

INTERSTATE MINING COMPACT COMMISSION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



About the Cover Photos:

The cover photos are of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission's 2015 National Reclamation Award winning sites. The two top photos are of Harlan Reclamation Services, LLC – Right Fork Mine in Kentucky (winner in the Coal Category). The three photos on the bottom are of Luck Stone Company – Charlottesville Plant (winner in the Noncoal Category).

Chairman's Message

It is my privilege to present the annual report of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) for 2015. This is an overview of the significant issues on which the Commission has been active in support of state primacy in the natural resource and environmental protection arenas. Consistent with our purposes as a compact, IMCC advocated for a strong state lead in critical program areas under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), the Mine Safety and Health Act (Mine Act), the Clean Water Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). In particular, IMCC worked to ensure adequate funding for state regulatory and abandoned mine land programs under SMCRA and for state training grants under the Mine Act.

A particular focus was a proposed rule and accompanying draft environmental impact statement (EIS) and draft regulatory impact analysis (RIA) on stream protection under SMCRA by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. In advance of the rule's publication in July, IMCC testified at two congressional hearings in May that examined the role of the states as cooperating agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act. I was proud to have my state testify at the hearing before the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. In October, IMCC submitted extensive comments on the proposed rule, draft EIS, and draft RIA and worked extensively with the cooperating agency states to secure a meaningful role in this process .

IMCC also saw a flurry of activity in the bonding arena triggered primarily by the downturn in the coal market that resulted in unexpected bankruptcies of major coal companies. IMCC sponsored a series of conference calls to assess the situation and position the states to respond. IMCC also continued to provide input to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding a proposed rule on financial assurance for the hardrock mining industry under CERCLA. All of these efforts were anticipated to continue unabated into 2016.

IMCC weighed in on legislation to establish a meaningful critical minerals policy for the United States, testifying at a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in May. In a related initiative, IMCC continued its active participation as a member of the U.S. Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative representing the interests of the mining states in this international undertaking.

We were pleased to welcome Wyoming as the newest full member state of the Compact and looked forward to the potential involvement of several new states.

It was my honor to serve as your Chairman. I encourage all member states to continue their involvement in the Compact as we seek to develop our abundant natural resources in an environmentally protective manner.

Sincerely,



Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama
Chairman, Interstate Mining Compact Commission

**2015 Annual Report
of the
Interstate Mining Compact Commission**

Gregory E. Conrad
Executive Director

Beth A. Botsis
Deputy Executive Director

Ryan W. Ellis
Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Specialist

445-A Carlisle Drive
Herndon, Virginia 20170
Phone: 703.709.8654
Fax: 703.709.8655
Web Site:
<http://www.imcc.isa.us>
E-Mail:
gconrad@imcc.isa.us
bbotsis@imcc.isa.us

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2015 Officers



Governor Robert J. Bentley
Alabama – Chairman



Governor Terry McAuliffe
Virginia – Vice Chairman



Governor Bill Walker
Alaska – Treasurer

History and Purpose of the Compact

The Southern Governors' Conference Meeting in San Antonio, Texas in 1964 recognized and came to grips with the problems of surface mining. Governor Edward R. Breathitt of Kentucky and Governor Bellmon of Oklahoma sponsored a resolution which in part read: "Whereas the Council of State Governments sponsored an interstate conference, in which surface mining problems of the states were reviewed, and whereas such conference underlined the desirability of action by industry to utilize techniques designed to minimize waste of our natural resources and the desirability of action by the states to assure adherence to sound standards and procedures by the mining industry: Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Southern Governors' Conference that the Council of State Governments be requested to assist representatives of the states in which surface mining takes place in exploring the possible role of interstate action, through Compact and otherwise, in this field."

The Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) was thus conceived and Kentucky became its first member followed by Pennsylvania and North Carolina. With the entry of Oklahoma in 1971, the Compact was declared to be in existence and operational. In February 1972, permanent headquarters were established in Lexington, Kentucky and an executive director was retained. Since that time, twenty-two additional states — West Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland, Tennessee, Indiana, Illinois, Texas, Alabama, Virginia, Ohio, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, and Mississippi — have become members. New Mexico withdrew from the Compact in 1991 as a full member but rejoined as an associate member in 2000. New York joined the Compact as its first associate member state in 1994. Since then the following states have also joined as associate members: North Dakota (2000), Utah (2004), Wyoming (2005), Alaska (2006), Colorado (2007), Nevada (2012), and Mississippi (2013).

Mississippi, New York, North Dakota, Utah, Alaska and Wyoming are now all full members. Due to financial constraints, Nevada chose to withdraw its associate membership in May of 2015.

The Mining Compact is designed to be advisory, not regulatory in nature, and its defined purposes are to:

- ▶ Advance the protection and restoration of the land, water, and other resources, affected by mining;
- ▶ Assist in the reduction or elimination or counteracting of pollution or deterioration of land, water, and air attributable to mining;
- ▶ Encourage (with due recognition of relevant regional, physical, and other differences) programs in each of the party states which will achieve comparable results in protecting, conserving, and improving the usefulness of natural resources, to the end that the most desirable conduct of mining and related operations may be universally facilitated;
- ▶ Assist the party states in their efforts to facilitate the use of land and other resources affected by mining, so that such may be consistent with sound land use, public health, and public safety, and to this end study and recommend, wherever desirable, techniques for the improvement, restoration, or protection of such land and other resources; and
- ▶ Assist in achieving and maintaining an efficient and productive mining industry and increasing economic and other benefits attributable to mining.

Report of the Executive Director

It was a rigorous but efficacious year for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC). 2015 saw the emergence and/or advancement of a variety of substantial policy actions and initiatives. Significant federal activity dominated much of the year, beginning in February with the introduction of the Administration's Power + Plan. Over the summer, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) released its long-awaited proposed Stream Protection Rule, resulting in a massive effort and bustling pace for IMCC staff and the member states as state comments were developed and coordinated in short order for the immense rule. Throughout the year, IMCC was involved with many other legislative and regulatory issues including several related to the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA); the U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; potential listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act; and a variety of issues related to reclamation bonding at both coal and hardrock mines.

Congress approved an omnibus appropriations bill in December 2014, which funded all agencies except the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the end of the fiscal year (FY). In the end, the states fared quite well. State assistance grants under the Mine Safety and Health Act (Mine Act), which were forecast to be completely eliminated, were restored once again to the FY 2012 level of \$8.4 million. Much of this turn around can be attributed to a concerted effort by IMCC member states to inform Congress about debilitating impacts resulting from such drastic cuts, especially for small miners. We also saw Congress reject a proposed 15% cut for state regulatory grants under SMCRA and instead approve a reinstatement of the \$68.6 million based on FY 2012 levels of funding.

With the New Year, the fledgling 114th Congress spent considerable time organizing itself, particularly on the Senate side. As a result, legislative activity did not really begin to gear up

until about February. The most significant action early in the year involved the President's proposed budget for FY 2016, which was released on February 2. In addition to various new funding proposals for OSMRE and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), it also contained several new legislative proposals.

IMCC helped facilitate a conference call with OSMRE to discuss the agency's FY 2016 budget on February 2. E-memos were sent to the IMCC member states, as well as members of the National Association of the Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) on January 6 regarding the FY 2015 AML grant distribution, and on January 28 regarding a briefing by OSMRE on the agency's FY 2016 budget.

IMCC met with congressional staff from the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and the House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee to discuss the proposed FY 2016 budget for OSMRE on February 24. IMCC testified at a hearing on OSMRE's proposed budget before the House Interior Appropriations Committee on March 18, with John Stefanko of Pennsylvania serving as IMCC's witness. A similar statement was submitted to the House Energy and Mineral Resources Committee for a hearing that was also held on March 18. Statements were also provided to the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. IMCC also prepared and submitted testimony and a written statement on behalf of the NAAML.

IMCC provided briefings and held consultations with various groups on the general status of SMCRA Title V and Title IV issues. On May 4, IMCC staff met with the National Academy of Science's Board of Mineral Resources to discuss mutual interests and concerns. Mr. Conrad presented a paper entitled "Moving Targets and Sitting Lame Ducks: A Washington, D.C. Update" at the 29th Annual Technology Transfer Seminar of the Indiana Society of Mining and Reclamation on December

8 in Evansville, Indiana. IMCC provided briefings on both Title V and Title IV issues at two OSMRE/states meetings: one in Roanoke, Virginia on August 18 and 19 and a Western OSMRE/states meeting held on December 15 and 16 in Denver, with IMCC participating via conference call.

