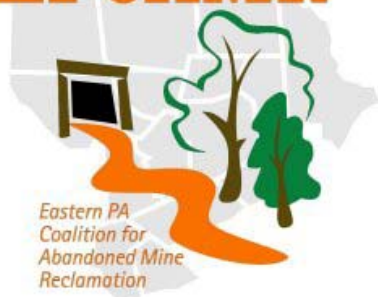


EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation March 2006 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- EPCAMR Staff conducted 2 watershed tours, 2 GIS workshops, 2 PA AMLIS GIS presentations and 1 AMD/AML Presentation to a college
- Updated the PA AMLIS GIS Database V.6 to share with cooperating agencies and produced 1 study using the data for UGI
- Continued to update www.orangewaternetwork.org
- Attended the LCD Banquet, the CAC Quarterly Meeting, the SHA Annual Meeting, the MPC Workshop, the LCWA Monthly Meeting

March 1st – 4th

- EPCAMR Staff coordinated a Municipal GIS Workshop hosted by Old Forge Borough.
- Prepared EPCAMR Watershed Outreach Coordinator (WOC) monthly board report for the month of February and posted all EPCAMR Staff reports to www.orangewaternetwork.org.
- Prepared a letter of support for the Schuylkill Headwaters Association related to a Growing Greener Grant they submitted to remediate the Neumeister Discharge.
- EPCAMR Program Staff finished up and sent the 2 Final Growing Greener Grant Application Packages to the PA DEP: Mine Pool Water Quality and Quantity for the Eastern Middle, Western Middle and Southern Anthracite Coal Fields Proposal and the Eastern PA Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program Proposal.

March 5th – 11th

- Started a draft PowerPoint Presentation to showcase the PA AML & AMD Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data collected and enhanced by the EPCAMR Program Staff. The presentation showed an example of Anthracite AML Problems, Bituminous AML Problems and gave background information on the AML Inventory System (AMLIS) Database maintained by the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation (BAMR). This draft was sent to John Dawes, Western PA Watershed Protection Program (WPWP), for comments.
- Continued to enhance the PA AMLIS Published Map File (PMF) Data CD to include several other informative databases related to the AMLIS Database. The CD is now up to Version 6.
- EPCAMR Staff and Schuylkill Conservation District Staff conducted a Tour of AMD & AML Sites in the Upper Schuylkill River Watershed for approximately 75 Reading / Allentown Area students and teachers in the Community Connections Program in association with Nolde State Park Staff.
- Started work on a study of Culm Piles in a 30 Mile Radius of the Hunlock Creek Power Generation Station. Met with David Ross, UGI Electric Service Representative, to talk about initial results of the study using the AMLIS Database. UGI may be converting their plant at

Hunlock Creek to a Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB) Boiler which would be able to burn culm and produce electricity. This could be the first CFB Co-Generation Plant in Luzerne County.

- Attended the Luzerne Conservation District Banquet. EPCAMR Program Staff were involved with the fundraising activities and I also ran the audio / visual presentations via laptop.

March 12th – 18th

- Added a summary of the EPCAMR Program activities and accomplishments to the 2005 Non Point Source (NPS) Pollution Liaison Committee Report for the PA DEP via Donna Carnahan, newly hired staff member of the Bureau of Watershed Management.
- Worked on the “AMD, AML, AMR and More Alphabet Soup” and GIS Database sections of www.orangewaternetwork.org to enhance the flow of the pages and add links to more pictures & maps via the Photo Gallery. In recent months I have added several pictures & maps from EPCAMR staff and partners to the Photo Gallery.
- Sent the 3 Final Growing Greener Application packages to partner organizations for each respective project proposal.
- Forwarded the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) AMD Passive Treatment Systems GIS Database via CD to Dan Koury, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office (DMO). Dan plans to update this database with his knowledge of the passive treatment systems in the Anthracite Region.
- EPCAMR Staff coordinated a Municipal GIS Workshop hosted by Archbald Borough.
- EPCAMR Staff conducted a Tour of AMD & AML Sites in the Lackawanna River Watershed for approximately 120 Lackawanna, Wayne, Susquehanna and Wyoming County students and teachers in the Community Connections Program in association with Lackawanna State Park Staff.
- After reports that the network and computers at the Luzerne Conservation District had been experiencing some problems with connection and speed, I set up security settings on the network and encouraged the staff to begin virus scans on their own computers. The new security settings will only allow computers that are properly configured with a password to access the LCD Network and increase the effectiveness of the firewall to block unwanted intrusions such as new Trojan and Worm Viruses.

