



# NASLR

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS

**Summer 2023**

<http://www.naslr.org>

REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE  
**51<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
NASLR CONFERENCE**  
**October 24-26th**



In Person (\$275) and  
Virtual (\$30) Attendance

Click [HERE](#) for Conference Registration  
and Hotel Reservation Information

Or visit the NASLR website  
<https://naslr.org/conference/>  
This years conference will be held  
in conjunction with the  
PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Conference.

Attend technical sessions at either conference  
Network with other professionals working on mine reclamation projects

**“DEDICATED TO QUALITY  
LAND RECLAMATION”**



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# WELCOME BACK MISSOURI AND ARKANSAS!

## TWO STATES REJOIN NASLR!



**The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Land Reclamation Program** was originally established in the Omnibus State Reorganization Act of 1974. This act created the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and placed the Land Reclamation Commission under its auspices. The Land

Reclamation Commission underwent a name change in 2014 to the Missouri Mining Commission which has the responsibility of directing staff and operations of the program within the department's Missouri Geological Survey.

The Land Reclamation Program consists of the Administrative, Abandoned Mines Lands, Coal, Industrial and Metallic Mineral Mining units. A total of 17 full time staff members are divided between the four units. Together they are responsible for reclaiming abandoned mine lands and conducting inspections at all active mining operations in Missouri.

The Land Reclamation Program assures that mined land is returned to the best possible condition for use after mining is completed. The program administers the State statutes, regulations, policies and directives of the Missouri Mining Commission. The program works to assure that Missouri's mineral resources are available for economic development, and after reclamation, the land is available for new development or public use. While the program inspects and enforces the mining laws during the operation of mines in Missouri, the primary goal for the department's Land Reclamation Program is final reclamation after the mining is complete.

**The Mining Program of the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment** is responsible for the administration of the mining and reclamation laws in the State of Arkansas. There are three laws: the Arkansas Open-Cut Land Reclamation Act; the Arkansas Quarry Operation Reclamation and Safe Closure Act; and the Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act. In addition, there are two regulations: Rule No. 15, Arkansas Open-Cut Mining and Reclamation Regulation, and Rule No. 20, Arkansas Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Code. The Arkansas Quarry Operation, Reclamation and Safe Closure Act does not provide for the ability to develop regulations.



In 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson initiated his plan for the transformation of state government. The transformation reorganized the number of cabinet-level agencies from 42 to 15 and renamed the consolidated agencies. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality was combined with the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission, the Arkansas Department of Energy, the Arkansas Liquefied Petroleum Gas Board, and the Arkansas Geological Survey to become the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment. Prior to the reorganization, the Mining Program (formerly, Surface Mining and Reclamation Division) had 14 staff positions. Currently, the Mining Program has 8 staff members with, one in the North Little Rock Office, six in the Fort Smith Office and one in the Damascus Field Office.

The Mining Program administers both Title IV and Title V programs in our coal program. In addition to the AML sites, there is one active permitted coal mine and four bond forfeiture sites. There are approximately 300 permitted open-cut mines and 125 authorized quarries in the state.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LAND RECLAMATIONISTS  
2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**ALTOONA, PA**

*Tuesday, October 24 – Thursday October 26, 2023*

*Altoona Grand Hotel and Conference Center*

*Altoona, PA 16601*

**Monday, October 23, 2023 – Out-of-State attendee arrivals; Hotel Check-in.**

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm – NASLR Registration in Hospitality Suite (Haller Suite)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm – Informal Gathering Haller Suite

**Tuesday, October 24, 2023 - FIELD TRIP**

7:00 am – 7:30 am – Hotel Breakfast for Overnight Guests; Registration continues

7:30 am – 7:45 am – Board buses for Field Trip

7:45 am – 3:30 pm – Field Trip (Field Trip Agenda TBA) – Lunch Provided

3:30 pm – Return to Altoona Grand Hotel

4:30 pm – US Parks Guided Amtrak Train Ride – Horseshoe Curve Altoona to Johnstown

7:00 pm – Awards Banquet – Asiago's – Top of the Incline Restaurant

10:00 pm – Return to Altoona Grand Hotel via Buses

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – TECHNICAL SESSIONS**

7:00 am – 8:55 am – Hotel Breakfast for Overnight Guests

9:00 am – 9:15 am – Wednesday Welcome – Conference Room

9:15 am – 9:30 am – Keynote Address (TBA)

9:30 am – 10:00 am – Plenary Session (TBA)

10:15 am – 10:25 am – Break & Visit PA AMR Exhibits

10:30 am – 11:10 am – Speaker #1 (TBA)

11:15 am – 11:55 am – Speaker #2 (TBA)

12:00 (Noon) – 12:55 pm – **LUNCH Provided**

1:00 pm – 1:40 pm – Speaker #3 (TBA)