The most notable of the Administration’s legislative proposals, the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization or “AMLER” proposal, was given much time and attention throughout the year. The AMLER proposal, which is one portion of the Administration’s larger Power + Plan, seeks to aid economic revitalization efforts in depressed coal-field communities through the AML program.

IMCC met with Senior Policy Advisor Jason Walsh of the White House Chief of Staff’s office on March 10 to discuss AMLER and its implications for state AML programs. A conference call followed between Mr. Walsh, OSMRE Director Pizarchik, IMCC, and NAAMLPL President Eric Cavazza on March 16, during which a revised version of the AMLER proposal was presented and discussed. A meeting among various representatives of the Administration, the environmental community, IMCC, and NAAMLPL was held on April 2 to further discuss the proposal and to receive input regarding its implementation. After these meetings, IMCC and NAAMLPL proceeded with written comments that were submitted to the Administration on April 10.

IMCC facilitated conference calls with NAAMLPL and the IMCC AML Committee on August 20 and 31 to discuss the states’ positions regarding the AMLER proposal. IMCC met with congressional staff from the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and the House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee either in person or via conference call to discuss the proposal on several occasions throughout the year. IMCC met again with Jason Walsh and Interior Department officials to discuss the proposal and its implications for state AML programs on August 5.

With regard to AML issues more generally, IMCC continues its working relationship with NAAMLPL pursuant to a contract for services in the amount of \$20,000. IMCC participated in the NAAMLPL Winter Meeting from March 3 - 5 in Orange Beach, Alabama, providing a regulatory and legislative affairs briefing. IMCC also participated in the NAAMLPL Annual Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and provided a report to the NAAMLPL membership concerning the status of the AML trust fund. Several conference calls were held concerning the status of the AML trust fund in preparation for the conference. A conference call with the Virginia AML program staff was held on December 16, to discuss preparations for the 2018 NAAMLPL Annual Conference in Williamsburg, Virginia.

IMCC initiated a series of conference calls with OSMRE AML staff and NAAMLPL representatives to discuss AML reauthorization and the background materials that will be needed as part of any legislative effort. Calls were held on January 15, 22, 29 and February 12. Conference calls were held with the NAAMLPL officers and the newly established NAAMLPL Reauthorization Subcommittee on January 29 and February 3. IMCC facilitated a meeting of NAAMLPL and IMCC’s AML Committee on June 10 in St. Louis to discuss a legislative options paper concerning AML reauthorization.

IMCC also facilitated a series of conference calls with NAAMLPL officers and membership to discuss a proposed survey of the states regarding the implementation of their respective AML programs that was requested by The Alliance for Appalachia as part of an effort by the Alliance to prepare a white paper on the status of the national AML program. IMCC also prepared a summary for the results from the survey. The Alliance’s paper, along with its recommendations for legislative revisions as part of any reauthorization effort, was released in July.

At the Pennsylvania AML Campaign’s annual conference in State College, PA on June 26, IMCC and Eric Cavazza of Pennsylvania, gave a joint presentation titled “Preparing for SMCRA

Reauthorization in 2021.” IMCC, together with Trout Unlimited, participated in a briefing for congressional staff and county commissioners from around the country regarding the status of the AML program and reauthorization efforts on February 24. Separate meetings with staff from the House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee were held on January 22, February 24, and April 9 to discuss AML issues. IMCC staff also attended a meeting with Pennsylvania Watershed Groups on December 12 in Juniata, Pennsylvania and provided an update on budget issues, sequestration impacts, and reauthorization.

IMCC was involved with a variety of activities related to Good Samaritan legislation, particularly in the wake of the Gold King Mine Spill in August, which drew increased attention to AML water treatment issues. IMCC testified at an oversight hearing by the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on October 21 regarding Good Samaritan protections for AML remediation projects. Eric Cavazza of Pennsylvania served as IMCC’s witness. IMCC also testified at a legislative hearing by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources of the House of Natural Resources Committee on November 4 regarding Good Samaritan protections for AML remediation projects. Mr. Cavazza again served as IMCC’s witness.

In preparation for the potential movement in the House and Senate of Good Samaritan legislation, IMCC staff worked with representatives from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Trout Unlimited, and Pennsylvania watershed groups to explore the development of an amendment that specifically addresses Good Samaritan protections for coal AML sites. A conference call with these groups was held on December 9. IMCC also worked with the Keystone Center in Colorado to explore potential Good Samaritan solutions under CERCLA, a conference call for which was held on November 9.

IMCC staff spent considerable time during the period wrapping up its work on

USEITI. IMCC attended meetings of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), on which IMCC served as a member, in Washington, DC on February 24 - 25, May 20 - 21, September 16 - 17, and December 16 - 17. During the December meeting, the USEITI reconciliation report was approved. The majority of IMCC’s efforts were in the context of the Contextual Narrative Work Group and the State and Tribal Opt-in Subcommittee. A total of 14 conference calls and/or meetings of the subcommittees and work groups were held during the year. As part of our work on these various committees, IMCC staff prepared several discussion documents and clarification memos. IMCC terminated its participation on the MSG effective December 31.

IMCC participated as a member of a steering committee that included OSMRE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and several states to develop a Bat Technical Symposium held in conjunction with the American Society for Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) Conference on June 10 in Lexington, Kentucky. In preparation for the Symposium, conference calls were held on January 15 and March 17. IMCC coordinated and facilitated a panel session for the Symposium titled, "State Perspectives on Bat Protection Issues at Mine Sites." Representatives from Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Virginia served as panelists, and IMCC moderated the session. In preparation, conference calls with IMCC and the panelists were held on February 18 and May 20.

IMCC also continues to serve as a member of the executive management team on bat protection issues and guidelines, along with OSMRE, FWS, and representatives from Bat Conservation International (BCI). Conference calls were held on January 15, March 17, April 21, July 14, September 15, and November 15 to discuss bat protection issues, particularly focused on the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB), for which an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing decision was published on April 2.

IMCC helped to facilitate and attended an OSMRE/states briefing on March 25 in St. Louis regarding a draft Memorandum of Understanding

(MOU) between OSMRE and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning implementation of the 1996 Biological Opinion under SMCRA for protection of threatened and endangered species. A follow up letter was sent to OSMRE Director Pizarchik on April 2.

A conference call with six member states (WV, IL, IN, KY, AL, VA) was held on July 14 to develop comments that were submitted to FWS that same day regarding a draft Interim Protection and Enhancement Plan (PEP) for the NLEB dated July 10, 2015.

IMCC also helped to facilitate and attended an OSMRE/FWS/States meeting on October 15 in St. Louis to further discuss the draft MOU concerning implementation of the 1996 Biological Opinion.

IMCC was involved with two legislative efforts related to critical minerals production over the course of the year. IMCC presented testimony jointly with the state of Alaska, with Ed Fogels of Alaska serving as witness, at a legislative hearing conducted by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on May 12 regarding S. 883, the "American Minerals Security Act of 2015." IMCC also submitted a statement for the record at this hearing. The bill was eventually incorporated into S. 2012, the "North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act." IMCC also submitted a written statement for a related measure, H.R. 1937, "The National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act," following a legislative hearing held by the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on June 25. H.R. 1937 passed the House in October.

Throughout the year, IMCC pursued a number of issues related to mine safety and health. IMCC continued its work with regard to state assistance grants under the Mine Safety and Health Act. IMCC participated in a conference call with Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Assistant Secretary Joe Main on February 3 to receive an update on the requested actions in IMCC's letter of October 30, 2014

regarding the potential for interim state assistance grants and expediting grant approvals. A memo was sent to the states on February 3 regarding MSHA's FY 2016 proposed budget, which included increased funding for states assistance and training grants. IMCC submitted a statement to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the committees of jurisdiction on March 27 regarding MSHA's budget requests. On March 17, IMCC held a meeting with OSM and MSHA officials at MSHA headquarters in Arlington, Virginia along with representatives from Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Maryland to discuss MSHA jurisdiction at AML projects under SMCRA. IMCC submitted comments to MSHA on June 19 concerning a Request for Information (RFI) that included potential adjustments to miner certification requirements under the Mine Safety and Health Act.

