Planning and Implementation of the 2020 Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program in Pennsylvania

(also known as the AML Pilot Program)
The 2020 Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program (also known as the AML Pilot Program) was authorized by Congress under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) and provides an additional $25 million of U.S. Treasury funds to Pennsylvania’s Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program.

The funds are to be used “to accelerate the remediation of AML sites with economic and community development end uses.”
This is the fifth year that Pennsylvania has received funding from the AMLER Program.

For FY2020, Pennsylvania along with Kentucky and West Virginia, each received $25 million of AMLER Program funding, while Ohio, Alabama, and Virginia each received $10 million, and the Hopi, Navajo, and Crow Indian Tribes each received $3.33 million.
In FY2017, FY2018, and FY 2019, Pennsylvania received $25 million of AMLER Program Funding.

In FY2016, Pennsylvania received $30 million of AMLER Funding.

More details about the AMLER Program and AMLER Projects in PA can be found on the PA DEP’s website at: dep.pa.gov/AML-Pilot
“State/Tribal AML Programs, in consultation with State/Tribal, local economic and community development authorities, must develop eligible projects that demonstrate a nexus with AML land and water reclamation, and economic and community development”.

Language from OSMRE Guidance for the 2020 AMLER Program
“The AMLER Program offers a non-traditional approach to the reclamation of impacted mine lands. A uniform approach is not expected in every State/Tribe”.

“The AMLER Program offers States, Tribes, and local communities flexibility in deciding which projects offer the greatest opportunities within their communities”.
Economic and Community Development Nexus Category Project Definitions:

“Category A” Projects (Reclamation with Development):

“This is a project intended to include economic and community development related activities as part of the project itself, as well as reclamation activities, likely to result in positive economic and community development outcomes that can be measured”.

“Category B” Projects (Reclamation for Potential Development):

“This is a project reasonably likely to create favorable conditions for the economic development of the project site or promote the general welfare through economic and community development of the area in which the project is conducted”.

States, Tribes, and local communities have the flexibility to use AMLER Program funds for both the reclamation of impacted lands and waters and brick and mortar needs related to the end-use development project.

The AMLER Program offers maximum flexibility in this regard, letting States, Tribes, and local communities balance the needs of an individual project with the ability to fund other priority Pilot projects.

“Guidance for Project Eligibility under the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program for Fiscal Year 2020” was released by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) of in the fall of 2020.
Due to unresolved issues related to complying with both federal and state regulations and requirements governing these types of federal grant funds, PA did not solicit proposals for 2020 AMLER Program projects.

However, two of the 20 proposals from the 2019 AMLER solicitation were reevaluated and selected for design by the Department and issued for competitive bid.

Eleven additional sites were selected based upon official inquiry from the general public and were evaluated using the Guidance and for project costs and benefits.
AMLER Project Selection Procedure

- A total 13 of AMLER Program projects (9 Bituminous and 4 Anthracite), located in 10 coal field counties and with a wide variety of project types and several economic and community development benefits, are proposed.

- Two (2) contingent projects have been proposed in the event any of the 13 originally proposed AMLER Projects are delayed or suspended.

- Starting during April of 2021, PA began submitting 2020 AMLER Program Project vetting documents to OSMRE for economic revitalization review.
By December 8, 2021, OSMRE had approved the 13 proposed 2020 AMLER Program Projects vetting documents.
PA’s application for the 2020 AMLER Program Grant was submitted on April 13, 2021 and was approved on June 1, 2021. The grant’s period of performance is June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2024.
The 13 AMLER Program Projects being funded include:

- One Active AMD Treatment Stream restoration project
- Nine Surface Mine reclamation projects with Industrial, Agricultural, or Recreational Benefits
- Three Coal Refuse Pile reclamation projects with Industrial or Recreational Benefits
In addition to eliminating several high-priority AML/AMD features, benefits of the projects include:

- Significant stream thermal and water quality improvement including restored fisheries
- Recreational hunting on public lands
- Multi-use recreational trails
- Parking area adjacent to public lands for access for recreational hunting
- Community multipurpose recreational park
- Site improvements of a fishery
Significant Benefits

