Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

BOYERS KNOB LOOKOUT
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project
Contract No. OSM 49(3237) 101.1

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
2 Public Square, 5th Floor
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915
FACT SHEET

Location: The project site is located approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Shamokin between SR0901 and SR 0125, in Coal Township, Northumberland County.

Watershed: Shamokin Creek, Warm Water Fishes (WWF)

Official Start Date: December 31, 2012

Contract Completion Date: April 18, 2014

Contractor: Morgan’s Excavating
Mount Union, PA

Property Owners: Northumberland County Commissioners
Gilberton Coal Co.
Charles Johns III and Marlene Johns

Project Cost: $1,384,634.23 (Final Amount)
$1,273,511.90 (Bid Amount)

Project Area: 86 acres

Purpose: To eliminate public health and safety hazards by backfilling and grading dangerous highwalls, pits and spoil areas, backfilling mine openings and removing abandoned mine structures.

Description: The site had been part of the Big Mountain and Enterprise Collieries and was deep mined between the 1840’s and 1950’s. The site was later strip mined in the 1950’s and 1960’s. This abandoned mine land had received significant visitation by unauthorized individuals camping, trail riding, and dumping garbage. The project involved the backfilling and grading of 2,050 feet of dangerous highwalls ranging in depth from 20 to 60 feet, the removal of dangerous piles and embankments from 20 to 60 feet high, the backfilling of sixteen mine openings with 5 requiring bat gates and the removal of three hazardous structures. The work reclaimed 86 acres of abandoned strip mine land by grading approximately ½ million cubic yards of on-site material. Over 300 feet of stream flow was reestablished to the surface that used to flow into a strip pit. Storm water drainage ditches were constructed and the project area seeded with grass, legume and tree seed mixes. The reclaimed area is currently being used as part of a large park for recreational
vehicles and can be easily accessed from Route 125 North near Gowen City.

**Funding:** Pennsylvania’s Abandoned Mine Land Grant

**Project Engineer:** Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Wilkes-Barre District Office
(Contact: Larry Dobash @ 570.830.3148)
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Dangerous Highwall
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Abandoned Mine Opening
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Completed Grading Area ‘A’