March 19th – 25th

- EPCAMR Staff sat in on a conference call with PA DEP DMO Staff from California, Pottsville and Knox as well as the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) Staff in Wilkes-Barre to coordinate a statewide effort to add historical mine maps and mine pool data in electronic format to the AMLIS database. The new database will be called PA Historical and Underground Mining Information System (PHUMIS). EPCAMR and the PA DEP DMO's will be working to submit a grant to the OSM to aide in this process.
- EPCAMR Program Staff co-presented with PA Environmental Council Staff and John Dawes of WPWP the PA AMLIS Database PowerPoint and GIS Data to Secretary McGinty, and PA DEP BAMR Harrisburg Staff in the Susquehanna Room on the 16th Floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building. Then a similar presentation was made to the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) to the DEP downstairs on the 1st floor. Several good recommendations were made to make the presentation more compelling and user friendly. Also to make good use of the trip to Harrisburg, EPCAMR staff managed to return several unused computers from the EPCAMR Computer Recycling Program to DEP Office of Information Technology Staff on the 6th floor.
- Prepared 2 CDs of the PA AMLIS GIS Database Version 6 and sent one to the Western PA Conservancy Staff, who have agreed to distribute the CD to users in Western PA. Sent the other CD along with the Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation's (WPCAMR) Project Gob Pile Report, a culm pile volume and location report for Westmoreland County, to the California PA DEP DMO Staff.

- Began to photo-verify the culm piles in the AMLIS Database using the 2004 Luzerne County Color Aerial Photo for the Hunlock Creek Plant Study. Created a new GIS Layer for the study area from which I removed piles that were obviously already reclaimed, and piles that were already under contract with other co-generation facilities. Calculated a volume of available culm and converted that number into a tonnage. The results showed that there are about 200 Million Tons of culm available within a 30 Mile Radius of the proposed power station, not including culm produced by the active industry.
- Met with a representative from New England Organics who presented information on innovative mine reclamation and AMD remediation products that their company can offer. The company deals with paper mill waste which can be refined to produce impermeable clay liners for reclamation sites and AMD treatment ponds. They also collect municipal biosolids which can be used as a soil amendment in AML reclamation.
- Transcribed the minutes and watershed reports from the last quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting in January to prepare for the next quarterly EPCAMR Board Meeting at the end of April. Sent out a reminder for this meeting along with the 2006 EPCAMR Membership Renewal Applications to EPCAMR Board Members via e-mail.
- Attended a Municipal Planning Code Workshop at the Eastern Mountain Inn in Wilkes-Barre with several other LCD Staff. The workshop was very informative and gave me a better understanding of the legislation that exists at a local level for conservation planning.

March 26th – 31st

- EPCAMR Staff met with Avoca Borough engineer from Pasonic Engineering who was deciding which layers should be placed on the maps being made for Avoca Borough.
- Met with a representative from POZ Environmental to talk about possible collaboration with the firm to acquire data from the Northern Anthracite Fields Mine Pool and Historical Data. This data would fit in nicely with the Mine Pool Growing Greener Proposal which will focus on the Eastern Middle, Western Middle and Southern Coal Fields.
- EPCAMR Program staff traveled to Bryn Mawr College to make a presentation to the Ecotoxicology Lecture about AMD & AML and its effects on the environment. We also addressed how EPCAMR was formed and what is being done in the way of clean up for PA.
- Attended the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association originally to see a presentation about AMD in the Loyalsock Creek. Met with several members of the LCWA to ask about the status of the Bernice Mine Project and provided them with the “re-discovered” SCARLIFT Mine Pool Maps of the Bernice Mine.
- Downloaded the Sullivan County Digital Elevation Model Raster GIS File from the PA Spatial Data Access (PASDA) Website to the EPCAMR GIS server. Georeferenced the SCARLIFT Map of the Bernice Mine Pool Boundaries for the Loyalsock Creek Watershed in TIFF Format. “Heads-up digitized” a separate layer in GIS to show the Mine Pool Boundaries without the TIFF. Produced a map of all these layers and sent to Bruno Najanka, LCWA.
- Packaged the AMLIS GIS Information for the 30 Mile Hunlock Creek Power Generation Station and sent via CD to David Ross, UGI. Also sent a freeware version of ARC Reader for use with the PMF.
- Produced a 5 page summary of the “EPCAMR 2005 Year in Review” an executive summary of the highlights of the year 2005 for the LCD District Manager.
- EPCAMR Staff sat in on a conference call with Stell Environmental to discuss the Watershed Restoration Easement work that will be going on in Schuylkill County related to the William Penn Foundation Grant.