



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Premier Elkhorn Coal Company Receives Award for Mine Reclamation from Department for Natural Resources

Annual Commissioner's award recognizes outstanding reclamation efforts

FRANKFORT, Ky. – (Sept. 28, 2011) – Carl E. Campbell, commissioner of the Department for Natural Resources, presented a 2011 Commissioner's Award of Excellence in Reclamation to Premier Elkhorn Coal Company for outstanding reclamation work on its surface facility (permit no. 898-0400) located in Pike and Letcher counties near the community of Shelby Gap.

Premier Elkhorn established a diverse and permanent vegetative cover on the mined areas in accordance with regulatory requirements and its approved reclamation plan. The company incorporated exfoliating bark species of trees for the protection of the Indiana Bat, while, at the same time, providing cover for all types of wildlife.

Campbell praised Premier Elkhorn's willingness to work with the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) to promote reforestation as a reclamation technique is well known within the industry. "The company brought equipment back to a successfully reclaimed site to prepare soil to ARRI standards in order to optimize tree planting and growth. As a result of your reclamation efforts, the area now functions as cropland, pastureland, and fish and wildlife habitat," Campbell said.

Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement Inspector Deannie Castle from the Pikeville Regional Office nominated this site because of the company's exceptional work and its commitment to the environment.

On hand to accept the award were Stacy Billiter, engineer; Jeff Cornett, superintendent of surface mining; Greg Hayes, reclamation specialist; and Don Hall, operations director. Commissioner Campbell expressed his sincere appreciation for the company's outstanding reclamation work. "Your returning to reforest an already reclaimed site at your own expense speaks volumes about your commitment to the community. I am proud to present this award to you today."

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