

# NAAML P

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAMS

**NEWSLETTER**  
Fall 2015 Vol. 37 No. 2

## INSIDE

President's Message	
NAAML P 2015 Conference.....	2
Stan Barnard Award.....	3
Dave Bucknam Award.....	4
Scholarship Awards.....	4
National Award.....	5
Appalachian Region Award.....	6
Mid-Continent Region Award.....	7
Small Project Award.....	9
Winter Business Meeting.....	10
IMCC Legislative Update.....	11

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Winter Business Meeting**  
Sacramento, CA March 8 -11

## MISSION STATEMENT

1. To provide a forum to address current issues, discuss common problems and share new technologies regarding abandoned mine land reclamation;
2. To foster positive and productive relationships between the states and tribes represented by the Association and the federal government;
3. To serve as an effective, unified voice when presenting the states'/tribes' common viewpoints; and
4. To coordinate, cooperate and communicate with the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, Western Interstate Energy Board and all other organizations dedicated to wise use and restoration of our natural resources.

## Dear NAAML P Membership,

Seems like the newly elected incoming president always begins by stating how honored he or she is to have been elected to serve for the next year – well, such is certainly the case with this president. However having been involved with the AML Reclamation Program since the 1970's and in this association for 3 decades, 'being honored' doesn't really do it justice. At this juncture in the life of this program, with Reauthorization on the horizon yet once again, and following in the footsteps of Eric, Bruce, Todd and presidents from thirty previous terms, I view it more than just an honor – it's both an awesome privilege and incredible responsibility! As the original intentions of SMCRA reach their current state of maturity, even amid much regional diversity we must stay unified and keep the main thing, the main thing – that is, the common goal of reclaiming as many high priority abandoned mine hazards as efficiently as, and for as long as we possibly can.

I can't begin to properly thank Pennsylvania's Eric Cavazza for his excellent leadership, support and guidance over the last 3 years – indeed giant footsteps in which to follow. As we embark head-on into Reauthorization, I genuinely look forward to continue working with Justin Ireys from Alaska as our newly elected Vice President. I also appreciate Bob Scott of the Bluegrass State stepping up to serve as our new Secretary-Treasurer, and am grateful for the many hours of work put in by our committees and sub-committees (especially the chairs),

comprising the backbone and shouldering the weight of our common workload.

We would not be anywhere near our successes without the tireless and diligent efforts and expertise of Greg Conrad of the IMCC, as he and Ryan Ellis team up to continue the good fight on our behalf in the federal budget quagmire and that madhouse process of legislative and rulemaking issues so critically essential to the success of both NAAML P and IMCC. Along with normal programmatic issues and the AMLER Proposal, the upcoming election year will likely even further complicate the reauthorization process, making Greg and Ryan's direction and input even more invaluable. I look forward to working jointly with IMCC as we push forward with a myriad of issues important to both memberships. *(cont. P2)*

*Chuck Williams, President*



I would like to specifically thank John Kretzman and the New Mexico and Navajo AML Program's conference planning team for hosting our recent outstanding conference in Santa Fe. There were many compliments regarding not only the quality of the technical sessions and tours, but the overall excellent organization and efficiency of the entire venue. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Glenda Marsh and her staff from the California AML Program for hosting our Winter Business Meeting next March in Sacramento, and the efforts of Autumn Coleman and her staff from the Montana AML Program for taking on our 38th Annual Conference and Business Meeting next September in beautiful Bozeman.

I'll close by encouraging us all once again to keep diligently focused on working together for our common long term objectives, realizing that there must be some compromise by all of us. Without solidarity we WILL be divided and conquered, and our passion for continued AML reclamation will likely be defeated with a massive unfinished job. Although over the last 38 years there has been tremendous progress for which we should legitimately and genuinely feel great pride, we all know there is still an enormous amount of important remaining work. Let our legacy continue as we move into the next chapter beginning with 2016 and beyond!

