



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Ken Coomer Wins National Reclamation Award

Big Stone Gap, VA- The Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Reclamation Specialist and Field Supervisor, Ken Coomer, has been awarded the Dean Spindler Reclamationist of the Year Award for 2014 from the National Association of State Land Reclamationists. (NASLR)

Coomer, a Lee County native, joined DMME shortly after the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act was passed in 1977. In his 37 years with DMME, he has won several awards within the department for his work in reclaiming coal sites after they've been mined. And, those permits in which he's inspected have won numerous private, state and national awards. This is the first national honor received by one of DMME's inspectors.

Deputy Director of DMME, Butch Lambert, said he was not surprised when Coomer was announced the winner. "Ken is an example to anyone looking to do reclamation right. Operators have commented that he is the one of the best inspectors at DMME and we are honored to have a professional like Ken in the field and on our team as a mentor for new reclamation inspectors."

Coomer accepted the award at the NASLR conference in Newburgh, New York in September.

As a nationally recognized authority on the reclamation of mined lands, the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) advocates the use of research, innovative technology and professional discourse to foster the restoration of land and water affected by coal and mineral mining activities.

The Dean Spindler Award was established to recognize exemplary work in the field of coal and mineral mined landx reclamation across the United States. For more information on NASLR visit: <http://naslr.org/>

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DMME's Division of Mined Land Reclamation (DMLR) promotes environmentally sound coal mining through regulating surface effects of coal mining, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, issuing permits, performing inspections, assisting small operators and responding to citizen concerns. For more information on DMLR visit: <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DMLR/DmlrLandingPage.shtml>

