HARDROCK AML RECLAMATION AWARD
GUIDELINES

1.   AWARDS

The NAAMLP Hardrock AML Reclamation Awards were initiated in 2016 to recognize those responsible for the nation's highest achievements in hardrock abandoned mine land reclamation. The award program aims to recognize exemplary projects at legacy abandoned hardrock mines in the United States in two categories:

1. Remediation of Contamination Impacting the Environment or Human Health, and
2. Remediation of Physical Safety Hazards.

Projects to remediate hardrock mines left unreclaimed prior to reclamation requirements of state or federal law, and funded wholly or in part and completed by state, tribal, or federal agencies, local governments, or non-government organizations are eligible for an award. This includes all types of remediation or reclamation in the two categories of risks noted above stemming from abandoned hardrock mines. For the purposes of these awards, hardrock mines means all non-coal extraction commodities. One project for each of the two categories may be submitted by eligible programs each year. Projects nominated in the same year for another award are not eligible.

2.   NOMINATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Utah, as webmaster for the NAAMLP website, will accept annual nominations submitted to their email address at NAAMLPhardrock@utah.gov. Questions regarding the nomination process can also be addressed through this email account. Nomination submittal requirements are as follows.

A. A text-only cover sheet containing:
1. Nomination category (physical or environmental), name and location of the nominated reclamation project;
2. Name, address, phone numbers and email addresses of those submitting the nomination;
3. Project start and completion dates, and construction costs;
4. Names of organizations responsible for the reclamation, including contractors; and
5. Date submitted.

B. A narrative description of the work:
The narrative should not exceed six single-spaced pages; it should fully describe the eligibility of the project, the abandoned mine problem, including background and reclamation techniques used. The text should also contain photo captions and references to maps, diagrams, or other graphics.

C. Color photographs (including maps, diagrams, or graphics).
The photos should show both the specific activity and the surrounding conditions. They should provide a clear understanding of the reclamation accomplishments.

D. Format.

    Each nomination package must be submitted electronically to **NAAMLPhardrock@utah.gov**. Packages will be posted on the web in Adobe Acrobat format; they may be submitted as one file in Acrobat (containing text and photos), or as a Word file containing text and separate files containing photographs (or graphics) in .jpg format. All nominations must include the cover photo in .jpg format in a separate file. Files are limited to 25 MB and can be submitted in .zip format.

    For judging purposes, nominees should submit photos that:
1. Are 2 Megapixel (MP) in size or larger 6MP+preferred).

2. Show before and after sequences (preference is for historic photos from the origins of the mine and/or the reclamation work to show progress).

If a project is selected for an award, nominees will be asked to submit an abstract of the project for the awards banquet presentation of the annual NAAMLP Conference. Winners will also be asked to give a presentation of their project at the technical session of the conference.

3.   JUDGING STANDARDS

Judging standards for the awards are as follows, and apply to both award categories:

1. **Innovative use of current technology (16 pts.)**

2. **Difficulty of Achieving Reclamation under Existing Conditions (24 pts.)**
   a. Special and unique considerations (12)
   b. On-site difficulty of the project (12)

3. **On-Site Effectiveness (25 pts.)**
   a. Effective/innovative use of technology (7)
   b. Landscape conforms to the natural environment (9)
   c. Elimination of significant health and safety problem (9)

4. **Funding (15 pts.)**
   a. Effective use of funds (9)
   b. Leveraging – use of partners for funding (6)

5. **Benefits to the Community (20 pts.)**
   a. Community support for the project (8)
   b. Long-term benefits to the community (12)

One representative from each NAAMLP state or tribe is eligible to judge the nominations. Utah will set up a link to a Survey Monkey scoring sheet for each nomination for the judges to score. Representatives are not to score a nomination from their own state or tribe. The scores are automatically averaged by the survey form and checked for accuracy by the Utah delegate.

4.   PRESENTATIONS

The Association will award two hardrock AML reclamation awards each year – one for environmental reclamation and one for physical safety reclamation. A traveling trophy will be given to each of the current winners to be held for one year, then it will be passed from the current winners to the next winners at the next Association annual conference. A member of the Hardrock Committee will announce the winners at the Association annual conference and give a brief presentation summarizing the winning projects with slides.

5.   PROCEDURE TIMELINE

The following is a list of target dates for action items to be carried out by the Hardrock Award Sub-committee.

Winter Business Meeting – Determine contact and address to mail trophies to annual NAAMLP conference. Ensure that time will be allotted for presentations of that year's winning projects at the technical sessions.

March 1 – Request for nominations announcement via email to interested parties including NAAMLP delegates, federal partners, and NGOs. Attach an updated flyer announcement.

June 1 – Nominations due date email reminder.

June 15 – Nominations due, set up Survey Monkey scoring page.

June 21 – Announce scoring instructions and deadlines to NAAMLP delegates. Include the Survey Monkey link. Allow two weeks for scoring.

July 5 – Scoring due date reminder.

July 7 – Tally scores and notify winners. Request abstracts and any other images needed for award presentation.

- Notify previous winners the names of the new winners and project name for engraving, when trophies are to be mailed to the annual conference holder, and their contact name and address.

Sept 1 – Prepare presentation for Award Banquet.

November 1 – Update winners on website.