

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program February 2007 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Produced 1 map for a EPCAMR Partner and added information to 2 EPCAMR GIS Databases
- Met with 4 consultants to discuss AMD Treatment / Infiltration Reduction Projects
- Attended the Audenried Technical Steering Committee Meeting, an AMD Conference Planning Committee Conference Call, a meeting the American Mushroom Institute and a meeting with Gov. Rendell and the AML Campaign
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

February 1st – 3rd

- Downloaded and registered for the RSS Scroller Converter which streamlines the process of posting articles to the www.orangewaternetwork.org and having them show up properly in the NewsFlash. This program saves time, allowing me to post the article in 1 place and the headline automatically shows up in the homepage.
- Began adding the Lackawanna Valley Infiltration Points to the EPCAMR GeoBasins Layer based on points identified by Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) from the Lackawanna River Watershed Conservation Plan (Appendix C) and the Lackawanna River Watershed SCARLIFT I and II. Completed analysis of Mill Creek, Campbell's Ledge Run, Red Springs Run and St. John's Creek Sub-Watersheds.

February 4th – 10th

- EPCAMR Program Staff traveled to the Lykens Water Level Tunnel AMD Treatment Site to check up on the progress of construction. Met with EPCAMR President, Ed Wytovich, to talk about the progress of the site and the possibility of using biosolids to promote vegetative growth on the sterile culm berm. *
- Created a document and spreadsheet to explain the Priority 1 AML Sites in Schuylkill County. There are 21 total that remain unreclaimed. These findings were e-mailed to Tom Davidock and Craig Morgan of the Schuylkill Conservation District. Added an additional 9 features to the list of problems reclaimed by entities other than the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR). *
- Ordered AMD Education Coalition (AMDEC) Evaluation Curriculum: "Nature Interrupted" from the AMDEC Website (<http://www.geocities.com/~paulstan/amded.html>). EPCAMR has been a part of the development of this curriculum with a host of partners, including St. Vincent College Staff and WPCAMR Staff.
- Experienced problems with access to www.orangewaternetwork.org and found that the memory space had been exceeded. Began to "clean house" on the website to remove old files and e-mail accounts that were no longer being used.

- Researched the area where the new cargo airport was proposed to be placed. It looks that the site is not directly above any underground abandoned mines and it looks as though it may be reclaiming a few surface features (possibly including the Catawissa Tunnel AMD Outflow). However the probability is great that stormwater being produced from the site could reach infiltration points into abandoned mines. The streams in the area are designated cold water fisheries and the main stem of Catawissa Creek is impacted by AMD metals (Assessed in the 1996 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters).
- Met with Chris Gillis, Eco Tech LLC., and Bruce Jennings, Jennell Enterprises LLC., to edit a presentation dealing with Marketability of AMD.

February 11th – 17th

- Looked up landowners around the Hicks Creek Stream Restoration Project at the Luzerne County Courthouse. Researched phone numbers online using a reverse address lookup in order to contact them for access onto their properties to construct and maintain structures as a part of the Growing Greener grant requirements.
- In preparation of the Growing Greener Grant Mine Pool Project for the Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields, I attempted to become familiar with GMS v.6.0 from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) TIPS Program. The program should allow borehole data to be combined with elevation data and produce a 3D underground rendering of the approximate volume of underground mine pools.
- Completed the EPCAMR 2006 Year in Review and posted it to www.orangewaternetwork.org. Also added new initiatives for 2007 to the “Talking Timbers” section of the homepage complete with links to more information. Added the “FACTS” Program as a NewsFlash Article. Funding AMD Chemistry for Treatment Systems (FACTS) is a new statewide initiative by WPCAMR and EPCAMR to fund professional water chemistry analysis to monitor the effectiveness of AMD treatment systems. The results will be stored in Datashed, an online GIS capable data warehouse setup specifically for this program. For more information go to www.wpcamr.org/facts/. Posted a link to Robert’s “Limestone Cowboy” article in Orion Magazine.

February 18th – 24th

- Spoke with Jeff Gerard, WPCAMR VISTA, about the new FACTS Program. He was looking for DEP Accredited labs in/near the anthracite region that would be able to do the analysis for the program.
- Produced maps showing abandoned and active mining areas that may large enough to reclaim as pheasant habitat in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties as per request of Luzerne Conservation District Director, Bruce Trumbower.
- Attended the Audenried Treatment System Technical Steering committee Meeting to learn about developments with the property and help decide what to do about the flushing of the system. Currently only 1 set of siphons are working, the other tanks are being flushed manually, but because of heavy snowfall it has been impossible to check on the site and flush the tanks. Plan A is to continue to get the siphons working with the help of Brent Means. Plan B would be to find funding to possibly retrofit solar powered automatic flushing Agri-Drain systems on the tanks.
- Joined in on a Conference Call to discuss the 2007 AMD Conference. Continued the discussion on the format, theme, place, time and other details relevant to the beginning planning stages. There is a good possibility that the conference will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College from July 20th – 21st.
- Produced a map of the Toby’s Creek Watersheds and the flooding impacted sites for Shawn Rybka, Luzerne CD Watershed Specialist.

- Began an investigation of the reclaimed abandoned mine lands in Centre County and was able to cover 8 problem areas and find 23 additional problem features that were partially or completely reclaimed by an entity other than the DEP BAMR. *
- Met with Bill Holland an accountant that presented the ESP Fluid Enhancement System as a new and innovative technology to treat AMD. The system relies on an electrical current to precipitate dissolved solids. He put us in touch with a gentleman that could explain the inner workings of the system. This system is currently being used in Mexico and the Western United States in agricultural situations and produces better crop growth and vitality.

February 24th – 28th

- Posted several articles including an article and update of the West Branch Symposium III webpage hosted on www.orangewaternetwork.org to add the registration form and more information about this year's symposium.
- EPCAMR Program Staff met with Chuck Crovatta, U. S. Geologic Survey (USGS), and representatives from DEP Pottsville District Mining Office to talk about the recently awarded Southern and Western Middle Mine Pool Study Growing Greener Grant.
- Worked up some tentative notes for the February 22nd AMD Conference Planning Conference Call and sent them to Andy McAllister, WPCAMR.
- Worked on updating the Marketability of AMD PowerPoint Presentation based on the discussion from earlier in the month. The new version has a lot more pictures to represent possible markets and seems to be better as a public education tool.
- EPCAMR Program Staff met with representatives from the American Mushroom Institute and Chester County Conservation District in Avondale, PA to talk about the possibilities of using spent mushroom compost more readily in AML Reclamation. Presented the "Manure and Minelands" GIS presentation originally based on results from EPCAMR's participation in the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) run grant from the PA Department of Agriculture. We suggested some ideas on getting the word out about the growth medium / alternative topsoil and possible who to talk to about PA DEP BAMR using it more often. The AMI have a surplus of spent mushroom compost being produced in Southeastern PA.
- Traveled to Harrisburg to meet with the AML Campaign, DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Governor Rendell. The AML Campaign thanked Gov. Rendell for being so supportive of the effort and then began to discuss details on how the money should be spent. WPCAMR and EPCAMR plan to spearhead a series of educational meetings to explain what the reauthorization of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) really means to the general public.