Several IMCC member states met via conference call on October 5 and November 16 to discuss and make final revisions to the eligibility criteria for new IMCC Mine Safety Training Awards Program, which will be presented for the first time at IMCC's 2016 Annual Meeting in Lake Placid, NY.

The Stream Protection Rule (SPR), which was published by OSMRE on July 27, was undoubtedly the most demanding and prominent issue with which IMCC was engaged in 2015. In the beginning of the year, leading up to the proposed rule's release, IMCC continued to facilitate discussions among the various cooperating agency states involved with the rule's accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Conference calls of the cooperating agency states were held on January 27 and February 10 to decide upon next steps with respect to their continued involvement in the EIS process. IMCC prepared a legal analysis regarding the role of cooperating agency states, which was distributed to the states via e-memo on January 4. A draft letter to OSM concerning the matter was prepared by IMCC and sent to the states for their review via e-memo on January 27. Revised versions of the letter were sent to the states on February 11 and 18, and a final version was

signed by all of the cooperating agency states and sent to OSMRE Director Pizarchik on February 27. A follow up letter was also sent to the Chairman of the House Energy and Minerals Resources Subcommittee on March 27 to clarify the interaction between the cooperating states and OSMRE since 2011. The letter was included in the hearing record of the March 18 oversight hearing on OSMRE's FY 2016 Budget.

IMCC was involved in two congressional hearings related to the SPR prior to its release. IMCC testified at a legislative hearing on May 14 held by the House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee regarding S. 1664, the "Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Action in Mining Act" (or "STREAM Act") with Russ Hunter of West Virginia serving as IMCC's witness. IMCC also facilitated the identification and preparation of three state witnesses for an oversight hearing on May 20 by the House Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee titled, "State Perspectives on the Status of Cooperating Agencies of the Office of Surface Mining's Stream Protection Rule." Witnesses included Randy Johnson of Alabama, Russ Hunter of West Virginia, and Greg Baker of Virginia.

OSMRE unveiled its proposed SPR and accompanying DEIS and draft Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on July 16, with a conference call facilitated by IMCC. All relevant documents were distributed by IMCC to the states and a meeting was held in Herndon, Virginia from August 25-27 to begin preparation of comments on the documents. IMCC contracted with Engineers-Consultants-Scientists-International, LLC (ECSI) of Lexington, Kentucky to assist with the preparation of IMCC's comments. Several conference calls were held with ECSI during the period to coordinate work on IMCC's comments. IMCC's comments on the proposed rule, DEIS, and draft RIA were submitted on October 23 following review by the member states.

IMCC was involved in several events related to the SPR following its publication.

IMCC testified at a public hearing on the rule on September 10 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. IMCC also produced a template for the member states to use in preparing their own testimony. IMCC submitted requests for extensions of the comment period to the Interior Department on July 27 and October 6 and provided a template for the member states to do the same. IMCC convened and facilitated a conference call of the cooperating agency states on October 9 regarding the DEIS and the potential for these states to re-engage in the process. IMCC also assisted with the preparation of state witnesses for an oversight hearing on the proposed rule held by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on October 27. IMCC attended a joint hearing of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on the Interior and Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules on December 8, 2015 titled, "Examining the Stream Protection Rule." The sole witness for the hearing was Janice Schneider, Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. The purpose of the hearing largely revolved around examining the nature of OSMRE's consultation with cooperating state agencies during the development of the DEIS related to the SPR, and touched on the RIA associated with the SPR.

IMCC held and facilitated five conference calls regarding reclamation bonding requirements under SMCRA and other state noncoal mining regulatory programs. The first call was held on May 26 and served as a brainstorming session to identify key issues and concerns that could be pursued going forward. On July 16, a second conference call was held at which several state agency representatives presented their perspectives on key bonding issues within their borders that served as the basis for discussion among the member states. A third conference call was held on July 30 at which participants heard from three surety company representatives, as well as the Surety Association of America, regarding their respective perspectives on the availability of surety bonds for the mining industry. In preparation for this call, IMCC staff met with the sureties via conference call on July 28 to prepare

the discussion topics. A fourth call and webinar was held on August 6, at which participants heard from coal market analysts and investors regarding the health of the mining industry (coal and hardrock) with respect to potential bond forfeitures and bankruptcies. Finally, on September 2, participants heard from five bankruptcy experts (three lawyers and two representatives from OSMRE) who discussed how states can best position themselves in bankruptcy proceedings that involved bond reclamation liabilities, especially self-bonds. A conference call with the presenters was held on August 28 to prepare for the call. IMCC also met via conference call with OSMRE's Financial Assurance Coordination Team (FACT) on December 16, 2015 and also with a group of investors via a separate conference call the same day to discuss bonding concerns.

IMCC distributed via e-memo a joint motion filed in a mandamus action by several environmental groups to force EPA to move forward with its proposed rule under section 108(b) of CERCLA to establish financial assurance requirements for the hardrock mining sector. IMCC participated in a webinar regarding the status of the proposed rulemaking on September 29. IMCC convened and facilitated a conference call between the states and EPA officials on October 21 to discuss the proposed rule.

IMCC sponsored a benchmarking workshop on August 11 and 12 in Chicago titled, "Developing a Defensible CHIA (or Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessment)." There were 65 state and federal agency personnel in attendance over the two-day workshop, which consisted of a plenary session and three breakout sessions. All of the materials from the workshop have been placed on IMCC's website or sent to the participants. Several conference calls were held with workshop presenters in the months leading up to the workshop.

IMCC continues to participate on the Geomine Pilot Project Steering Committee. A conference call was held on April 1 to discuss

critical issues, with IMCC providing a briefing.

IMCC continues to serve on the National Technology Transfer Team, which coordinates OSMRE's applied science and related technical initiatives. Conference calls were held on July 22 and October 7 to discuss the future of the team and to prepare for review of applied sciences projects in Fiscal Year 2016.

IMCC presented a statement regarding state perspectives on the federal coal-leasing program during a listening session held by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, DC on July 29. IMCC also provided a template for Western states to submit a similar statement at other sessions being held in the West.

During the year, IMCC published four e-newsletters and updated its website with several new enhancements, including a message board that can be utilized by the member states as a forum for sharing information and posting questions for response. Several recent presentations by the Executive Director were also posted on the website. An updated membership directory, as well as meeting announcements and other information, continue to be available on the website.

The state of Wyoming passed legislation bringing them in as the newest full member of IMCC, which was signed by Governor Mead on February 25. The state of New Mexico also saw considerable legislative action on a bill to bring the state in as a full member of the Compact. IMCC has discussed membership with the states of Montana and Arizona and continues to work with the state of Colorado on proposed legislation to bring it into the Compact as full members. The state of Nevada chose to withdraw as an associate member of the Compact in May citing financial constraints. The IMCC Membership Workgroup met via conference call on December 17 to discuss strategies for moving forward with meetings to encourage IMCC participation and membership and to prepare various materials for use during the meetings.

The IMCC Executive Committee met via conference call on February 23 to discuss the potential establishment of a Western State Issues Work Group. The Executive Committee met again on March 26 via conference call to discuss IMCC strategies for action regarding several key issue areas and initiatives. On July 27, the Executive Committee met via conference call to discuss the involvement of federal agencies in future IMCC meetings. The final IMCC Executive Committee conference call for the year was convened on December 17 to discuss the IMCC Annual Meeting format and the role of committee chairs in furthering the work and leadership of the commissions.

The IMCC Reclamation Awards Committee met on March 16 via conference call to select the winners of the 2016 national reclamation awards. The IMCC Education Work Group met on March 11 via a conference call to select the winners of the 2015 Mineral Education Awards. The IMCC Finance and Administrative Committee met via conference call on April 1 to discuss the proposed budget for FY 2016, the projected budget for FY 2017, and related staff compensation and state dues assessments.

An Audit of IMCC's accounting and financial statements was conducted July 23.

The year 2015 repeated a pattern that we have seen over the past several years, with the number and intensity of issues growing and the challenges facing the states increasing. The importance of advocating for state authority and jurisdiction under the various national environmental laws that our members implement continues unabated and remains our highest priority. We are indebted to the many public servants in state government who actively and meaningfully engage in our work and insure the integrity and credibility of the Compact. Our effectiveness as an organization is fully dependent on your commitment and participation. Results of this collaborative effort abound in 2015 and are a testament to the efficacy of IMCC. We as a staff are honored to represent our member states in Washington, D.C. and count it a distinct privilege

to do so. Onward and upward!

