

NASLR's 2023 Mined Land Reclamation Award— Coal

Rend Lake Mine Complex

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Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Franklin County Land Resources, Inc.
Rend Lake Mine Complex

The Rend Lake Mine complex, a vast 1,070.4-acre area with four mining permits, went through a remarkable transformation from abandonment to an impressive reclamation effort. This site, which housed various mining activities and facilities, including underground mining and storage silos, was a part of the community for several decades.

Originally known as the Inland Mine, it began operations in 1967 under one company's ownership and later changed hands to Consolidation Coal Company in 1986. For 16 years, it supplied bituminous coal from the Herrin #6 coal seam, amounting to around 81.3 million tons. However, after it closed in the early 2000s, the site was left without proper reclamation for over ten years.

In 2013, a company called Murray Energy Corporation took over the mine but faced challenges, including bankruptcy in 2019. In 2020, Franklin County Land Resources, Inc. (FCLR), a subsidiary of American Consolidated Coal Resources, Inc., acquired the site. FCLR set out to not only meet but exceed minimum reclamation standards, aiming for exemplary reclamation.



Inland Steel – installation of Coal Hoist – June 1966



Inland Steel – Prep Plant and Surface Facilities – circa 1981

To make this happen, they collaborated with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation Division (IDNR) to create an economically feasible plan. Their goal is to complete the site's full reclamation by the end of 2024 and then release the remaining bonds. This approach has already led to successful reclamation and bond release for two permits.

Their reclamation work since 2016 involved demolishing structures, addressing issues with erosion, and enhancing environmental practices.

They've even focused on creating habitats, like wetlands for waterfowl and pollinator-friendly vegetation to support monarch butterflies.

Due to the mine's proximity to Rend Lake State Park, FCLR's efforts to restore portions of the permit area in an ecologically focused manner compliments the surrounding land uses. The local and region community and visitors to the Rend Lake area should benefit long-term by the creation of these new open water resources and proposed seeding enhancements.