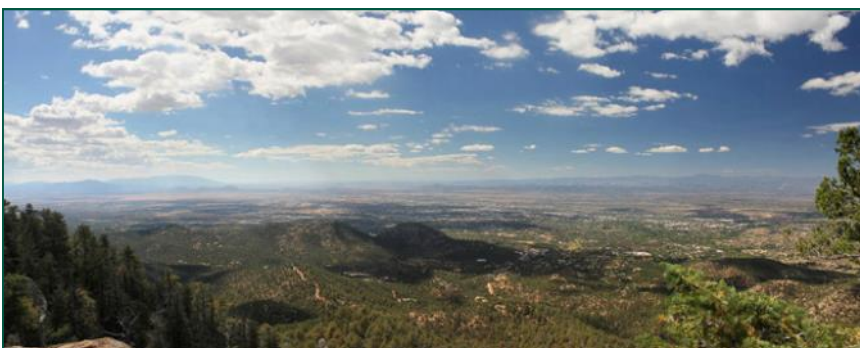
I look forward to seeing everyone in California, again in Montana, and perhaps some of you at points in between.

Best regards,

**Chuck Williams, President**

## 2015 NAAML P Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico

The New Mexico Abandoned Mine Land Program, in conjunction with the Navajo Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Department, was pleased to host the 37th annual National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs in Santa Fe, September 27 through 30. The Navajo Nation and New Mexico thank the 363 people who registered for the conference and the 15 sponsors and 31 exhibitors who made the conference possible.



*View of Santa Fe from the Atalaya Mountain Trail*

*(l to r) -Abigail Tobin, Kendra Miner, Laura Nugent*



Thanks is also extended to those who made welcoming remarks and presentations at the plenary and to those presented a full suite of technical papers on a wide variety of topics, including an overview of mining legacy management in Britain, as well as to the La Fonda hotel staff in providing true New Mexican hospitality and good food. Tours focused on New Mexico history, arts, and culture, from Pueblo ruins to historic mining to Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The awards banquet and ceremony highlighted the great work that states and tribes have accomplished in abandoned mine reclamation, safeguarding, and responses to AML emergencies.

John A. Kretzmann, P.E.

## Stan Barnard Award

Bruce Stover has worked in the field of abandoned mine reclamation and for the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program for over 30 years. He has had a successful and progressive career as a field geologist, staff supervisor, and finally as Director of the Colorado Inactive Mine Reclamation Program and Mine Safety and Training Program. For many years, Bruce pioneered innovative approaches to mine safety closures, subsidence evaluations, underground mine fire abatement work, and on remediation of mining induced water pollution. With his leadership the Colorado Inactive Mine Program has developed and enhanced its reclamation partnerships with various community and public interest advocates as well as with federal agencies.

Being a hard worker Mr. Stover is dedicated and committed to the principles of achieving environmental improvement through implementation of abandoned mine land policies— all Stan-like qualities. He has served as an officer within NAAML from 2012 to 2014 and is involved with NTTP and TIPS training. In all that he does, Bruce can be relied upon to accomplish the best possible results. Stan had an infectious personality and enjoyed the company of his colleagues and friends. Bruce has a positive, warm-hearted, helpful personality. He takes great pride in his technical expertise and this, combined with his dedication to collaboration and teamwork – make him an outstanding choice for this year’s Stan Barnard Award.



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## Dave Bucknam Award

Richard L. Beam of Pennsylvania's DEP Cambria office is this year's recipient of the Dave Bucknam Award for instruction excellence. Rich has been involved for over 15 years as an instructor in OSM's National Technical Training Program for Acid Forming Materials, Passive Mine Drainage Treatment, and the AMD-Treat course. Rich has been very committed to his role as an instructor and is always cutting edge in providing the most up-to-date and state-of-the-art information to his students. Rich has also been very supportive of other training courses being conducted in Pennsylvania by helping to line up field sites for the classes and making himself available for class field trips to those sites to assist and answer questions. For his part in providing Dave-like qualities for training and instruction, he is this year's recipient of The Dave Bucknam Award.