[NOTE: For expanded versions of the most recent Executive Director's Reports prepared on a semi-annual basis in preparation for IMCC's Annual and Mid-Year Meetings, see the IMCC website at www.imcc.isa.us.]

2015 Standing Committees

Environmental Affairs Committee

Coal Section

Steve Weinzapfel, Indiana, Chairman

Michael Bograd, Mississippi, Vice Chairman

Noncoal Section

Kent Coleman, South Carolina, Chairman

Jonathan Burr, Tennessee, Vice Chairman

Abandoned Mine Lands Committee

Eric Cavazza, Pennsylvania, Chairman

Lanny Erdos, Ohio, Vice Chairman

Mine Safety and Health

William Gerringer, North Carolina, Chairman

Eugene White, West Virginia, Vice Chairman

Finance and Administrative Committee

Ed Fogels, Alaska, Chairman

John Baza, Utah, Vice Chairman

Resolutions Committee

Brian Wittwer, Alabama, Chairman

Butch Lambert, Virginia, Vice Chairman

Awards Committee

Abby Alkire, Louisiana, Chairman

John Caudle, Texas, Vice Chairman

(Members of the 2015 Awards Committee: Louisiana, Utah, Nevada, West Virginia, Texas)

Legal Advisor

Steve Adler, Utah

Minerals Education Work Group

Beth Wilson, Ohio, Chairman

Activities of the Standing Committees

Finance and Administrative Committee

The committee met on three occasions during 2015. The committee met via conference call on April 1 to discuss and tentatively approve the proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 and to prepare recommendations for staff compensation and benefits. On April 29, the committee met in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with the Compact's Annual Meeting. The committee reviewed the Compact's financial condition; reviewed and approved the proposed FY 2016 Budget; were updated on membership status and dues assessments; were presented with an update by current associate member states regarding their membership status; and discussed several administrative matters.

On October 28, the committee met in Santa Fe, New Mexico in conjunction with the Compact's Mid-Year Meeting. The committee reviewed the Compact's current financial condition; reviewed and approved the Compact's FY 2015 Audit; were presented with an update by current associate member states regarding their membership status and legislative initiatives to pursue full membership; and were updated on IMCC's membership outreach efforts.

Resolutions Committee

The committee met jointly with the Finance and Administrative Committee twice in 2015. On April 30 in conjunction with the Compact's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, the committee met and recommended approval of two resolutions of appreciation. (See *Resolutions* section of this Annual Report.)

On October 28 in conjunction with the IMCC Mid-Year Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the committee met and recommended

adoption of three resolutions of appreciation. (See *Resolutions* section of this Annual Report.)

Environmental Affairs Committee — Coal Section

The Coal Section of the Environmental Affairs Committee met on April 28, 2015 in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with the Compact's Annual Meeting. Among the topics discussed were: the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's (OSMRE) budget and appropriations issues; IMCC's testimony submitted to Congress regarding OSMRE's 2016 proposed budget; current expenditures and future needs of state Title V grants under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA); pending OSMRE rulemakings; follow-up efforts to the OSMRE/state Government Efficiency Work Groups; a presentation on Coal Export issues in Wyoming; bat protection guidelines and pending listing decisions; a bonding issues update; an Environmental Protection Act (EPA) Region III mining work groups update; and an update on plans for an IMCC workshop on hydrology issues.

On October 27, 2015, the committee met in conjunction with the IMCC Mid-Year Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Among the topics discussed were: OSMRE's budget and appropriations issues; OSMRE pending rulemakings; IMCC comments on and other activity related to an OSMRE Stream Protection Rulemaking; the status of federal coal-leasing activity; an update on the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)/OSMRE Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the 1996 Biological Opinion; an update on bat protection issues and pending listing decisions; a potential IMCC bonding workshop; an update on EPA Region III workgroups; two bills developed by the House Natural Resources Committee; and an update on bonding issues.

Environmental Affairs Committee — Noncoal Section

The Noncoal Section of the Environmental Affairs Committee met twice in 2015. On April 28 in Baltimore, Maryland, the committee met in conjunction with the Compact's Annual Meeting. The committee met again on October 27 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in conjunction with the Mid-Year Meeting. Topics discussed at the April 28 meeting included: an update on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI); an update on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rulemaking on financial assurance requirements under Section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); hardrock mining legislation and Good Samaritan legislation; an update on Sage Grouse protections and potential listing; and an update on the EPA/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rulemaking related to Waters of the United States (WOTUS).

Topics of discussion at the committee meeting held on October 27 included: an update on the EITI; an update on EPA's ruling on financial assurance requirements under Section 108(b) of CERCLA; hardrock mining legislation; Good Samaritan legislation; an update on Sage Grouse protections and potential listing; an update on WOTUS; an update on Critical Minerals legislation; and potential topics for a possible IMCC Noncoal workshop.

Abandoned Mine Lands Committee

The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Committee met jointly with the Coal Section of the Environmental Affairs Committee on two occasions — April 28 in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with the IMCC Annual Meeting, and October 27 in Santa Fe, New Mexico in conjunction with the Compact's Mid-Year Meeting. At the April 28 meeting, the committee discussed the following topics: state Title IV (AML) grants under

SMCRA; sequestration impacts on AML programs and the IMCC/National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) joint efforts to secure an exemption from sequestration for AML grants; legislative proposals in OSMRE's FY 2016 budget request; and IMCC/NAAML AML reauthorization efforts and strategy.

At the October 27 meeting, topics discussed included: the status of OSMRE's Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) legislative proposal and the state's positions; AML reauthorization legislative options; and IMCC/NAAML ongoing efforts to secure reauthorization.

Mine Safety & Health Committee

The Mine Safety & Health Committee met jointly with the Noncoal Section of the Environmental Affairs Committee on two occasions in 2015 — on April 28 in Baltimore, Maryland in conjunction with the Compact's Annual Meeting, and on October 27 in Santa Fe, New Mexico in conjunction with IMCC's Mid-Year Meeting. Topics of discussion at the April 28 meeting included: the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) FY 2016 budget; the status of MSHA's 2015 state assistance grants; a report on an MSHA/states meeting held on March 17, 2015 related to MSHA jurisdiction at SMCRA AML sites; the status of a new template for respective state/MSHA MOU's regarding coal waste impoundments; the status of underground mine mapping efforts; the status of an MSHA request for information regarding miner certifications; and a proposal to institute a Mine Safety Awards program to be conducted through IMCC.

Topics discussed at the October 27 meeting included: MSHA's FY 2016 appropriation as related to the recent Continuing Resolution (CR); the status of MSHA's FY 2015 state assistance grants; the status of MSHA jurisdiction at SMCRA AML sites; plans for future meetings with MSHA officials;

and the status of the development of IMCC's Mine Safety Awards program.

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee met via conference call on March 16, 2015 to select winners of the 2015 Kenes C. Bowling National Mine Reclamation Awards. The Education Work Group met via conference call on March 11, 2015 to select winners of the 2015 IMCC National Minerals Education Awards.

The award recipients are listed elsewhere in this Annual Report. The awards were presented at the Annual Awards Banquet on April 28, 2015, which was held in conjunction with IMCC's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

Committees and Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for 2016

Environmental Affairs Committee

Coal Section

James Matheny, Mississippi, Chairman

Allen Luttrell, Kentucky, Vice Chairman

Noncoal Section

Tracy Davis, North Carolina, Chairman

Matt Podniesinski, New York, Vice Chairman

Abandoned Mine Lands Committee

Lanny Erdos, Ohio, Chairman

Alan Edwards, Wyoming, Vice Chairman

Mine Safety and Health

Eugene White, West Virginia, Chairman

Mary Ann Pritchard, Oklahoma, Vice Chairman

Finance and Administrative Committee

John Baza, Utah, Chairman

James Matheny, Mississippi, Vice Chairman

Resolutions Committee

Butch Lambert, Virginia, Chairman

Ed Fogels, Alaska, Vice Chairman

Awards Committee

John Caudle, Texas, Chairman

Bryan Epperson, Tennessee, Vice Chairman

(Members of the 2016 Awards Committee: Texas, Tennessee, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Colorado)

Legal Advisor

Russ Hunter, West Virginia

Minerals Education Work Group

Colleen Baughman, Indiana, Chairman

Yearly Commission Meetings

2015 Annual Meeting — Baltimore, Maryland

The 2015 Annual Meeting was held at the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland from April 26 - 29, 2015. Twenty-two of the twenty-six member states were in attendance. A representative from the state of Montana was also in attendance. Attendees consisted of approximately 65 persons, including IMCC members, other state representatives, federal officials, Congressional staff, a member of the press, and industry representatives. The meeting was highlighted by committee meetings, the annual commission business meeting, the annual awards banquet, a welcome reception, and a social dinner.