- Recreational site access road improvements, parking area, and historic information kiosks
- Agricultural farmland for hay production
- Site development of solar panel facility
- Site for a campground office and welcome center with camping facilities
- Commercial/industrial development site
- Multi-use green space to be used for recreational and camping purposes
- Site for a storage unit facility
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>2020 AMLER Project Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Total Project Estimated Cost</th>
<th>AMLER Funding (ED-03 Non-Water Supply Rec.)</th>
<th>Other Known Sources of Funding</th>
<th>AML Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Plant</td>
<td>Indiana and Cambria</td>
<td>Buffington Township, Indiana County</td>
<td>$26,158,499 (As-Bid)</td>
<td>$8,900,470</td>
<td>$14,000,000 PA Capital Budget</td>
<td>$3,258,029 AMD Set-Aside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>State Game Lands 332</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Young Township</td>
<td>$3,200,000</td>
<td>$3,200,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>D&amp;L Trail Wilkes-Barre Mountain - Phase 2</td>
<td>Luzerne</td>
<td>City of Wilkes-Barre, Plains Township, Laurel Run Borough</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
<td>$941,000</td>
<td>$259,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tyler Run</td>
<td>Elk</td>
<td>Fox Township</td>
<td>$476,000</td>
<td>$476,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Walkertown</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>West Pike Run Township</td>
<td>$1,550,000</td>
<td>$1,550,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mocanaqua AML Recreation Access</td>
<td>Luzerne</td>
<td>Conyngham and Newport Townships</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
<td>$850,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Pennsylvania’s 2020 AMLER Program Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>2020 AMLER Project Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Total Project Estimated Cost</th>
<th>AMLER Funding (ED-03 Non-Water Supply Rec.)</th>
<th>Other Known Sources of Funding</th>
<th>AML Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Audenried Coal to Solar - Phase 1</td>
<td>Luzerne and Schuylkill</td>
<td>Hazle Township, Luzerne County Kline Township, Schuylkill County</td>
<td>$6,200,000</td>
<td>$3,950,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Belnap South</td>
<td>Armstrong</td>
<td>Wayne Township</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Coal Castle Revitalization</td>
<td>Schuylkill</td>
<td>New Castle Township</td>
<td>$2,250,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Forks Church North</td>
<td>Armstrong</td>
<td>Gilpin Township</td>
<td>$920,000</td>
<td>$420,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Muse</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Cecil Township</td>
<td>$1,291,530</td>
<td>$1,291,530</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wildcat Run</td>
<td>Clarion</td>
<td>Madison Township</td>
<td>$571,000</td>
<td>$571,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Thompsontown</td>
<td>Clearfield</td>
<td>Chest Township</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Blacklick Creek Treatment Facility (BCTF) (Wehrum Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Facility) project addresses three (3) acid mine drainage (AMD) discharges including:

1. The Commercial No. 16 (Red Mill) discharge
2. The Vinton No. 6 mine discharge
3. The Wehrum mine discharge

The combined waters of these mine pools will be pumped to the BCTF, a centralized 7.2 million gallons per day treatment facility located in Buffington Township, Indiana County, where it will be treated prior to being discharged into the main stem of Blacklick Creek.

The BCTF will incorporate a flow equalization, clarifier, reactor, and sludge-holding basins/tanks together with sludge recirculating technology. Active chemical treatment is anticipated to consist of pre-aeration, hydrated lime, peroxide or other appropriate treatment chemicals and methodologies.

Stabilized inorganic precipitants generated during treatment are anticipated to be pumped to a portion of the Wehrum Mine. The BCTF will be constructed on 28 acres of previously reclaimed abandoned mine lands (AML) located within Problem Area 2722.
Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Plant

Project Areas
Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Plant

Commercial #16 Discharge
Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Plant

Wehrum Shaft Discharge
Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Plant

Vinton #6 Discharge (3 boreholes)
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Cost:  $26,158,499 (As-Bid)

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project):  $8,900,470
- Regular AML Funding:  $0
- Regular AMD Funding:  $3,258,029
- Other Known Funding:  $14,000,000 (PA Capital Budget)
Blacklick Creek AMD Treatment Plant

AML/AMD Measurables

- AMD treatment facility constructed to handle 7.2 million gallons per day
- Three AMD discharges eliminated
- 25 miles of Blacklick Creek restored for fishing and boating
AMLER Measurables

• Increased visitors to the Blacklick Creek and Ghost Town Trail

• Access for future parking for use of the restored Blacklick Creek and Ghost Town Trail

• Increased spending at local businesses
Project Partners

- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Cambria County Conservation and Recreation Authority
- Indiana County
- Indiana County Conservation District
- Blacklick Creek Watershed Association
- Cambria County Conservation District
- C&I Trail Council
Two dangerous highwalls (DH) measuring 30-70 feet high and 1,800-4,000 feet long, the associated 54-acre spoil areas (SA), and two water (WA) acid mine drainage (AMD) pollution problems emptying into Neal Run will be reclaimed as a result of the Project. The SA, consisting of mine spoil, will be used to backfill the DH and the remaining mine spoil will be graded on site to eliminate any health and safety hazards. A PA DEP-approved alkaline addition will be added to neutralize soil acidity and re-establish vegetation suitable for game species. The two AMD discharges will be rerouted for passive treatment. A total of 79 acres will be reclaimed through the Project.

As a Category A AMLER Program project, these AML reclaimed areas will be repurposed as state game lands and combined with adjacent state game land to improve approximately 100 acres of state game lands. Upon completion of the Project the land will immediately be available for recreational hunting.

