

EPCAMR



Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program September 2008 Progress Report

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Highlights:

- Completed more than 3/4 of the raw GIS contour data and updated 3 layers related to the Mine Pool Mapping Project
- Updated 1 GIS map document, created 2 GIS Maps, and 1 set of data
- Attended an AMR Conference Call, a Lackawanna Co. Conservation District Meeting and participated in 1 cleanup
- Updated www.orangewaternetwork.org

Education and Outreach:

- EPCAMR staff traveled to Johnstown to visit the facilities at University of Pittsburg at Johnstown. The conference planning committee considered this as a venue for the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference for 2009. Traveled to the Office of Surface Mining office in Pittsburg to sign off on paperwork to obtain a digitizer from the Appalachian Region Technology Transfer (ARTT) program.
- EPCAMR staff sat in on an AMR Conference Call to go over statistics for the 2008 conference and begin planning for the 2009 conference.
- EPCAMR staff participated in a PA CleanWays Cleanup of the Mizdail Road and Avondale Hill entrances to the Lackawanna State Forest. The Avondale Hill entrance site is on abandoned mine lands and has needed a series of cleanups to get it to this point. The recent acquisition of the property by the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has placed the site as a higher priority for cleanup since it is now considered public land.
- Sent out a reminder for the 4th Quarter EPCAMR Board Meeting and polled the board for a time and place. The next meeting will be November 12th at the Perkins In Hazleton @ 5:30 PM.
- EPCAMR staff collaborated on ideas for a tour with the Hazleton Area School District. The school recently obtained GPS Units and would like to incorporate them into the tour. We plan to not only take water samples with the students, but have the students find the discharge with given coordinates using the "geocache" option on the GPS units.
- EPCAMR WOC and VISTA attended the Lackawanna County Conservation District board meeting along with Chris Gillis, Eco Tech LLC. Chris presented his work on the Old Forge Borehole and a pilot project to characterize the discharge for future treatment. The board and associate organizations seemed impressed and supportive.
- Posted the Mine Pool Mapping 2nd Quarter progress report to www.orangewaternetwork.org under the "Talking Timbers" section on the homepage.
- Visited the AIS Prototype Treatment System in the Shamokin Creek Watershed on the Scott Overflow. John Dietz explained the specifics of the system and how a scale up at the site could proceed if this technology was selected. The system uses a blower to aerate the mix and

polymer to help the particles stick together. The system also uses a smaller amount of lime and produces a densified iron oxide sludge which is much smaller in waste volume than conventional active treatment technology.

- Spoke with Becky Dunlap, West Branch Susquehanna Watershed Coalition, to find out when the date for their 2009 symposium. They have not chosen a date, but they were thinking May, which should not conflict with the 2009 AMR Conference.
- EPCAMR Staff and Jeddo/Nescopeck Partnership VISTA plotted out, drove the route and took GPS points of the points of interest in preparation for the Hazleton Area School District tour.

Technical Assistance:

- Met with Janet Sweeny, Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) Northeast Office, to review draft materials for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. Made a CD of the electronic file maps that I have completed for the project and gave it to her. *
- Worked on the Cultural and Historical map for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation Plan. *
- Sampled 3 discharges with EPCAMR VISTA, Carly Trumann, as a part of her quarterly monitoring requirements in her work plan. Sampled chemistry and flow (on 2/3 of sites) at the Grand Tunnel Discharge (W. Nanticoke Overflow), the Honey Pot Discharge (Susquehanna #7) and the Plainsville Borehole.
- Attended the Pocono Northeast Resource Conservation and Development (PNER&CD) Council meeting at the Perkins Restaurant in Pittston where I was nominated for and elected as a member at large.
- Vectorized structural contours of the Buck Mountain coal seam from the Coal Investigations C-3 Map (Mount Carmel Northwest Quadrangle) and C-7 Map (Mount Carmel Southwest) for the Mine Pool Mapping Program.
- Updated a list of Wyoming Valley Legislators for EPCAMR VISTA. She needed this list to invite legislators to several functions as a requirement for the AmeriCorps program.
- Created a slopes layer from the county soil surveys for the Catawissa Creek Rivers Conservation plan. Updated the Soils and Slopes map. *
- EPCAMR staff met with the Jeddo / Nescopeck Partnership VISTA, Kathryn Krulack, and Friends of the Nescopeck member, Tim Ference, as a part of the VISTA orientation. Spent the day familiarizing Kat with what EPCAMR VISTA, Carly, has been doing and certified her in collecting water samples for mine drainage (AMD) impacted streams.
- Lined up the Wyoming Valley Mine Pool Report: Bureau of Mines Bulletin 538 Maps (Aka. The "Ash Maps") for the Wyoming and Lackawanna Basin. This work is in preparation for the Hicks Creek Natural Stream Channel Design (NSCD) project reports to show mine pools under Exeter Borough and the Hicks Creek Watershed.
- Created a layer from the PA Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (AMLIS) Polygons to show flooded strip pits in the western middle anthracite coal field. Modified the extracted layer to emulate current pools that show up on recent aerial photos and added an attribute to represent "connectedness" to the underground mine pools. This layer is currently in draft form, but will be developed as a layer in the Mine Pool Mapping Project.
- Received a fax from the Mahanoy Creek Watershed Association depicting the location of the Bolich Wetlands Treatment System. This treatment system was misplaced on OSM's Treatment System Database. I was able to correctly place the system through GIS analysis.
- Traveled to the Pottsville District Mining Office to participate in a working session with Roger Hornberger for the Mine Pool Mapping project. We were able to clear up the multi-colliery hydrologic unit (MCU) boundaries to represent common mine drainage areas for the western middle coal field.
- Vectorized structural contours of the Mammoth coal seam from the Coal Investigations C-7 Map (Mount Carmel Southwest) for the Mine Pool Mapping Program.

- Added Newport Creek as a new monitored stream to www.datashed.org and updated data from the Grand Tunnel, Honeypot and Plainsville Borehole sampling points.
- Updated the Luzerne County Environmental Resources Map Document in Arc GIS on the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) server. Added PA Fish & Boat Commission layers such to show fishery classifications which was of use to the LCD Erosion and Sediment Program.
- Adjusted colliery boundaries and barrier pillar layers to the Coal Investigation series maps. The location of the features on these maps are much more exact than features found on other maps such as Bureau of Mines Maps. Also assigned MCUs to each colliery. C-Series maps were lined up in GIS with exact latitude and longitude tick marks which were marked on the maps. Other maps were lined up based on roads, streams or buildings that were present on maps and topographic backgrounds.
- Spoke with Jim Andrews, PA DEP Pottsville District Mining Office, to find water quality testing labs in the area that could be sued in the Funding AMD Chemistry for Treatment Systems (FACTS) program. Also found out that he may know of maps that are similar to the Coal Investigations Series for the Southern Anthracite Coal Field.