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WASHINGTON, D.C.  
WWW.OSMRE.GOV

June 22, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik To Present Longtime Environmental Advocate With OSMRE's Fourth ECHO Award**

Washington, DC — [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#), [Director Joe Pizarchik](#) will honor longtime environmental advocate Louise Dunlap today with a 2016 Environment, Community, Humanity, Ownership (ECHO) Award for her long career of protecting communities affected by surface coal mining.

Ms. Dunlap, a co-founder of two environmental lobbying organizations, helped create and lead the seven-year campaign to pass and enact the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977](#) (SMCRA), which created [OSMRE](#).

“Louise Dunlap personifies all the qualities OSMRE is looking for in a recipient when it awards the ECHO,” said Director Pizarchik. “Most people would be satisfied getting SMCRA written into law but Louise is still working hard to make sure the law works as it’s intended. Presenting her with the ECHO is a great pleasure.”

Dunlap’s tenacity and commitment to direct input from citizens helped pass SMCRA. In addition, she worked closely with Republicans and Democrats to secure billions of dollars during the 2006 reauthorization effort for the [Abandoned Mine Land](#) fund.

Dunlap helped found the Environmental Policy Center (EPC) in 1972. She continues to work on behalf of citizens and communities seeking implementation of SMCRA’s standards. She is also actively involved in advancing the RECLAIM Act and another effort to reauthorize the AML fee.

OSMRE chooses ECHO honorees based on the individual’s demonstration of one or more of the following attributes:

- **Public Service:** has shown a dedication to public service
- **Sustained Engagement:** has accepted difficult challenges requiring strategic, long-term efforts
- **Non-partisan:** has worked in a non-partisan manner
- **Major Contribution:** has made a significant and/or unique contribution to carry out SMCRA



- Advocate of the Law: dedication to improved implementation of SMCRA
- Protection of Society: dedication to improving protection of society
- Innovative Solutions: has a record of seeking and achieving positive solutions
- Environmental Protection: dedication to improving protection of the environment

Director Pizarchik will present the ECHO Award to Ms. Dunlap during the [Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference](#), on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania campus today.

Learn more about the ECHO by visiting the [ECHO Award page on OSMRE's web site](#).

*The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines. For instant updates on OSMRE, follow the bureau's Twitter feed at [www.twitter.com/OSMRE](http://www.twitter.com/OSMRE).*