## NAAMLPScholarship Awards

### Laura Nugent -Eastern Region

The eastern recipient of the 2015 NAAMLPScholarship is Laura Nugent. Ms. Nugent is entering her senior year at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, and will be graduating next spring with a B.S. in Mining Engineering. Previously she completed her course work in Economics and received a B.A. from Washington and Lee University in Lexington, KY. Presently Ms. Nugent is an intern with Cloud Peak Energy working reclaiming an abandoned mine site in Sequatchie Valley, TN. This mine closed in the 1990's and is creating acid mine drainage (AMD). To complicate the problem the watershed contains additional abandoned mines. To aid in abating the AMD at the Cloud Energy site, she will be conducting in-situ testing of bio-reactors, performing water balance studies, as well as investigating a wetland that should not be, but is, producing manganese. Upon graduating from WVU, Ms. Nugent would like to work on changing the general public's perception of mining by publicizing reclamation projects that show it is possible to mitigate the problems caused by past mining, in addition to showing the public that through good planning and design these problems do not have to be duplicated in the future.

### Abigail Tobin –Western Region

The western recipient of the 2015 NAAMLPScholarship is Abigail Tobin. Ms. Tobin is working on her Masters of Science in Forestry at the Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. Following receipt of her Bachelor's degree from the University of New Hampshire Durham, she went to work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department in their Wildlife Contracts Branch. This is where she developed her interest in bat ecology and abandoned mine land reclamation. Part of her job with the Wildlife Contracts Branch was conducting bat surveys on abandoned underground mines in northwestern Arizona. The information learned from the bat habitat surveys was given to the land managers to aid them in closing the abandoned underground mines. She continued her work with bats as a crew leader with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Her crew was responsible for doing external and internal biological and bat surveys of mines to determine the best closure methods. During this she was able to develop her skills with identifying and tracking bats through trapping, videography and telemetry. At this time she would like to further her expertise by obtaining her master's through researching the effects of bat gate design on bat usage and behavior in abandoned mine lands in the Southwest, United States.

### Kendra Miner –Mid-Continent Region

The mid-continent recipient of the 2015 NAAMLPScholarship is Kendra Miner. Ms. Miner will be a senior at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is currently studying to complete her degree in Biology and Environmental Science. She will receive a minor in writing and has worked as a writing consultant in the Coe College Writing Center. During the summer of 2014 she worked as a research assistant in the Coe College Water Quality Lab. This entailed taking water samples from several wetlands and streams within the Cedar River Watershed. These samples were tested for nutrients, sediment, and microbial populations in the water. As part of her research history, she has conducted research on the water quality of the ephemeral pools at the Behrens Ponds and Woodlands Preserve near Toddville, Iowa. In conducting her honors research project this summer she studied the population of blue-spotted salamanders at the Behrens Ponds Preserve. This fall she will be writing her honor's thesis on what she found during her course of research on the salamanders. Along with all her other activities, Ms. Miner is a certified water quality monitor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as well as a committee member for her local chapter of the National Turkey Federation.

## Lake Valley Mine Safeguard Projects, Sierra County, New Mexico



Crews placing used earth-moving equipment tires at Lake Valley.

### National Award Winner

The judges chose the Lake Valley project for very challenging conditions due to the large number of dangerous mine openings, the presence of weak subsurface soil and rock, and the presence of deteriorated cribbing and near-surface underground workings. The project team utilized creative technical solutions to address the issues on the site. Toroid tire plugs were a very innovative use of new technology utilizing material that would normally be a waste product, and geosynthetically confined soil was an affordable engineering technique that provided a reliable closure solution.

A project that utilized international resources, innovative closure techniques and focused on protecting bats is the National Award winner claimed the judges' votes because of all those attributes and also the long term effort needed to finish the project.