The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Maryland Secretary of the Environment Ben Grumbles on Monday, April 27. The balance of the morning was spent in federal and state meetings with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), respectively. The day concluded with a traditional Maryland crab feast social dinner at a local seafood restaurant located in the Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore on the harbor.

IMCC standing committee meetings commenced in the morning on April 28 (see *Activities of the Standing Committees*). Following a luncheon, IMCC standing committee meetings resumed. That evening, the IMCC annual awards banquet was held and the 2015 National Reclamation and Minerals Education Awards were presented. (See *Awards* section later in this report for details.)

The Commission's annual business meeting was held on April 29. The meeting was chaired by Randy Moore of the Commonwealth of Virginia on behalf of the Compact's Vice-Chairman, Governor Terry McAuliffe. Mr. Moore served in place of the current chairman,

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, due to the early departure of Alabama's IMCC representative, who had been present for the majority of the Annual Meeting. Subjects of action and discussion included: approval of minutes of the Compact's October 17, 2014 Mid-Year Business Meeting in Washington, D.C.; the Executive Director's Report (see *Report of the Executive Director*); standing committee reports (see *Activities of the Standing Committees*); approval of standing committee action items; the potential for a Western states issues work group; strategies for concerted state action on key issues; and future IMCC meetings.

2015 Mid-Year Meeting – Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Mid-Year Executive Commission Meeting of the IMCC was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico at La Fonda Hotel, October 26 - 28, 2015. Twenty of the twenty-six member states were in attendance. A representative from the state of Montana was also in attendance. A day of federal and state meetings was held on October 26, prior to the start of the Mid-Year Meeting. A meeting between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the states featured presentations from Lonny R. Bagley, BLM Deputy State Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals, and Bill Auby, BLM Geologist within the Division of Environmental Quality and Protection. Following the meeting with BLM, a separate meeting was held between the states and OSMRE. The day concluded with a welcome reception.

IMCC standing committee meetings commenced in the morning of October 27. A luncheon was held which included a presentation from New Mexico Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Trustee Ryan Flynn, who spoke on the state's experience with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency related to the August 5, 2016 Gold King Mine waste water release into the

Animas River, and the ongoing impacts of the release on the state and its citizens. Standing committee meetings resumed in the afternoon following the luncheon. Committee meetings recommenced the morning of October 28, followed by the Commission’s business meeting, which concluded the Mid-Year Meeting. The business meeting was chaired by Brian Wittwer on behalf of the Compact’s Chairman, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley. Among the topics addressed at the meeting were: approval of minutes of the April 29, 2015 business meeting in Baltimore, Maryland; an Executive Director’s report (see *Report of the Executive Director*); reports from standing committees of the Compact (see *Activities of Standing Committees*); approval of standing committee action items; election of officers for 2016; appointment of committee chairs for 2016; the results of the most recent Member State Survey; an overview of an IMCC workshop regarding Hydrology issues titled, “Developing a Defensible CHIA”; and future IMCC Meetings.

Officers Elected for 2016



Chairman:
Governor Terry McAuliffe
Virginia



Vice Chairman:
Governor Bill Walker
Alaska



Treasurer:
Governor Gary R. Herbert
Utah

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, The Interstate Mining Compact Commission's Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland from April 26 - 29, 2015 was honored by the presence of The Honorable Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment; and

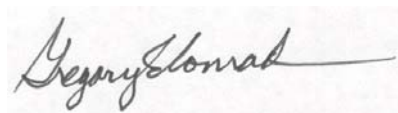
WHEREAS, Secretary Grumbles presented the Welcoming Address during the Opening Session on April 27, 2015;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its gratitude to Secretary Grumbles for his participation in making this year's meeting an outstanding success and for his support of IMCC.

Issued this 29th day of April, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, Ed Larrimore arranged an informative and interesting annual meeting for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission in Baltimore, Maryland from April 26 - 29, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Larrimore also served as the Moderator for the Opening Session on April 26 and as the Master of Ceremonies at the Awards Banquet on April 28; and

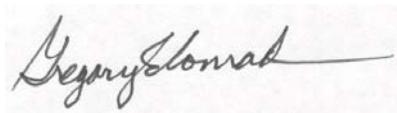
WHEREAS, our host warmly welcomed and generously extended Free State hospitality to all attendees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its deep appreciation to Ed Larrimore for assisting the IMCC staff to assure a successful meeting.

Issued this 29th day of April, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, The Interstate Mining Compact sponsored a “Developing a Defensible CHIA” benchmarking workshop in Chicago, Illinois on August 11 - 12, 2015 where regional breakout groups were essential to the success of the workshop; and

WHEREAS, Steve Weinzapfel of Indiana, Richard Wahrer of Kentucky, and Chris Yde of Montana served as facilitators of the regional breakout groups and provided excellent leadership and guidance in conducting the discussions and developing regional CHIA templates; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the time and effort the facilitators put into preparation for the breakout groups and for their participation;

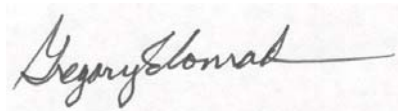
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its gratitude to:

*Steve Weinzapfel
Richard Wahrer
Chris Yde*

Issued this 17th day of August, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, The Interstate Mining Compact Commission sponsored a “Developing a Defensible CHIA” benchmarking workshop in Chicago, Illinois on August 11 - 12, 2015 where attendees were privileged to hear many excellent speakers; and

WHEREAS, it is through these speakers sharing their expertise that the Commission was able to present an informative and productive workshop that provided insightful information and ideas that will assist the member states in the writing of Cumulative Hydrologic Impact Assessments (CHIAs) as a required part of their regulatory programs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the time and effort the speakers expended in the preparation and presentation of their remarks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

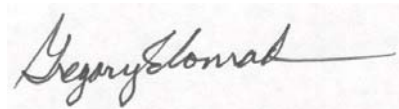
That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its gratitude to:

*Deborah Dale
Dana David
Pete Schade
Tim Walter
Muthu Kuchanur*

*Tom Clarke
Nick SanDiego
Richard Wahrer
Jay Hawkins
Nick Schaer*

Issued this 17th day of August, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, throughout the years, The Interstate Mining Compact Commission has been privileged to hear many excellent speakers at its meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is through these speakers that the Commission is able to keep abreast of new developments, new policies, and new technology in the fields of mining and environmental protection; and

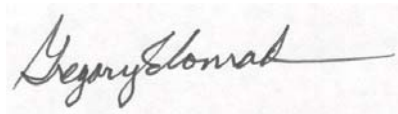
WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the time and effort the speakers have expended in the preparation and presentation of their remarks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to Bill Auby, Geologist, Division of Environmental Quality and Protection, U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Issued this 28th day of October, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, throughout the years, The Interstate Mining Compact Commission has been privileged to hear many excellent speakers at its meetings; and

WHEREAS, it is through these speakers that the Commission is able to keep abreast of new developments, new policies, and new technology in the fields of mining and environmental protection; and

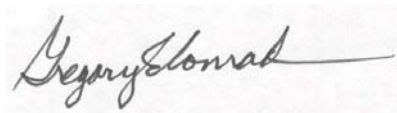
WHEREAS, the Commission is most appreciative of the time and effort the speakers have expended in the preparation and presentation of their remarks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to Lonny R. Bagley, Deputy State Director for Energy, Lands and Minerals, U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Issued this 28th day of October, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, The Interstate Mining Compact Commission's (IMCC) Mid-Year Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico was honored by the presence of Ryan Flynn, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Trustee for the state of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Flynn presented the Keynote Address at the IMCC luncheon on October 27th; and

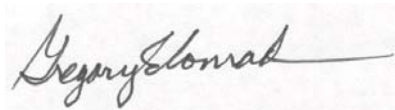
WHEREAS, Secretary Flynn has been a strong supporter of state primacy under various federal laws that attend mineral development in the United States, particularly in the area of abandoned mine lands remediation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its gratitude to Secretary Flynn for his participation in making this year's meeting an outstanding success.

