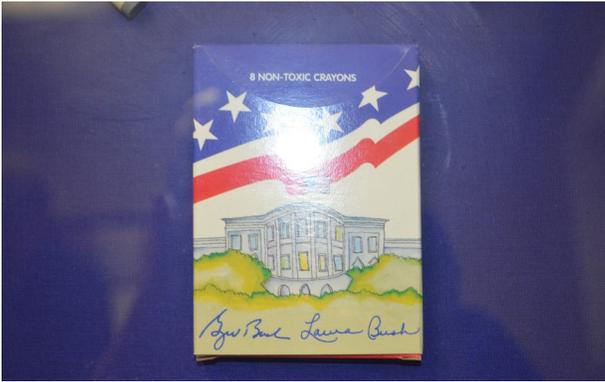
As income from the mine has ceased during temporary cessation, it is also easy to cut back on vegetation management, such as mowing and invasive species control. This can cause problems later for the company at the time of bond release evaluations.

As field inspections may be reduced during this time period, it is important to keep some of these issues in mind and to refocus some of the attention to the site during inspections.

“First-of-its-kind” Reclamation Underway at Hoover Color

By Tarah Kesterson

Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy



Pulaski County, Va.- It is a first for DMME and particularly the Division of Mineral Mining. Reclamation is underway at Hoover Color's mine in Pulaski County, Virginia but it is unlike any other at mineral sites.

Hoover Color began mining in 1885. They mined iron oxide for pigments used in Crayola crayons and paints.

It was once an iron oxide pigment mine. And now, the reclaimed site belongs to Virginia State Parks as an extension of the New River Trail State Park in Hiwassee Virginia. The former Hoover Color Corporation mine now houses a network of mountain biking trails for anyone who wants a challenge.

New River Trail State Park Superintendent Sam Sweeney said the addition would only attract more visitors to his area due to a new popularity in mountain biking in Pulaski County. “There are a lot of people in the mountain biking community that are looking forward to this being open. We cater to the novice biker,” said Sweeney.

DMME had informed Chuck Hoover, the owner whose family acquired the land in the 1970's, that he would have to reclaim it. Hoover is an avid mountain biker and wanted to see his vision of a place to ride carried out so he offered it to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for free. “It's not just a land donation,” said Hoover, “it's an expansion of an existing park.”

Hoover believes the mining history will also draw visitors. The iron oxide pigment mined in Hiwassee was once sent to Crayola and even Disney to use as color. In the Hoover Color office you'll find an original cell from the movie Snow White, and a framed box of crayons given out by George W. and Laura Bush to

children visiting the White House during their time there.

DMME Inspector Supervisor Jim Smith said this reclamation opportunity was a unique one. “We don't do it often but we are always open to the possibility,” said Smith. “Most of our properties go back to forest land and pasture land, whatever the owner wants. But, in this case it will be used by the citizens of the Commonwealth.”

Smith said the reclamation plan submitted dealt with stabilization and erosion control. It also included construction plans for the bike trails. The highwall was left to show visitors the unique geologic features of what was once mined on this mountain. Sweeney now refers to it as “the painted rock wall” but says visitors will be warned to keep a safe distance from the wall.

Sweeney said Virginia Tech is helping to develop interpretive signs that will be added along the trails soon after the park extension opens. “They will look at reclamation, geological formations and interpret that for the public to understand what has transpired from a natural and geologic standpoint,” said Sweeney.

DMME released the permit to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in August.





2018 Conference

46th Annual NASLR Conference

September 9-12, 2018



Welcome to Virginia!

Virginia is gearing up for what we hope is the biggest joint conference with the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) and the Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML P) to date. The event will be held September 9th-12th at the pristine Kingsmill Resort in historic Williamsburg, which is nestled along the James River at 1010 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Kingsmill is a place steeped in a tradition of gracious Southern hospitality. When the first English foot was placed in Virginia, it was here on these grounds that once served as a central part of the area's plantation life in the 1600s through 1800s.

Accommodations

While we do have numerous rooms reserved, there is a good chance that attendance at this year's conference will be big so get your rooms reserved early. See the [NAAML P conference website](#) for hotel information.

Conference Sponsors and Presenters

Virginia is currently recruiting conference sponsors and presenters for Monday and Wednesday's technical sessions. If you would like to volunteer for either, please visit the [NAAML P conference website](#) for more information.

Come early or stay late and explore our great commonwealth, our treasures are awaiting you. To learn more about what our state has to offer visit the [Welcome to Virginia web site](#).

Check the NAAML P and NASLR websites for updates and registration information. <http://naamlp.net/> and <http://naslr.org/conference/>



Tour Information

This year's field trips offer a variety of experiences. A technical tour will take attendees to the Mid-Lothian Mines Park in Chesterfield County. This is a unique abandoned mine land project in which the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy worked with the county to preserve what was left of one of the first commercial coal mines in America. It was the very site that is credited with starting the industrial revolution in our country. Attendees can also choose to visit historic Jamestown where an active excavation is underway of artifacts left by the first settlers. A day in Williamsburg will be another option. See the first capitol and tour homes and other buildings. Lastly, attendees can jump aboard the USS Battleship Wisconsin—one of the last of its kind.



