Office of Surface Mining's Minority Higher Education Initiative (MHEI)

New Cooperation and New Opportunities

U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Surface Mining
1951 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office of Surface Mining

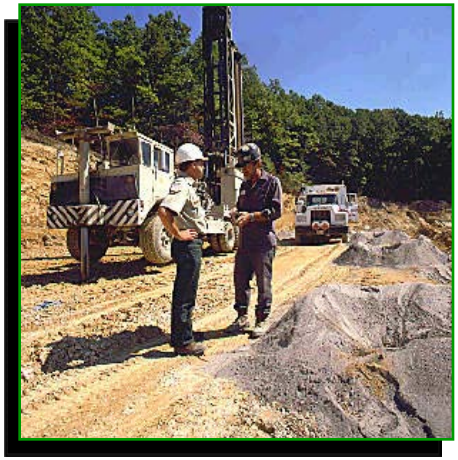
- One of the eight bureaus in the U.S. Department of Interior
- One charged with regulating coal mining and reclamation
- Established by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA)

Balance

OSM balances our demand for coal…

…and our demand for a healthy environment.

Stability



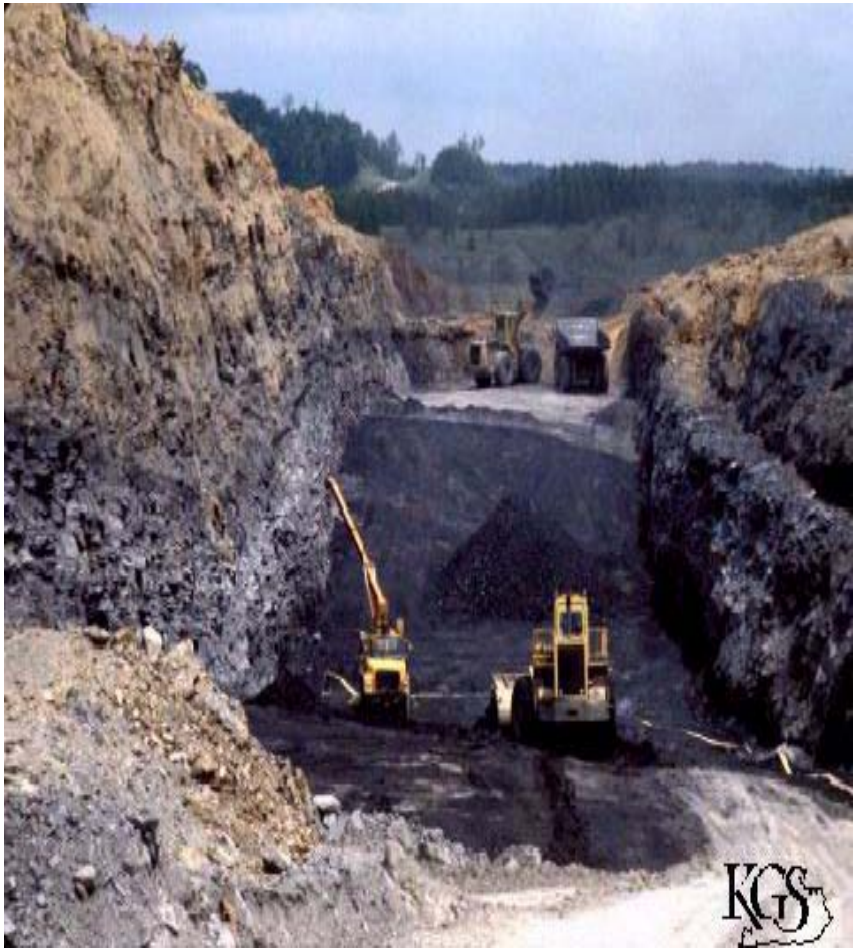
OSM works for regulatory stability…

…so coal companies know what's required...

…and citizens know how to participate in the process.

Coal

- Coal-fired power accounts for nearly 50% of the U.S. electricity production
- The U.S. has about ¼ of the world's known coal reserves
- U.S. coal reserves will last about 200 years at current production rates



OSM's MHEI Program

The Equal Opportunity Office is responsible for the minority higher education programs within OSM. The objectives of the programs are to:

- Establish or enhance policies and programs in support of executive orders for HBCUs, HSIs and TCUs
- Develop action plans to increase the participation of HBCUs, HSIs and TCUs in Federal programs
- Submit annual reports on accomplishment of action plans

MHEI (cont.)

- Stimulate and foster working relationships with minority higher education institutions, specifically HBCUs, HSIs AND TCUs
- Establish a network of contacts between OSM and these institutions in support of DOI's programs
- Match available resources and opportunities with individual minority institutions

MHEI (cont.)

- Increase participation of minority institutions and organizations with Federal programs
- Liaison for outreach and informational exchange opportunities
- Increase the participation of student employment from minority institutions

MHEI (cont.)

This initiative will provide a mechanism for us to enhance opportunities for HBCUs/HSIs/TCUs to participate in and receive benefits from our programs related to surface coal mining and reclamation. This initiative will also enhance our ability to complete mission-critical work while improving our relationships with these institutions.

Details of the Initiative

- Fund applied science projects
- Provide technical experts to assist in instruction
- Broaden students' technical knowledge and career horizons
- Enhance technical capabilities of the institutions

Details (cont.)