At one time, the area was home to one of the most dubious mining claims in American history, a time in which two worldly marketers convinced thousands of people to converge in 1881 to

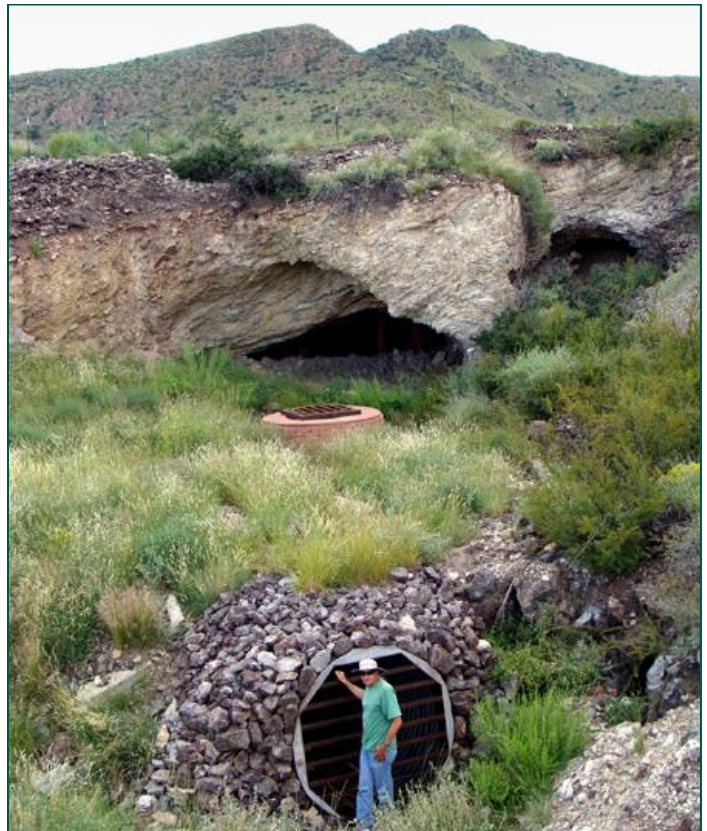


try to find silver in the desert dirt. A time that came crashing down in 1893 when Congress demonetized silver and many left without their fortune. In the early 1900's mining returned, but not for silver. Instead, manganese and flux materials were needed for wartime production. That ended in 1955. Left behind was a maze of mine openings and a ghost town comprised of just a few small buildings, a two room schoolhouse that now serves as a museum, and just two people who volunteer to manage the historic property. That, and dozens of mine openings that pose a threat for anyone who might go near them.

The team identified 297 hazardous mine openings scattered over a two mile area, many in just a half square mile. A biologist identified significant bat maternity and hibernation use, primarily housing a species of concern. But the biggest challenge facing the team was geology. A study indicated variable soil conditions and relatively low strength. While some of the mines went as deep as 100 feet, the openings themselves were within a few feet of the surface, meaning they were subject to collapse. After investigating the use of more traditional techniques to close some of those openings, the AML team realized some would require different treatment.

In some areas, engineers used tried and true techniques to close the mines – backfilling, blasting, and polyurethane foam

Three of the nearly three hundred mine openings at Lake Valley



plugs. And they created bat gates to ensure access. But at 15 locations, the team selected a new low-cost method to plug the openings. With traditional techniques off the table the team turned to using toroid tire plugging. In this method, engineers used old earthmoving equipment tires to shore up the entrances. In this technique, tires are built both vertically and horizontally into support structures. Their durability provides a long-term - hundreds of years solution; their flexibility allows for movement needed when the earth shifts. And the cost is negligible since the tires are no longer usable on equipment. At this, the Feature 4 Carolina opening, engineers needed to close a 16 by 20 foot wide area, but still provide for cave access. They stacked the tires into a floor and beam support system, and then included a six foot wide corrugated steel pipe as a doorway for bats.

