



NEW MEXICO ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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MINING AND MINERALS PRESENTS 2007 EXCELLENCE IN RECLAMATION AWARDS

To: San Juan Coal Company, the Pueblo of Sandia, and Waycor Materials, Inc.

Santa Fe – The Mining and Minerals Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department presented the 2007 Excellence in Reclamation Awards to three New Mexico entities: San Juan Coal Company, the Pueblo of Sandia and Waycor Materials, Inc. The awards were presented on September 25th at the 2007 New Mexico Mining Association Convention, held at Sandia Resort.

"The awards recognize innovative and challenging projects that reclaim lands disturbed by past mining," stated Bill Brancard, Director for the Mining and Minerals Division. "These three awards recognize companies that have advanced reclamation science through innovative reclamation techniques that mitigate mining-related impacts."

The Pueblo of Sandia and Waycor Materials, Inc. were presented with awards for the reclamation of the Arp North Aggregate mine, located north of Albuquerque on the Pueblo of Sandia. The Pueblo of Sandia was recognized for the design and implementation of innovative geomorphic reclamation. Waycor was recognized for successful implementation of innovative reclamation. Aggregate mines are not required to complete reclamation under state law. This is only the second time an Excellence in Reclamation award has been presented to an aggregate mine. This is the first time a Native American entity has been awarded one of the reclamation awards.

San Juan Coal Company was recognized for their development and implementation of an aggressive and comprehensive long-term weed management program at San Juan and La Plata coal mines. Both coal mines are located in San Juan County in northwestern New Mexico.

Started in 1996, the Excellence in Reclamation Award program recognizes excellence and innovation in coal, hard rock and aggregate mine reclamation and abandoned mine land projects throughout New Mexico. The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department presented the awards at the annual New Mexico Mining Association Conference. Copies of award presentations and information on award winners can be found on the Mining and Minerals Division website at

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/MMD/OFD/ExcellenceReclamationAwards.htm>.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.