1:45 pm – 2:25 pm – Speaker #4 (TBA)

2:30 pm – 2:40 pm – Break & Visit PA AMR Exhibits

2:45 pm – 3:30 pm – Wednesday Closer (TBA)

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – NASLR Social Hours & Networking – Haller Suite

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

#### **Thursday, October 26, 2023 – BUSINESS MEETING & TECHNICAL SESSIONS**

7:30 am – 9:25 am – NASLR Business Meeting/Hotel Breakfast for Overnight Guests

9:30 am – 10:15 am – Thursday Welcome & Plenary (TBA)

10:15 am – 10:25 am – Break & Visit PA AMR Exhibits

10:30 am – 11:10 am – Speaker #5 (TBA)

11:15 am – 11:55 am – Speaker #6 (TBA)

**Noon – NASLR Conference Ends/Some Travelers Depart**

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**



## 2023 NASLR Conference Field Trip

The 2023 NASLR Field trip will traverse westwards up through the physiographic area known as the Allegheny Front, the westward edge of the Appalachian Mountains, where so much strata is readily available that both historical and ongoing mining for coal, limestone, sandstone, and fireclay have resulted in significant impacted landscapes and watersheds.

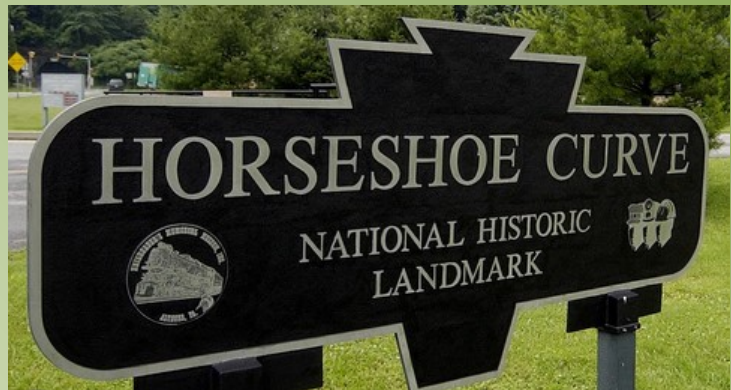
-The first stop will include a Title V coal refuse valley-fill reclamation site where current operations have removed millions of tons of coal refuse that are routed to a cogeneration powerplant that burns the refuse and provides the alkaline ash backfill for the reclamation of the source area.

-Our second stop is one of the actual cogeneration powerplants, where we will enjoy a thorough guided tour of the facility and gain an understanding of the entire process. The first two sites lie atop several abandoned coal mine complexes, and

- Our third stop will enable us to see how an extensive impacted underground coal mine pool that majorly affected residential areas and aquatic environments is about to be drastically improved via the construction of a Title IV AMD chemical treatment plant that will eliminate the AMD surface discharges and return treated water to the affected receiving stream, ultimately helping to restore and manage up to 24 miles of stream habitat.

- Traversing back to our conference center we'll get a look at how transportation up and across the steep Allegheny Front was accomplished during the peak of the coal boom in the 1800's at the Allegheny-Portage National Historic Site and the Altoona Curve Historical Park.

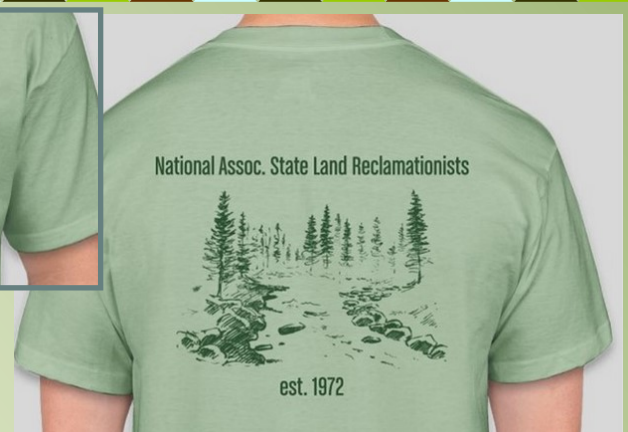
-As time permits see and learn about current reclamation efforts to restore historically unusable water resources to the City of Altoona.



**PRE-ORDER  
CONFERENCE T-SHIRTS!**  
By October 1st

**Short Sleeve (\$10) and Long Sleeve (\$12)**  
Available

**Select Options During Registration,  
Money Collected at the Conference**



## Notes from the field by Dean Spindler

### Not My Job

“That’s not my job.” I can’t count how many times I have heard a co-worker use that expression. If you are a fan of using it, then this article is not for you... or maybe it is. I personally find it one of the worst expressions to use around the workplace. Even for those who have decided that they have reached their final career goals, it is a discouraging remark for coworkers to hear. The remark can be equally discouraging to a supervisor who may have hopes for employees to show the initiative for potential advancement, or who just needs some temporary assistance on a project. In HR speak, it is the 5% of a job title “other duties as assigned”.