The project managers say this is the first time the tire plugging method was used in the United States. It is the signature moment for this project that also provided significant protection for bats. The project also preserved the historic nature of the site, and increased the safety of those who might visit there.



*This is believed to be the first use of toroidal tire plugging in a U.S. mine site.*

## **New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division Abandoned Mine Land Program**

# **Simpson Northeast Coal Refuse Fire Fell Township Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania**

## **Appalachian Region Award Winner**

The judges selected the Simpson Northeast project for its involvement in a high-priority site that required a quick turnaround. The design team worked very quickly to start and finish the project and made sure to utilize various engineering methods to control water runoff and work around the freezing temperatures. The project was high-profile and was well received by the community. The design team utilized OSMRE resources to tackle a problem they didn't have specific experience in.



A fire burning and the fuel, just a quarter mile from a major river, goes back to late 1800s underground mining, and some surface mining into the 1960s. Reports of local brushfires went back months. At first the size of the fire fooled the state's AML specialists. Their first estimate measured the steam and smoke covered surface area at about 120 by 120 feet, more than 100 feet high, with four acres of potential fuel for the fire. They estimated they would need to move about 50 thousand cubic yards of refuse to extinguish the flames. In retrospect, that number was wildly optimistic. The nearby river was an easy way to get water to extinguish the fire but was also a high quality cold water fishery. Project managers estimated they would need in excess of 20-thousand gallons of water from the river each day. That number was wildly optimistic.

When work began in January 2014, the temperature at some burn areas exceeded 1200 degrees, indicating a large fire that apparently had smoldered for a long time. Crews put a 500 gallon per minute water stream at each work station as heavy equipment exposed the hot material in a six foot deep trench. Then, just a

few days later, brutal cold kicked in, with temperatures hovering in the single digits for nearly a month, freezing the water lines. The cold required 24 hour a day pumping to free the lines, and that led to expanding the site from four, then seven, then to seventeen acres in size. Crews built check dams and settling ponds to capture and control the runoff, and when possible to reuse the water.

By April, the state realized killing the flames would take longer than expected, and called reporters in, which allowed the team to tell its story directly to the public. By the time the fire was extinguished 111 days later, workers had moved more than 285 thousand cubic yards of refuse, or six times the amount first estimated. The teams had pumped and recycled more than 156 million gallons of water from the river, or more than eight times originally estimated. Over the next two months, the state reclaimed the site. Teams regraded the burn area to match those unaffected by the fire, then seeded, fertilized, and mulched, and also included limestone to help prevent acid mine drainage. Many of the techniques the team used are now part of an OSMRE course on how to manage similar fires.

*The weather grew so cold it froze some of the water intake lines.*



*Temperatures fell into the single digits for almost a month while crews worked at Simpson Creek*

## PA Department of Environmental Protection Abandoned Mine Land Program

*The work area eventually grew to about 17 acres in size.*



## AML Site 2052 Minnehaha Slurry, Sullivan County, Indiana

### Mid-Continent Region Award Winner

The judges chose to honor the Minnehaha Slurry site for tackling unique engineering challenges to consolidate existing slurry material into a smaller area and stabilization of the project levee through traditional earthwork and non-traditional approaches. The use of a passive bioreactor was a great use of new technologies. Geomorphic design was also included in the project and the post construction contours very well executed.

One of the most worrisome threats in coal country is the inadvertent release of what is known as slurry – the byproduct when coal is processed and washed before it is taken away. What is left behind is a mix of coal fines, chemicals, and water that flows like molasses and threatens anything downstream with pollution. The most immediate problem for this project was repairing a weakened impoundment levee dating back to the early 1900s. The 60 acre impoundment sat near a creek first diverted and created by the coal company, a tributary to a major

river. However, the impoundment was structurally unstable because of how it was built. After that slurry pond became full – this was fifty years ago – they took coarse material, gob, and raised it up another 10, 15 feet. A sudden failure would have sent a huge discharge downstream that likely would have damaged property and injured or killed people – the very thing the AML fund is designed to address. Gob material, consisting of coal and spoils, was exposed in the tailing ponds, and that contributed to ongoing acid mine drainage into the nearby creek. The highly acidic water also penetrated the levee holding back the sludgy mix – making a breach a distinct possibility. If the levee was breached, the slurry would have flowed into Mud Creek and it would have been very difficult to stop.



