UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Department of Mining Engineering

Mining Engineering Foundation Distinguished Lecturer

"Surface Coal Mining in Appalachia OSM's role – past and present"

Mr. Joseph L. Blackburn
Field Office Director
Office of Surface Mining

Thursday, April 15, 2010 - 7:00 pm

Graduated : University of Tennessee with B.S.

Post graduate study in engineering geology

Engineering geologist with the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration

OSM – selected in first group of 29 people to begin the Agency in April 1978.

Held various positions from reclamation specialist to current position as Field Office Director

I have been fortunate to receive several awards during my career including the Meritorious Service Award from the Department of Interior and recently the Lifetime Achievement Award for 30 years of service to DOI and to OSM.
The Lexington Field Office (LFO) is responsible for the oversight of the Kentucky coal regulatory and abandoned mine land (AML) programs to ensure that surface coal mining operations which includes the surface effects of underground coal mining operations and the reclamation of abandoned mine lands (mining operations conducted prior to August 3, 1977) are conducted in accordance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources is the regulatory authority for the surface coal mining regulator program and for the AML reclamation program.
LFO is responsible for gathering data about coal mining and reclamation operations in the State, assisting Kentucky in improving inspection and enforcement activities, and recommending actions needed to address program deficiencies. The accomplishment of these tasks assists Kentucky in the implementation of programs and also ensures proper reclamation of land.

Hilary J. Boone Center (next to Mining & Mineral Resources Bldg.)
University of Kentucky Campus
Reception immediately following lecture
Free and open to the public (parking in Boone Center visitor lot)