Everyone in the reclamation field understands how integrated our responsibilities are with our coworkers in other disciplines and job titles within our applicable agencies. In this industry, no one person’s job is simplistic enough that they can know everything that needs to be known and that they can resolve every issue alone. The biologist needs to coordinate issues with the agronomist, engineer, hydrologist, etc. when reviewing a permit because the mining and approvable post mining land uses all have to mesh together to meet all the requirements of the regulations. The inspector typically has scientific or technical background as well and may have the responsibility of coordinating the review. In addition, when I was an inspector, I never had the luxury of having all my mines in perfect compliance, having every permit application come in perfect, having no applications on my desk waiting to be reviewed, and having no operator wanting their application to be the next one for review. Although originally hired as a technical specialist I really appreciated the specialists and inspectors who broadened their horizons, could understand other points of view, and were able to communicate with all the other requisite fields. These skills allowed them to get a permit reviewed and/or solve field problems that spanned several technical fields.

As I am old and retired, you will get to hear some real-life reclamation stories to reinforce my message. My first encounter with this was early in my career. I came back from the field midafternoon on a Friday and stopped by the desk one of our inspectors was who reading a novel. He told me he had completed all his required tasks; his work was done for the week, and he didn’t need to do more. In today’s world this is called “quiet quitting”. The concept of running out of work in our profession during the workday seems foreign to me. The opposite end of that spectrum was the blasting specialist we had at that time. Because he had an aptitude for computer programming, during his spare time he developed the permit databases for four divisions within our agency. They were so well designed we used them for over 25 years, well after his retirement. While working for us he eventually created a new job for himself which he enjoyed even more.

Our nation’s reclamation programs come in a variety of different sizes from a few staff, to hundreds of staff. If you don’t have dedicated staff for certain desired program goal and have an interest and bit of time to squeeze it in, go for it and start small. Our education program started with simply collecting all the slides of mining and reclamation into one library for staff to pick from for their obligatory program at their kid’s school, to ultimately become a program reaching thousands of kids and teachers every year. It is considered a perk for interested staff to participate in outreach events. Other successful examples of “NOT MY JOB” that ended up becoming significant program enhancements, where someone had an interest or there was a need, included a formal bond calculation computer program, new bond release specialists jobs, new wildlife specialists jobs, new subsidence specialists jobs, a GIS program that became indispensable, and many more including being an officer in a professional organization such as NASLR. At one time all these were NOT someone’s job but became an official part of someone’s job, or a completely separate position. Reflecting on all the staff, past and present, who rejected the “Not My Job” philosophy, all went on to having better job satisfaction, increased responsibility, and more pay. Our reclamation program and the state of the art of reclamation, our profession, is much improved due to these people.







# 2022-2023 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## 2022 NASLR Officers



**President - Scot May**  
Geoscientist  
Pennsylvania DEP  
Cambria District Office  
(814)472-1712



**Vice President—Vickie Broomhead**  
Senior Hydrogeologist, EPS IV  
Illinois DNR Land Reclamation Division  
(217) 782-9565



**Secretary/Treasurer –Simone Rodriguez**  
Mined Land Reclamation Specialist  
New York DEC Central Office  
(518) 402-8493

## 2022 Executive Committee



**Hannah Hill**  
Geologist  
Georgia DNR Land Protection Branch  
Surface Mining Unit  
(470) 251-2558



**Vishnu Srinivasaraghavan**  
Energy Coordinator  
Illinois CMS Environmental Health & Safety  
(217) 782-3521



**Psalm Wyckoff**  
Mined Land Reclamation Specialist  
New York DEC Central Office  
(518) 402-8063

## 2022 Public Relations and Education Committee



**Jeff Meitrott**  
Geoscientist  
Pennsylvania DEP – Moshannon District Office  
(814) 342-8116



**Kristi Dodson**  
Bond Unit Manager  
Illinois DNR, Land Reclamation Division  
(217) 785-0399



**Danielle Duhé**  
Geologist  
Louisiana DNR  
(225) 342-7231



**Shawna Riddle**  
Environmental Senior Specialist  
North Carolina DEQ  
(828) 296-4500



**Mike Haney**  
Professional Geologist  
Pennsylvania DEP Cambria District Office  
(814) 472-1892



**Kevin Brown**  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Illinois DNR, Land Reclamation Division  
(618) 439-9111



**Jamie Brown**  
Mine Inspector  
Indiana DNR, Division of Reclamation  
(812) 665-5041 ext 4058



**Tyler Straight**  
Mined Land Reclamation Specialist  
New York DEC Region 4  
(518) 357-2172

**NASLR NEWSLETTER**  
**Summer 2023**  
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