*The team used geomorphic design techniques to finish the work.*

At the same time, the engineers moved more than 70 thousand cubic yards of substrate to create the bioreactor; a combination of 17,000 tons of agricultural lime, 2400 tons of compost, 4000 tons of wood chips, and 5000 tons of hay and straw, all designed to act as a natural filter. The bioreactor takes in water from the stream that drains the slurry and also from a nearby gob pile. Water coming in is highly acidic. Water going out is almost completely alkaline, and the iron and manganese concentrations are much lower. And the impact of this project also spilled over to an active mining site. Peabody Mining allowed the AML team to store substrate materials on Peabody’s permitted area while construction was going on. Peabody also benefited, and so did the environment, when the company saved money by using the same contractor as the AML project to treat another acidic area. Finally, the team finished the site using geomorphic techniques to make the site not only functional but aesthetically pleasing.



*The bioreactor teams created at the Minnehaha Slurry Site.*

Project managers had three goals in mind for the site: repair the levee, reclaim the coal, and fix the acid mine drainage. The biggest obstacle to doing all three was geography; a cramped, small site that would hamper moving heavy equipment around. So, project engineers chose to take the cramped layout and use it for their own purpose. They needed room to create a bioreactor. To clear some land, they pumped more than six million gallons of acidic water out of the levee, treated it, and then placed the cleaned water in the nearby creek. From there, they took the slurry and stacked it away from the levee. They removed coarse material from the dam and replaced it with more dense soil, strengthening the levee and making it less likely to breach.



*Teams sampling water at Minnehaha*

## Indiana Department of Natural Resources Abandoned Mine Land Program





# Lightner/Boston Coal Mine Erosion Control Project, Colorado

## Small Project Award Winner

The judges chose the Durango, Colorado project for its involvement, cooperation and input between several agencies, particularly Colorado and New Mexico, in order to achieve success. The project included the input of community members and the local college which helps spread the word about AML programs. The project also focused on detailed re-vegetation that was more labor intensive but ultimately created microclimates for vegetation, and therefore wildlife, to thrive.

The challenge for the Small Project Award winner was almost the opposite of our first two awardees. Instead of having to deal with an overabundance of water and acid mine drainage, this project winner faced ongoing problems with erosion due to a desert environment and change in the drainage patterns.