Issued this 28th day of October, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Resolution

Interstate Mining Compact Commission

BE IT KNOWN THAT:

WHEREAS, Fernando Martinez arranged an informative and interesting Mid-Year Meeting for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) in Santa Fe, New Mexico from October 26 - 28, 2015; and

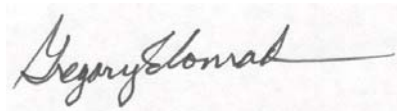
WHEREAS, our host warmly welcomed and generously extended Land of Enchantment hospitality to all attendees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Interstate Mining Compact Commission expresses its deep appreciation to Fernando Martinez and his staff for assisting the IMCC staff to assure a successful meeting.

Issued this 28th day of October, 2015

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Financial Reports

*Interstate Mining Compact Commission
Statement of Financial Position for the Year Ended June 30, 2015*

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 145,883.00
Certificates of deposit	400,000.00
Interest receivable	6,175.00
Prepaid expenses and deposits	9,749.00
Property and equipment, net	2,153.00
Total assets	\$ 563,960.00

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:	
Accrued vacation	53,434.00
Deferred revenue	14,090.00
Total liabilities	67,524.00
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	496,436.00
Total net assets	496,436.00
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 563,960.00

Financial Reports

**Interstate Mining Compact Commission
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

Unrestricted revenue and support	
Assessments	\$619,124
Government grants and contracts	15,000
Conferences and meetings	22,360
Interest income	5,011
Other income	193
Total revenue and support	661,688
Expenses	
Government programs	15,000
Administrative and general	651,573
Total expenses	666,573
Change in net assets	(4,885)
Net assets, beginning of year	501,321
Net assets, end of year	\$496,436

Financial Reports

**Interstate Mining Compact Commission
Schedule of Comparison of Expenses and Budget
For the Year Ended June 30, 2014**

Description	Government Programs	Admin. & General	Totals	Budget	Variance Over (Under)
Salaries	\$15,000	\$387,181	\$402,181	\$398,500	\$3,681
Employee benefits	-	112,721	112,721	112,000	721
Rent	-	38,592	38,592	39,000	(408)
Conference and meetings	-	44,264	44,264	30,000	14,264
Travel	-	22,956	22,956	25,000	(2,044)
Legal	-	350	350	-	350
Publications	-	3,333	3,333	5,000	(1,667)
Telephone	-	6,833	6,833	10,000	(3,117)
Auditing	-	4,963	4,963	5,500	(537)
Postage	-	1,279	1,279	2,500	(1,221)
Equipment expenses	-	1,171	1,171	3,000	(1,829)
Office supplies	-	3,662	3,662	3,000	662
Other expenses	-	3,384	3,384	2,500	884
Insurance	-	4,977	4,977	5,500	(523)
Printing	-	581	581	2,000	(1,419)
Registration fees/ subscriptions	-	933	933	1,500	(567)
Utilities	-	1,397	1,397	2,000	(603)
Depreciation	-	967	967	-	967
Bad debt	-	11,979	11,979	-	11,979
Total expenses	\$15,000	\$651,573	\$666,573	\$647,000	\$19,573

Member State Permitting Data

PERMITS ISSUED AND ACRES OF LAND DISTURBED AND RECLAIMED JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR COAL SURFACE MINING

State/Enforcement Agency	# Permits Issued	# Acres Permitted	#Acres Disturbed	# Acres Reclaimed
Alabama Surface Mining Commission	3	714	17 (newly bonded)	1624 ¹ (phase III bond release)
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water	0	0	47	0
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality, Surface Mining and Reclamation Division	4	1,688	974	0
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety, Coal Program	0	170,638.38	17,995.61	12,997
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Office of Mines & Minerals, Land Reclamation Division	5	2,401.35	1,230.33	788.65
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation	2	3,084.6 ²	2,392.0 ³	1,438.20
Kentucky Dept. for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement	440 ⁴	34,796.30 (new); 1,997,101.84 (total)	227,524.36	14,946.04 (phase III bond release)
Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation	0	44,179	700	236
Maryland Bureau of Mines ⁵	7	251	2,426	118
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality	0	0	315	20
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Land Reclamation Program	1	348	100	80
New Mexico Energy, Minerals & Natural Res. Dept., Coal Mine Reclamation Program ⁶	0	0	442	0
North Dakota Public Service Commission	0	501	2,530	1,470
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management	6 (new); 8 (adjacent); 1 (exploration)	2,047.9 (surface) 15,171.2 (underground)	27,535.23 ⁷ (1,419.9)	4,732.14 ⁸
Oklahoma Dept. of Mines	⁹	21,800	10,900	900
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection	42	7,993	3,806	1,821
Texas Railroad Commission	1 (renewals and revisions)	54 ¹⁰	7,220.1 ¹¹	5,424.5 ¹²
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining	0 (new); 27 (total)	16 (new); 123,645 (total)	39 (new); 2,955 (total)	100 (phase III bond release)
Virginia Dept. of Mines, Minerals & Energy, Division of Mined Land Reclamation	5 (3 new; 2 transfers)	75,054.14	52,767.76; 63,850.99 (acres bonded)	2,983.78; 32,507.38 ¹³
West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Mining and Reclamation	38 (2015 new and amendments)	6,753 (2015); 338,215 (total)	129,074 (total) ¹⁴	1,305 (2015 released - Phase III)
Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division	0	412,164.70 (total); 0 (new)	3,430 (new); 168,568 (total)	3,399 (new); 78,588 (total)

See footnotes on following page...

¹ Land use percentages based on the 1624 acres of Phase III bond release in 2015.

² Surface Acres 3,084.6 + Underground Shadow Acres 0 = 3,084.6 Acres Permitted.

³ Acres Mined 1,968.0 + Acres Disturbed 424.0 = 2,392.0 Total Acres Disturbed.

⁴ These numbers reflect all the permitting activity that occurred in CY 2015; however a significant amount of this permitting activity occurred on existing permits. Only 21 (4.7%) were newly permitted coal mining operations.

⁵ Acres Permitted reflects number of acres for which bond was posted during the reporting period. Acres Disturbed reflects number of actual disturbed acres that have not been approved for phase III bond release as of 12/31/2015. Acres Reclaimed reflects number of acres for which phase III release was approved during the reporting period.

⁶ The numbers shown are for permitting and mining/reclamation activity taking place during calendar year 2015. These numbers do not represent cumulative acreage. Reclaimed lands means full bond release has been approved.

⁷ Sum total of coal "reclamation due" plus "to be affected" through 12/31/2015 (the 1,419.9 figure indicates new coal acres bonded 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015).

⁸ Phase III acres released 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015.

⁹ 0 permit issued; 56 permits on IUL; 10 revisions approved; 5 permits pending.

¹⁰ Total permit acreage as of 12/31/2015 (324,091.43) minus total permit acreage as of 1/01/2015 (324,037.43) = 54.0 acres.

¹¹ 2,435.4 acres mined and 4,784.6 acres non-mined disturbed = 7,220.1 acres.

¹² Phase III bond release approval (may not have been removed from permitted acreage).

¹³ 32,507.38 reflects total reclaimed and currently permitted.

¹⁴ "Disturbed Acres - Total" means the total number of disturbed acres, including acreage disturbed and reclaimed but not yet receiving final bond release, associated with permits that as of 12/31/2015 were not final release or revoked.

