

NASLR's 2023 Reclamationist of the Year

Halina Duda

**Nominated by Simone Rodriguez
New York Dept of Environmental Conservation**

Halina Duda has been a guiding force in the field of Mined Land Reclamation, making a substantial impact in her role as a Mined Land Reclamation Specialist and Program Supervisor for the Lower Hudson Valley at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 3.

During her extensive 24-year tenure with DEC, Halina took on the critical responsibility of ensuring that lands affected by mining were reclaimed to bring them back to productive use. Her work involved a delicate balance of managing complex projects and enforcement actions, often in challenging and controversial situations.

What set Halina apart was her unwavering commitment to finding common ground between resource development and environmental responsibility. She worked closely with those seeking mining permits, encouraging them to develop plans that not only harnessed valuable resources but also aimed at successful reclamation while minimizing harm to surrounding communities.

In addition to her regional contributions, Halina played an active role in the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR), where she even served as President. Her involvement in NASLR allowed her to promote excellence in reclamation and recognize achievements in the field.

Halina's dedication extended beyond her professional role. Her educational background as a Licensed Professional Geologist added depth to her expertise, reflecting her passion for the subject.

Halina's legacy is one of dedication, leadership, and a deep belief in creating a better, more sustainable future. Her work reminds us that resource development and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand. We celebrate Halina Duda today, not just for her career achievements, but for the inspiration she provides to us all, encouraging excellence and innovation in the field of Mined Land Reclamation.



Halina describing the Storm Valley Art Center “Wave Field” art installation at a reclaimed sand and gravel mine to the 2014 NASLR Conference Attendees.