Tour 1 - COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG A

four-hour guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. You will tour the Governor's Palace, Capitol, Raleigh Tavern and learn of the debates that raged in the years leading to independence. Visit a trade shop and historic houses and discover something about the everyday life of Williamsburg's 18th-century residents. Located adjacent to Colonial

Williamsburg's Historic Area is Merchants Square, an 18th-century style retail village with over 40 shops and restaurants so lunch will be on your own for this tour.

Tour 2 - JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT & HISTORIC JAMESTOWN guided tour of Historic Jamestown where you will see and hear about the latest archaeological discoveries at an active archaeological dig site. Then, a guided tour of the Jamestown



Settlement; Jamestown Settlement tells the story of the 17th-century Virginia. Climb aboard re-creations of the three large ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607 and explore life-size re-creations of the colonists' fort and a Powhatan village. Boxed lunches will be provided for this tour.



Tour 3 - THE USS BATTLESHIP WISCONSON, NAUTICUS AND HARBOR CRUISE A self-guided tour of the Battleship Wisconsin, one of the largest and last battleships built by the U.S. Navy. Walk her teak decks, stand beneath her towering 16” guns and experience what it was like living on board as a sailor. Inside Nauticus, explore

hands-on exhibits, a new 3D theater, shark tank, and touch tanks, aquariums, and more, and enjoy a self-guided tour of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Lunch will be in Town Point Park, weather permitting, and a box lunch will be provided. After Lunch, you will enjoy a two hour narrated Naval Base harbor cruise aboard the Victory Rover.

Tour 4 - MID-LOTHIAN MINES PARK & TUCKAHOE PLANTATION - A guided tour of the Mid-Lothian Mines Park, one of the first coal mining sites in Virginia. Virginia AML partnered with Chesterfield County to help reclaim and preserve Mid-Lothian Mines Park. Then travel to the boyhood home of Thomas Jefferson, The Tuckahoe Plantation, where Thomas Jefferson spent his youth and received his first education. Boxed lunches will be provided for this tour.



Call for Papers and Presentations

In 2018, the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy will serve as the host of the 40th Annual National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) Conference. The NAAML Annual Conference is an opportunity for networking, strengthening ties between member programs, discussion of national issues, and information sharing. This year the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) is joining the NAAML conference and is bringing additional insights on reclamation to the conference. Technical Sessions for the conference provide a platform for individuals to share successful, unique presentations related to a broad array of industry and reclamation topics.

Suggested Topics

Reclamation / Safeguarding / Project Implementation

- Revegetation/Reforestation Success
- Partnerships in Reclamation
- Innovative/Unique Reclamation Techniques
- Non-Traditional Design Techniques
- Techniques in Challenging Public Locations
- Sediment and Erosion Control
- Monitoring and Maintenance Techniques and Implementation
- Mine Reclamation/NASLR

Acid Mine Drainage

- AMD Characterization
- AML or AMD Case Studies
- Resource Recovery from AMD

Technology

- Geophysical Methods or Investigations
- GPS/GIS/LiDAR Technologies
- Digital Collection of AML Data
- Inventory Technique

Economics / Policies

- AML Program Policy Issues
- NEPA and/or Public Participation
- Economic Development of AML Sites
- Public Relations

Cultural / Historical

- Historic Preservation
- Archeological Issues and Preservation
- Citizen Involvement
- Mining History

Pilot Projects / Re-mining / AML Enhancement

- AML Pilot Projects
- Coal Refuse Reprocessing
- AML Projects

Abstract proposals should be submitted in PDF format on or before **June 1, 2018**. Abstracts should be 300 words or less, Times New Roman - 12 font, and should include the presentation title, along with the presenters name, title, organization or company, business address, phone number and email address. In addition, please identify if you are presenting as part of the Mine Reclamation/NASLR technical session. All abstracts should be emailed to [:NAAML2018@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:NAAML2018@dmme.virginia.gov).

Selected presenters will be notified by **July 1, 2018**, and final presentation material will be due on or before **July 31, 2018**. Details pertaining to the final presentation format, speaker guidelines and other presentation information will be provided to authors and/or presenters at the time of abstract acceptance.

In an effort to facilitate scheduling, anyone interested in presenting should consider sending notification with anticipated topic early. If you are with a state or tribe and intend to present please indicate if you are applying for an OSM award or participating in the NAAML2018 business meeting. Presentations are anticipated to be 20 minutes with a five minute Q and A to follow.

For more information or for questions please contact: Jon Fleming, AML Project Manager
at [:jon.fleming@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:jon.fleming@dmme.virginia.gov) 276-523-8238.

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

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

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