*Remnants of old housing at Lightner/Boston.*

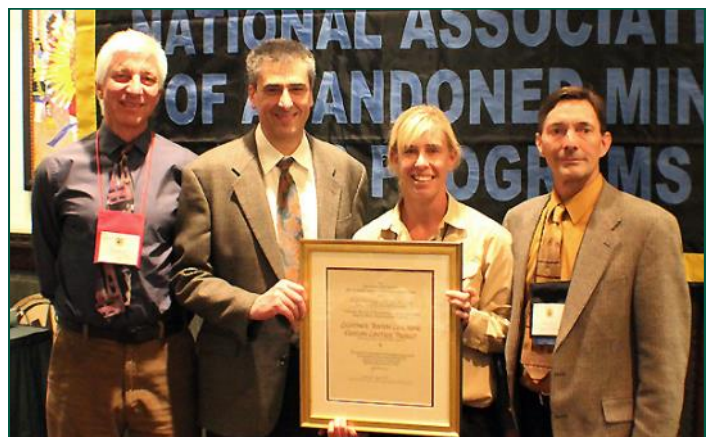


*An example of the terracing used to minimize erosion.*

Project managers described this site as a legacy of the economic lifeblood of the surrounding community – a place that still contains stone houses and mining equipment from the early 1900s. So, one of the goals of fixing the emerging erosion problem was to preserve the historic nature while also introducing native vegetation. Mined between 1901 and 1926, the site held more than 4000 cubic feet of coal waste – the byproduct of more than a million tons produced there. In 1992, the state built a bioreactor onsite, which reduced the acidity from some water escaping. But previous work to fill old mine openings had also directed drainage away from the mine workings, and the acid flow was almost completely stopped. Except, that is, when rain events happened, causing erosion, which exposed coal wastes as far as 15 to 20 feet down, with little vegetation to stabilize the area.

To remedy the problem, project managers adopted innovative dry land reclamation techniques from the New Mexico AML program –but shifted them from large scale acre by acre revegetation to small scale, work done by the square foot – a necessity because of the fragile desert environment and to keep the historic nature of the site. After characterizing the soils, project managers brought students in from a local college and from the Southwest Conservation Corps to learn about the place, and supply some of the needed work. That work included amending the soils with 2 and a half tons of biochar, four tons per acre of beer mash and wood chip compost, primarily applied using rakes and shovels. The teams – using volunteers from all around the area – built berms and installed more than 11 thousand feet of straw wattles by hand. That provided small areas for planting 20-thousand live plants, including pine, mahogany, oak and sagebrush.

## Colorado Bureau of Land Management Abandoned Mine Land Program





## Winter Business Meeting –March

**Greetings everyone,**

Things have now been set for hotel reservations for our upcoming business meeting in Sacramento. The hotel's cancellation policy provides for no penalty up to the day before arrival. Since it's a busy time in Sacramento, I would suggest making reservations now.

### HOLIDAY INN SACRAMENTO-CAPITOL PLAZA

To book your room : call (916) 446-0100 or 1-800-HOLIDAY (465-4329) with Group Code: QML. To make your reservation at the special group block rate of \$112, book on or before 12 am, Feb. 6, 2016.

You can also make your reservations online using this link:  
[National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs.](#)

If you have any specific questions, contact [Glenda Marsh](#) of the CA AML Program.

Chuck

[Chuck Williams](#)

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### Meeting Schedule

**Tues. March 8, 2016** – Travel to Sacramento

**Wed. March 9, 2016** – Scheduled tours (early am departure) & committee meetings

**Thur. March 10, 2016** – Business Meeting & planned evening activity

**Fri. March 11, 2016** – Travel home

One of the most historic cities in California, [Sacramento](#) boasts an impressive array of landmarks, parks, amenities and other must-see points of interest. [Here](#) you'll find a handful of our most [iconic features](#) to the City.

[Old Sacramento](#) -Twenty-eight acres of Sacramento's waterfront were home to some of the most influential history for the city.

Due to past and current efforts by the State of California, private and public museums, individuals, business, the City and County of Sacramento, the Historic Old Sacramento Foundations, scores of volunteers, and many others, Old Sacramento lives on as thriving shopping and entertainment district as well as a global tourist destination.



Parking at the hotel is both self and valet (fees apply).

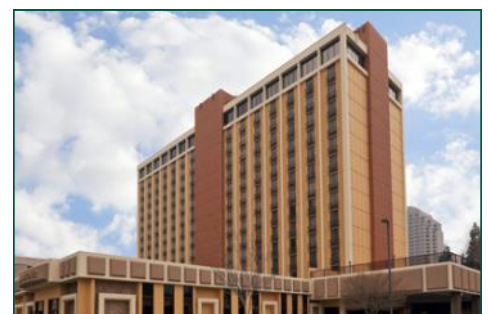
[Old Town Sacramento](#) (Across the street)

[Governor's Mansion Historic Park](#) (1 mi./1.7 km)

[Sutter's Fort](#) (2 mi./3.3 km)

