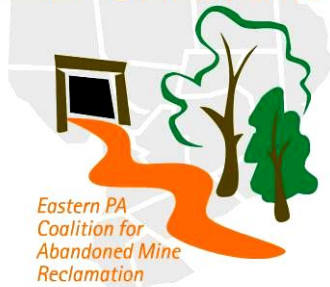


# EPCAMR



## Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation August 2009 Progress Report

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### **Highlights:**

- Georeferenced 8 OSM Folio maps and updated 5 layers for the Mine Pool Mapping Project
- Conducted a RAMLIS investigation for 1 watershed group
- EPCAMR staff presented at ARIPPA Tech. Symposium & conducted 1 AMD Tie Dye Workshop.
- Updated [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com)

### **Education and Outreach:**

- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of July, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and sent to PA DEP 319 program.
- Posted articles to the EPCAMR homepage at [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org).
- Began reorganizing and editing the Draft EPCAMR Employee Policy Manual for discussion at a personnel committee meeting and possible adoption at the next board meeting.
- Trained Kat Krulack, Jeddo-Nescopeck Partnership VISTA, and Shawn Jones, EPCAMR intern, on reading and georeferencing Office of Surface Mining (OSM) Mine Map Folios.
- EPCAMR staff and interns conducted an AMD Tie Dye Workshop at the Carbon County Conservation Camp at Hickory Run State Park for approximately 30 kids and counselors.
- EPCAMR staff met with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) staff to discuss an "Anthracite Strategy" when creating their North Branch of the Susquehanna River: AMD Remediation Strategy.
- EPCAMR staff attended and presented at the 19<sup>th</sup> ARIPPA Technical Symposium at the Sheraton Hershey-Harrisburg. Presentations focused on coal ash as a beneficial use and the use of mine pools for cooling water.
- EPCAMR staff wrote letters to 8 PA Senators and 29 PA Representatives in the EPCAMR Region to ask them to consider reauthorizing the Watershed Specialists Allocation which is set to expire next year. EPCAMR Region Conservation District managers were carbon copied.
- EPCAMR staff picked up costumes that were created by Costumes by Barbara based on the AMD Avengers Activity Book. To date costumes Fe Rock, Mang Rock and Silt Rock as well as Al Floc, Filamentous Algae, Brooky, and Pyrite O'Brien have been completed.
- EPCAMR staff met with Pennsylvania Environmental Council staff at their office to strategize next steps for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan.
- Picked up 2 octagon shaped recycled plastic picnic tables that were being stored at the Plymouth Township Municipal Building and brought them to the EPCAMR office as a staging area before they are placed at the Historical Avondale Mine Fire Memorial Site.
- Sent photos of the completed fence around the Shamokin Creek Restoration Alliance (SCRA) Site 15 AMD Treatment System to Russ Wagner, PA DEP 319 Program. The PA DEP 319 Program funded the work with the aid EPCAMR (as a pass through).

- Created EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator Monthly report for the month of August, gathered other staff reports, posted them to [www.orangewaternetwork.org](http://www.orangewaternetwork.org) and sent to PA DEP 319 program.

### **Technical Assistance:**

- Reprojected multi-colliery hydrologic unit (MCU) and mine drainage tunnels GIS data for the Mine Pool Mapping Program for Chuck Cravotta and Dan Goode, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 18 North American Datum (NAD) 1983 to fix issues with their software. Not all programs have the ability to reproject “on the fly” like Arc View 9.x.
- Began a discussion about separating some MCUs that were previously combined in the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field for the Mine Pool Mapping Program with USGS. Decided to differentiate zones within an MCU where water levels can be different. This satisfied the definition of the MCU and the restraints of the ModFlow Program.
- Georeferenced OSM Mine Map Folios W-9C in ArcMap around the St. Nicholas and Boston Run Collieries to analyze the connections between these and surrounding mines.
- Merged all Buck Mountain Contours for the Western Middle Anthracite Coal Field, including the ones extrapolated by Mike Dunn based on the Mammoth Vein, to make a complete set of contours for the area in one layer.
- Completed a Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Lands Inventory System (RAMLIS) investigation for Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) for Problem Areas in the Dickson City and Forest City areas. Compressed the documents and maps in a ZIP folder and delivered them via FTP.
- Georeferenced OSM Mine Map Folios N-1E-06 and 07 in ArcMap around the area of the Espy Run Treatment System.
- Aided Earth Conservancy, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) and Hedin Environmental staff as they selected the site of the expansion of the site of the Espy Run Treatment System. Spent most of the day digging test pits with a backhoe and analyzing soil characteristics to be sure a wetland of pond could be created and would hold water. Clay was within 15 feet in every test pit, which was good news and a major cost savings in the project.
- EPCAMR staff and interns sampled water quality and macro invertebrates at the site of the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design project.
- EPCAMR and Pottsville District Mining Office staff participated in a conference call and webcast hosted by USGS to discuss changes the MCUs for the Mine Pool Mapping program.
- Created a “recharge zone” layer from the AMLIS Polygons layer by selecting surface feature types that had a well defined connection to underground mines (ex. dry and water strip pits and subsidence prone areas) and sent to USGS staff as requested.
- EPCAMR staff worked on the Illegal Dump Site Grant narrative and budget for the first reimbursement submittal to the state.
- Created a RAMLIS input form as requested by ARIPPA board members who may be interested in supplying EPCAMR with their culm recovery and ash placement reclamation data. EPCAMR will add this data to a supplemental database in the RAMLIS GIS tool to show areas reclaimed by funds other than the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) Title 4 funding.
- As a result of purging some old files from the filing cabinet, EPCAMR Executive Director found a map associated with the Water Resources of the Schuylkill River Basin Report completed by Biesecker et.al. from the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters in 1968. After some intensive searching for the report online and finding nothing, I scanned and georeferenced the map and traced 7 new mine pools, several water flow lines and barrier pillars and verified the location of several of the same for the Southern Anthracite Coal Field.