Member State Permitting Data

PERMITS ISSUED AND ACRES OF LAND DISTURBED AND RECLAIMED JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR NONCOAL SURFACE MINING

State/Enforcement Agency	# Permits Issued	# Acres Permitted	#Acres Disturbed	# Acres Reclaimed
Alabama Department of Labor ¹	354	13,133	20,000	190
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water	2	1	1	248
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality	258	25,787.223	9,727.9	852.79
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, Minerals Program	30 (new); 1,607 (total)	1,257 (new) 187,581.00 (total)	111,790 (total)	1,292.5 (new in 2015)
Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, Mine Safety & Training Div., Blasting and Explosives Unit	15	472	595.84	954.7
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Reclamation	6	569.2	15.0	9.6
Kentucky Dept. for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement	79 ²	534.31 (2015); 48,216.12 (total)	22,572.56	2,739.30
Maryland Minerals, Oil & Gas Division ³	87	2,938.41	14,144.07	5,268.26
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality	25	636.76	N/A	1,246
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Land Reclamation Program	330 (permits); 834 (sites) ⁴	35,072	35,072	524
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Dept., Mining Act Reclamation Prog. ⁵	23	10	117	31
New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Div. of Mineral Resources	29 (new in 2015); 1,929 (total active)	149,070 (total) ⁶	61,149 (total) ⁶	826 (2015); 36,560 (total) ⁶
North Carolina Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources	823	75,496	46,229	287
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management	22	1,036	913.9 ⁷	512.5 ⁸
Oklahoma Dept. of Mines	⁹	142,421	57,287	2,053.31
Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection	52	2,137	1,195	466
South Carolina Dept. of Health and Environmental Control	26	1,922.8	954.3	228.9
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Mining Unit	21	5,189	3,892	38
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining	14 (new); 600 (total)	324 (new); 66,434 (total)	324 (new); 66,434 (total)	324
Virginia Dept. of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mineral Mining	28 (total); 9 (new); 19 (transfers)	44,098.6	23,139.9	1,620.0
West Virginia Dept. of Environmental Protection, Division of Mining and Reclamation	2	177 (new); 12,382 (total)	5,924 (total) ¹⁰	423
Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division	6	8,650 (new)	N/A	N/A

See footnotes on following page...

¹ Limestone, dolomite, or marble are not included. They are exempt from regulation

² These numbers reflect all the permitting activity that occurred in CY 2015. However a great deal of this permitting activity occurred on existing permits. On the noncoal sites 7 (8.8%) were newly permitted operations.

³ Acres permitted reflects number of acres for which bond was posted during the reporting period. Acres disturbed reflects number of actual disturbed acres that have not been approved for phase III release as of 12/31/2015. Acres reclaimed reflects number of acres for which phase III release was approved during the reporting period.

⁴ For noncoal permits, many sites can be on one permit, therefore the distinction between permits and sites.

⁵ The majority of permits issued represent Exploration (1) and General Permits (22). General Permits include recreational miners. Noncoal does not include sand and gravel operations. Acres reclaimed means regrading and seeding has occurred, not necessarily bond release. The numbers shown are for permitting and mining/reclamation activity taking place during CY 2015. These numbers do not represent cumulative acreage.

⁶ Total statewide acreage figures since New York State Mined Land Reclamation Law enacted in 1975.

⁷ Noncoal mineral acres bonded 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015.

⁸ IM-7 acres released 1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015.

⁹ 39 permits issued; 49 revisions; 12 transfers; 45 limited use permits issued; 737 permits on IUL.

¹⁰ "Disturbed Acres – Total" means the total number of disturbed acres, including acreage disturbed and reclaimed but not yet receiving final bond release, associated with permits that as of 12/31/2015 were not final release or revoked.

Member State Reclaimed Land Use Data

USE OF LAND FOLLOWING RECLAMATION (PERCENT)
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR COAL SURFACE MINING

State	Pasture	Wildlife	Forest	Commercial	Other
Alabama ¹	0	4	0	2	96
Alaska	0	100	0	0	0
Illinois	5	6	0	2	85 (crop)
Indiana	7 (94.1 acres)	9 (124.1 acres)	29 (418.4 acres)	1 (15.2 acres)	55 ² (786.4 acres)
Kentucky	32	47	17.5	1.6	1.9
Louisiana	49	0	49	0	2
Maryland	62	0	31	0	7
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	20
Missouri	56	17	0	1	26
North Dakota	34	3	1	6	56 (cropland)
Ohio	91.5	1.7	0	0.6	6.2
Oklahoma	96	1	0	1	2
Pennsylvania ³	30	5	50	2	13
Texas	2,867.8 acres	1,280.4 acres	392.0 acres	505.0 acres	375.5 acres (water); 3.8 acres (undeveloped)
Utah	0	0	0	0	100 (grazing & wildlife habitat) ⁴
Virginia	19.27 (629.36 acres)	3.71 (118.53 acres)	52.73 (1,683.06 acres)	5.79 ⁵ (184.96 acres) (indus./commercial)	18.05 ⁶ (575.88 acres)
West Virginia	12.5	8	38	12.5	29 ⁷
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	95 ⁸

¹ Land use percentages based on the 1624 acres Phase III bond released in 2015

² For coal, "Other" includes: 37.1% (533.2 acres) cropland; 14.8% (213.0 acres) water; 1.2% (17.7 acres) other; 1.1% (16.3 acres) roads; and < 1% (6.2 acres) residential.

³ Land use percentages are estimates based on observations.

⁴ This reflects the total permitted acres of all mines at the end of 2015.

⁵ Industrial/commercial includes – 0.10 acres commercial; 164.89 acres industrial – gas wells; and 19.97 acres industrial manufacturing.

⁶ "Other" includes: 552.37 acres public roads, buildings and facilities.

⁷ "Other" includes: of the 29% "other", 71% is combined use (i.e. two or more land uses on one permit) with the remaining 29% being a category other than listed above.

⁸ The other 5% includes a mix of commercial, agricultural, and pasture.

Member State Reclaimed Land Use Data

USE OF LAND FOLLOWING RECLAMATION (PERCENT)
JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2015 FOR NONCOAL SURFACE MINING

State	Pasture	Wildlife	Forest	Commercial	Other
Alabama	35	30	30	5	0
Alaska	0	100	0	0	0
Arkansas	101.5 acres	10 acres	395.29 acres	193 acres	153 acres
Illinois	27	1	32	20	20 (crop)
Indiana	0	100 (9.6 acres)	0	0	0
Kentucky	42	4	12	7	35
Maryland	60	10	5	20	0
Missouri	10	12	0	74	4
New Mexico ¹	0	100	0	0	0
New York	0	70.4	1.1	0.6	27.9 ²
Ohio ³	26.9	12.1	0	2.5	58.5
Oklahoma	95	0	0	4	1
Pennsylvania ⁴	10	5	10	15	60
South Carolina	40 (91.6 acres)	0	1.3 (3.0 acres)	0.3 (0.7 acres)	58.4 (133.6 acres) (lakes/ponds)
Tennessee	100	0	0	0	0
Utah	0	100	0	0	0
Virginia	76.8 (1,243.9 acres)	14.8 (240 acres)	6.8 (111.15 acres)	1.6 (24.95 acres)	0
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	95 ⁵

¹ The percentages for Use of Land Following Reclamation are for mined lands reclaimed in 2015.

² Includes 10.9% agricultural farmland and 17% wetland/lake.

³ Post-mining landuse on noncoal mineral sites was tracked and reported for the period of 5/5/2015 through 12/31/2015. Subsequent year reports will reflect a full calendar year.

⁴ Land use percentages are estimates based on observations.

⁵ The other 5% includes a mix of commercial, agricultural, and pasture.

2015 Kenes C. Bowling Reclamation Award Winners

2015 Winners

The following companies were winners of the Compact's 2015 national reclamation awards and were presented with plaques at the 2015 awards banquet:

Coal Category Winner:

Harlan Reclamation Services, LLC – Right Fork Mine (Kentucky)

Noncoal Category Winner:

Luck Stone Company – Charlottesville Plant (Virginia)

2015 Honorable Mention Recipients:

Coal Category: *Paramont Coal Company Virginia, LLC – Red Onion Surface Mine (Permit #1101849) (Virginia)*

Noncoal Category: *Kinross Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. – True North Gold Mine (Alaska)*

2015 Minerals Education Award Winners

2015 Winners

The Compact's annual minerals education award was presented during the awards banquet held in conjunction with the 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. Annually, the mining educator awareness award is presented to a teacher or school from one of the Compact's member states. The winner receives an engraved plaque and a \$500 award to go toward teaching materials. The public outreach award is presented to an industry, environmental, citizen, or other group from one of the Compact's member states, or to a member state government body. The public outreach award winner is presented with an engraved plaque of recognition.