[Sacramento International Airport](#) -11 miles from downtown

Ground Transportation - Shuttle, Taxis, Rental Cars



## IMCC Legislative Update

### AMLER

IMCC continues to monitor developments with the Administration's AML Economic Revitalization proposal (AMLER), which is part of the larger Power + Plan in the Administration's 2016 budget proposal. The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) reports that the legislation for AMLER has been prepared and is awaiting a sponsor for introduction. IMCC and NAAMLPLP consulted with OSM on draft versions of the AMLER legislative proposal, but the extent to which our recommendations will be reflected in the proposed legislation is unclear at this time. IMCC and NAAMLPLP have also endeavored to impress upon OSM the need for reauthorization of Title IV fee collection authority as part of any AMLER effort, but the administration has no official position on combining the two initiatives and continues to pursue AMLER as a higher priority in the short term. IMCC prepared a report for NAAMLPLP's 2015 Annual Conference covering the potential impact of AMLER on AML funding in addition to the current status of the AML Trust Fund and anticipated AML funding up to and beyond the current end date for fee collection authority.

### FY 16 Appropriations and Sequestration

According to OSM's projections, AML appropriations for FY 2016 should be approximately \$210 million in total. OSM has indicated that they expect a 6.8% sequestration to apply to AML funding for FY 2016, which would reduce total AML funding for FY 16 to \$195.7 million. The recently passed "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015" seems to include an extension of the sequestration of mandatory (aka direct) spending, which would include the AML Fund, through FY 2025. IMCC continues to cooperate with NAAMLPLP in efforts to secure an exemption from sequestration for the AML Trust Fund. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has indicated that exempting payments from the AML Fund will require a legislative fix, so IMCC and NAAMLPLP are pursuing the exemption as a part of general AML legislative efforts and may potentially pursue the exemption as a part of reauthorization efforts.

### Hardrock AML and Good Samaritan Congressional Hearings

IMCC cooperated with NAAMLPLP on two recent hearings related to establishing Good Samaritan liability protections and the issue of hardrock AML more generally. The first, an oversight hearing held by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, took place on October 21. This hearing focused on the universe of hardrock AML sites and generally explored potential solutions, focusing on the need for Good Samaritan protection. The second, a legislative hearing held by the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, took place on November 4. This hearing focused on two bills introduced by the Committee: H.R. 3843, the "Locatable Minerals Claim Location and Maintenance Fees Act of 2015," which would authorize a 7-year period of claim location and maintenance fees for locatable minerals on federal land, establish a national hardrock AML program for federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and establish a federal Good Samaritan program; and H.R. 3844, the "Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation Establishment Act," which would establish a foundation to collect private donations and direct assets to environmental clean up, including AML.

IMCC and NAAMLPLP submitted written statements for both hearings, and were represented during the hearing through oral testimony provided by former NAAMLPLP president Eric Cavazza. Mr. Cavazza did an excellent job of communicating the experience and recommendations of the AML programs to the Committees.

With all of the recent attention paid to the Animas River spill, there is a significant amount of momentum surrounding efforts to establish a federal Good Samaritan program. Willingness to find a viable, bi-partisan solution for establishing these long sought after protections seems to be mounting, and IMCC will continue to coordinate with NAAMLPLP and work to inform and contribute to these discussions.

### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE SPECIFICATIONS

Articles subject to editing. Submit an article by e-mail. Include author's name, title of article, captions for photos. Submit photos in TIF (preferred) or JPG format, and original photo size. E-mail photos as individual files, not embedded.

**Deadline for Spring Edition is April 15, 2016.**

Email articles to **Bob Scott** ([bobf.scott@ky.gov](mailto:bobf.scott@ky.gov)) or mail articles to: **Bob Scott**, Director  
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands  
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For more information call **Bob Scott**, **Mark Meade** or **Ben Enzweiler** at 502-564-2141.