- Create mentoring and career opportunities for students and faculty
- Enhance OSM's ability to more effectively and efficiently deliver technical assistance
- Develop a knowledgeable and more diverse cadre of potential OSM professionals

OSM's Applied Science Program

- A Request for Proposals will be sent to solicit applied science projects for funding
- Projects from higher education institutions and sponsored by state agencies
- Specific areas of study that are highest priorities are identified

Speakers' Bureau

- Developing a list of technical and program experts who can give lectures on pertinent topics
- Assist in instruction of classes
- Speak to faculty seminars and professional organizations

TECH TRANSFER

Applied Science, Technical Assistance, Technical Training

SOUND PRACTICES

Reforestation, Re-mining, Habitat

PARNTER & COLLABORATE

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Broadening Technical Knowledge and Career Horizons

- Identification of how basic scientific, technical and programmatic skills can be applied in a new industry and regulatory/statutory framework
- Concrete examples of problems and solutions outside of students' experience
- Identification of opportunities for careers and academic endeavors

Enhancing Technical Capabilities of Institutions

- Applied Science funding
- Opportunities for collaboration in new areas of scientific/technical inquiry
- Involvement in new fields of study and research
- New networking opportunities

Mentoring

- OSM's staff are very experienced and have a broad array of backgrounds
- OSM's staff has many years of Federal service and knows the benefits of a Federal career
- OSM's scientists, engineers and other professionals can pass on their career experience to students and faculty

Enhancing OSM

- More opportunities to work with the brightest and the best
- Involvement of new perspectives in dealing with our challenges
  - Tapping into talent that hasn’t considered OSM for careers or collaboration
- Educating a new audience on who we are and what we do

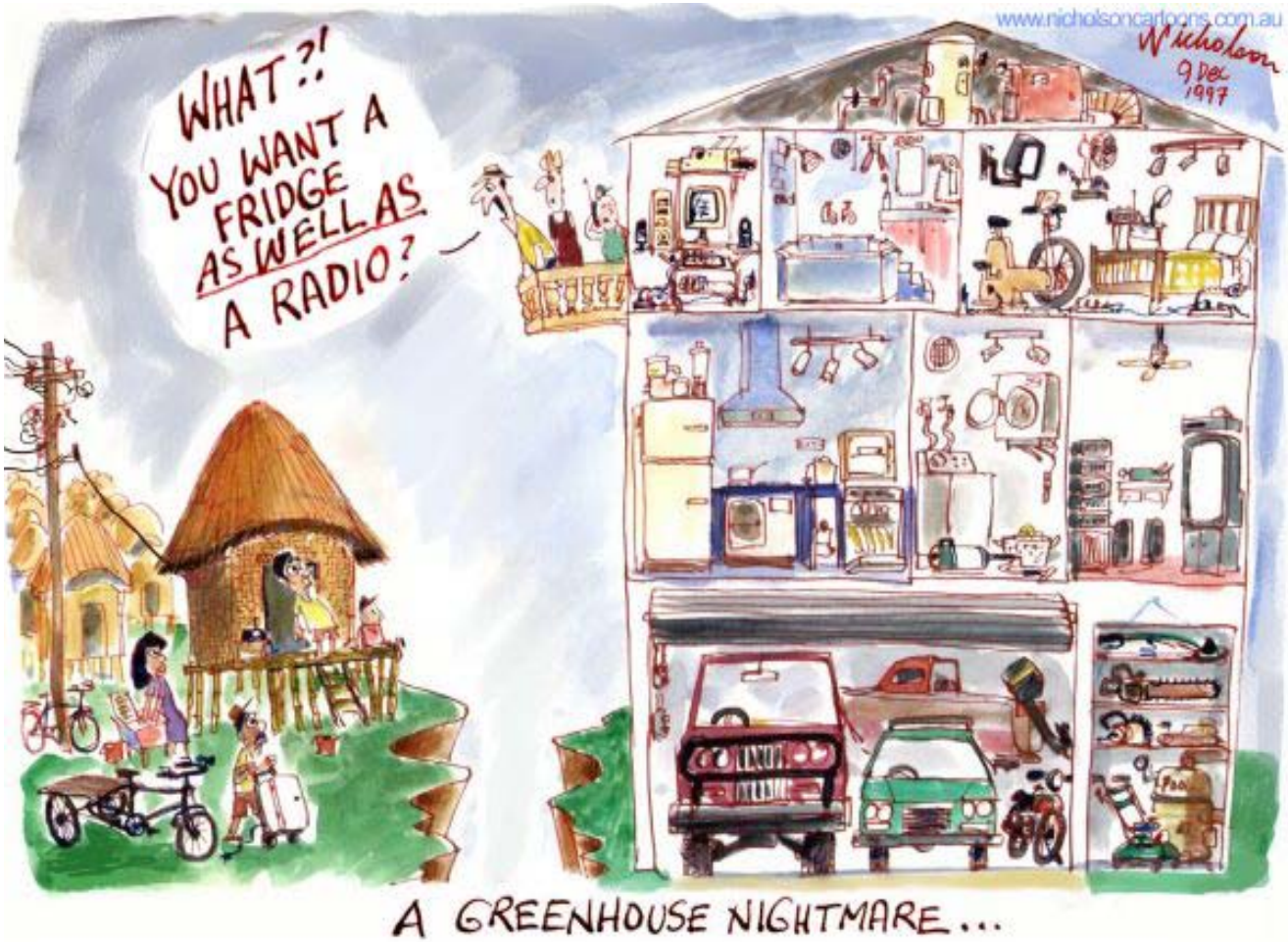
Developing Potential OSM Professionals

- Nearly 50% of OSM's staff will be retirement eligible in the next 5 years
- New directions in technical assistance and technology transfer have created new skill mix demands
- OSM's programs have long-term importance
- We need the best and the brightest

Conclusion

American's Demand Energy!

Energy enhances our standard of living

Energy provides security

Energy fuels America's economy