Mining Awareness Educator Category Winner:

Karen Swacker, 6th Grade Life Science & 7th Grade Earth Science Teacher, Rickover Junior High School (Illinois)

Public Outreach Category Winner:

McCaw School of Mines (Nevada)

2015 Honorable Mention Recipients:

Public Outreach Category:

Alaska Resource Education (Alaska)

2015 IMCC Membership

Commissioners



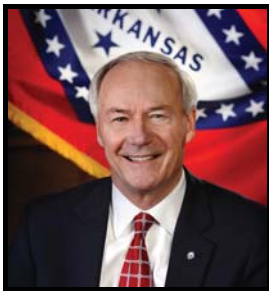
Governor
Robert J. Bentley

Alabama



Governor
Bill Walker

Alaska



Governor
Asa Hutchinson

Arkansas

Commissioner's Official Representative



Jonathan D. Bargainer Jr.
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Policy
Office of Governor Bentley



Ed Fogels
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Natural
Resources



James F. Stephens
Chief
Surface Mining and
Reclamation Division
Department of
Environmental Quality

Commissioners



Governor
Bruce Rauner



Governor
Mike Pence



Governor
Steven L. Beshear

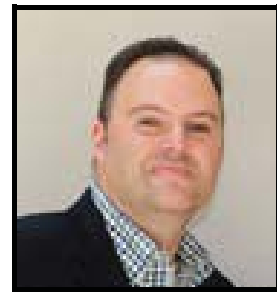
Illinois

**Commissioner's Official
Representative**



Wayne A. Rosenthal
Director
Department of Natural
Resources

Indiana



Chris Smith
Deputy Director
Department of Natural
Resources

Kentucky



Dr. Leonard K. Peters
Secretary
Environmental and Public
Protection Cabinet

Commissioners



Governor
Bobby Jindal



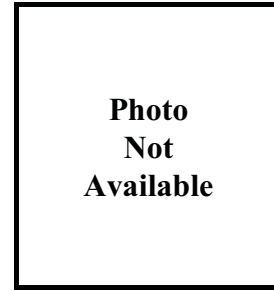
Governor
Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.



Governor
Phil Bryant

Louisiana

**Commissioner's Official
Representative**



Vacant

Maryland



C. Edmon Larrimore
Program Manager
Department of the
Environment, Mining
Program

Mississippi



James L. Matheny
Director
Mining and Reclamation
Division, Office of
Geology

Commissioner

Commissioner's Official Representative



Governor
Jay Nixon

Missouri

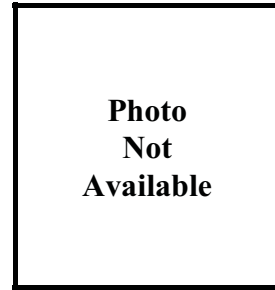


Sara Parker Pauley
Director
Department of Natural
Resources



Governor
Andrew M. Cuomo

New York



**Photo
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Vacant



Governor
Pat McCrory

North Carolina



George Howard
Co-Founder/CEO
Restoration Systems, LLC.

Commissioners

Commissioner's Official Representative



Governor
Jack Dalrymple

North Dakota



James R. Deutsch
Director
Reclamation Division
Public Service Commission



Governor
John R. Kasich

Ohio

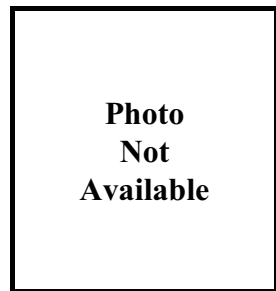


Jim Zehringer
Director
Department of Natural
Resources



Governor
Mary Fallin

Oklahoma



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Commissioners

Commissioner's Official Representative



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Tom Wolf

Pennsylvania



John J. Stefanko
Deputy Secretary
Active and Abandoned
Mine Operations



Governor
Nikki Haley

South Carolina



R. Craig Kennedy
South Carolina Mining
Council



Governor
Bill Haslam

Tennessee



Robert J. Martineau, Jr.
Commissioner
Department of
Environment and
Conservation

Commissioners

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Greg Abbott

Texas



Ryan Sitton
Commissioner
Railroad Commission of
Texas



Governor
Gary R. Herbert

Utah

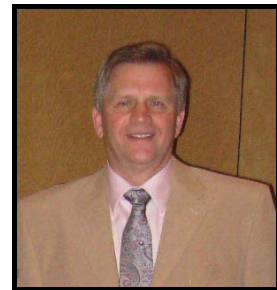


John R. Baza
Director
Division of Oil, Gas &
Mining



Governor
Terry McAuliffe

Virginia



Butch Lambert
Deputy Director
Department of Mines,
Minerals and Energy

Commissioner



Governor
Earl Ray Tomblin

**Commissioner's Official
Representative**



Randy Huffman
Cabinet Secretary
Department of
Environmental Protection

West Virginia

2014 IMCC Associate Member States

Commissioners



Governor
John Hickenlooper



Governor
Susana Martinez



Governor
Matt Mead

Colorado

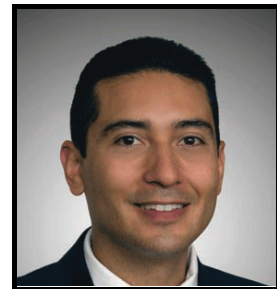
New Mexico

Wyoming

Commissioner's Official Representatives



Virginia (Ginny) Brannon
Director
Division of Reclamation,
Mining & Safety



Fernando Martinez
Director
Division of Mining and
Minerals



Todd Parfitt
Director
Department of
Environmental Quality

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2016 Commissioners

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Alaska

Governor Bill Walker – Vice Chairman

Utah

Governor Gary R. Herbert – Treasurer

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Governor Robert J. Bentley

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Governor Greg Abbott

Arkansas

Governor Asa Hutchinson

New York

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo

West Virginia

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

Illinois

Governor Bruce Rauner

North Carolina

Governor Pat McCrory

Wyoming

Governor Matt Mead

Indiana

Governor Mike Pence

North Dakota

Governor Jack Dalrymple

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Ohio

Governor John R. Kasich

Colorado

Governor John Hickenlooper

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Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

Pennsylvania

Governor Tom Wolf

Mississippi

Governor Phil Bryant

South Carolina

Governor Nikki Haley

Missouri

Governor Jay Nixon

Tennessee

Governor Bill Haslam

Commissioner's Official Representatives — 2016

Alabama

Jonathan D. Barganier
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Policy, Office of Governor
Robert J. Bentley

Alaska

Ed Fogels
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Natural
Resources

Arkansas

James F. Stephens, P.G.
Senior Manager/Chief
Geologist, Mining &
Administration, Office of Land
Resources, Department of
Environmental Quality

Illinois

Wayne A. Rosenthal
Director, Department of Natural
Resources

Indiana

Chris Smith
Deputy Director
Department of
Natural Resources

Kentucky

Allen Luttrell
Commissioner, Department for
Natural Resources

Louisiana

Vacant

Maryland

C. Edmon Larrimore
Program Manager, Department
of the Environment, Mining
Program

Mississippi

James L. Matheny
Division Director, Mining and
Reclamation Division
Office of Geology

Missouri

Sara Parker Pauley
Director, Department of Natural
Resources

New Mexico

Fernando Martinez
Director, Division of Mining
and Minerals

New York

Vacant

North Carolina

George Howard
Co-Founder/CEO, Restoration
Systems, LLC

North Dakota

James R. Deutsch
Director, Reclamation Division
Public Service Commission

Ohio

Jim Zehringer
Director, Ohio Department of
Natural Resources

Oklahoma

Vacant

Pennsylvania

John J. Stefanko
Executive Deputy Secretary for
Programs, Department of
Environmental Protection

South Carolina

R. Craig Kennedy
South Carolina Mining Council

Tennessee

Robert J. Martineau, Jr.
Commissioner, Department of
Environment and Conservation

Texas

Ryan Sitton
Commissioner, Railroad
Commission of Texas

Utah

John R. Baza
Director, Division of Oil, Gas &
Mining

Virginia

Butch Lambert
Deputy Director, Department of
Mines, Minerals and Energy

West Virginia

Randy Huffman
Cabinet Secretary, Department
of Environmental Protection

Wyoming

Todd Parfitt
Director, Department of
Environmental Quality

Associate Member State

Colorado

Virginia (Ginny) Brannon
Director, Division of
Reclamation, Mining & Safety



Interstate Mining Compact Commission
445 Carlisle Drive, Suite A
Herndon, VA 20170
Ph: 703.709.8654 / Fax: 703.709.8655
Website: www.imcc.isa.us