



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Sandlick Coal Company, LLC Receives Award for Mine Reclamation from Department for Natural Resources *Annual Commissioner's award recognizes outstanding reclamation efforts*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 22, 2011) – Carl E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department for Natural Resources, presented a 2011 Commissioner's Award of Excellence in Reclamation to Sandlick Coal Company, LLC for outstanding reclamation work on its surface facility (permit no. 848-0302) located in Harlan County near the community of Coldiron.

According to Campbell, "The area of greatest success and benefit for this mining operation is in controlling water runoff to prevent erosion and promote stability of the backfill. The company placed a rock drain at each area where a potential water flow might cross the backfill, effectively slowing the velocity of water and directing it through less erosive material until a natural drain is reached. This is not required at each drain, but the company concluded that prevention of rills and gullies will help alleviate the need for maintenance at a later date."

A varied array of trees were planted on the reclaimed land. In addition to the required species of loblolly pine, Eastern white pine, autumn olive and black locust, oaks will aid wildlife and provide a valuable timber species. Exfoliating bark of the green ash, along with the oaks, will provide the Indiana bat potential nesting sites. The post-mining land use of forestland capable of supporting fish and wildlife was agreed upon by the coal company and the landowners prior to mining.

The Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (DMRE) inspector Charles Hoskins from the Middlesboro Regional Office nominated this site because of the company's exceptional work and their commitment to the environment.

In presenting the award to Jeff Dean, Commissioner Campbell expressed his sincere appreciation for the company's outstanding reclamation work. "Your efforts in reclaiming this site is a model for the entire coal industry," said Campbell. "Controlling water runoff and soil erosion while creating a place for wildlife to thrive, provides many benefits to the landowner, the community and our state. Your work here exemplifies what I envisioned when I initiated this award. "