Many of the visitors to this area are from the Greater Pittsburgh Region and are utilizing the many businesses along the U.S. 22 corridor for food, gas, and lodging.
State Game Lands 332

Project Location
State Game Lands 332

Water Problems (AMD Discharges)

Dangerous Highwalls

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
State Game Lands 332
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Cost: $3,200,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $3,200,000
- Regular AML Funding: $0
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- Two (2) acid mine drainage discharges with a combined flowrate of 200 gallons per minute will be passively treated.
- A 5,800-feet Dangerous Highwall will be reclaimed.
- A 54-acre Spoil Area will be mixed with a PA DEP-approved alkaline amendment and regraded.
AMLER Measurables

- 100 Acres of usable state game lands will be improved
- 2,500 feet of access road will be constructed for disabled sportspersons
Project Partners

- Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)
- Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment (AWARE)
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
The D&L Trail Wilkes-Barre Mount – Phase 2 Project, a Category “A” AMLER Project, is located in Wilkes-Barre Township, Laurel Run Borough, and Plains Township, Luzerne County. The project will include the construction of a new 2.14-mile trail, reclamation of a nearby abandoned mine opening, and two dangerous highwalls (DHs) situated along the proposed trail will be backfilled. The proposed trail would run through the Pinchot State Forest along an abandoned railroad bed beginning where the existing Wilkes-Barre Mountain Section – Phase 1 trail ends which is about one mile from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Seven Tubs Recreation Area and will end near East Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre. The trail will consist of 10-foot-wide crushed stone with 2-foot graded shoulders and will run adjacent to the Laurel Run Underground Mine Fire, but a detailed analysis shows the fire will have little to no effect on the trail. However, as a safety measure, fencing will be installed around areas of venting near the trail.
Photo 1: Typical existing conditions along the proposed Phase 2 trail alignment.
Photo 2: Typical existing conditions along the proposed Phase 2 trail alignment.
Photo 3: Abandoned mine opening where a bat-friendly gate will be installed.
D&L Trail Wilkes-Barre Mountain-Phase 2

Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $1,200,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $941,000
- Regular AML Funding: $259,000
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- Closure of one Mine Opening using a bat friendly gate
- Eliminate 650 feet of Dangerous Highwall
- Backfill 0.5 acres of Pits
- Grade 4.7 acres of Spoil Areas
- Install 1,200 feet of chain-link fence to prevent access to 1.5 acres of mine fire venting
AMLER Measurables

• 2.14-mile walking trail (a continuation of Phase 1 trail)
Project Partners

- North Branch Land Trust
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
The Tyler Run Project, a Category “A” AMLER Project, is within the Moshannon State Forest and five Priority 2 Dangerous Highwalls (DH) at a combined length of 5,875 feet, including 16 acres of Priority 3 Spoil Area (SA), and a 0.3-acre Priority 3 strip mine pit (PI) will be reclaimed as a result of the Project. The SA will be used to backfill the associated DHs and PI.

The reclamation plan includes repurposing portions of the reclaimed areas to construct two (2) public parking areas within the project area which entice more visitors to this section of the Moshannon State Forest.
Tyler Run
Tyler Run
Tyler Run

Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $476,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $476,000
- Regular AML Funding: $0
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
Tyler Run

AML/AMD Measurables

- 5,875 feet of Dangerous Highwall
- 16 acres of Spoil Area
- 0.3 acres of Strip Mine Pit
Tyler Run

AMLER Measurables

• 2 permanent, gravel public parking lots with up to six parking spaces per lot
Project Partners

- Office of Surface Mining Reclamations and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Walkertown

Seven acres of Dangerous Pile and Embankment (DPE) and a 0.2-mile Clogged Stream (CS) will be reclaimed as a result of the Walkerton Project, a Category “A” & “B” AMLER Project.

Refuse material will be pulled away from the stream to remove flooding issues and then regraded on site into a more stable configuration. A DEP-approved alkaline addition may be added during backfill to neutralize the soil acidity.

The reclamation plan includes creating a 3 to 4-acre greenspace and converting the site access road into a walking trail. The property owner intends to donate the greenspace to West Pike Run Township and Township will maintain the green space and the walking path. In the future, the township may continue to develop the greenspace by adding park benches, pavilions, or other facilities for the community to use for recreation.
Walkertown

Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $1,550,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $1,550,000
- Regular AML Funding: $0
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- 7-acre Dangerous Pile and Embankment
- 0.2-mile Clogged Stream
AMLER Measurables

• 3 to 4-acre green space for community recreation
• 800-foot walking path
Walkertown

Project Partners

• West Pike Run Township
• Property owner of the AML site
• Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
• PA Department of Environmental Protection
The Mocanaqua AML Recreation Access Project, a Category “A” AMLER Project, is on PA DCNR’s Pinchot State Forest, PA Game Lands 224 and Earth Conservancy property. Project work includes the reclamation of several abandoned mine land (AML) features including a Dangerous Highwall (DH), Spoil Area (SA), Pits (PI), Industrial/Residential Waste, and Mine Openings. In addition to reclaiming the AML features, an existing access road, measuring 2,400-foot-long, will be improved, a parking area will be constructed to accommodate at least 30 cars, and signage at the parking lot will be installed. The Project will also include site security measures and visitor amenities at the parking area.
Mocanaqua AML Recreation Access

Feature 7101-12 Mine Opening
Feature 7101-11 Mine Drift
Mocanaqua AML Recreation Access

Feature 7101-32 Mine Opening
Feature 2157-06 Mine Opening
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost:  $850,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project):  $850,000
- Regular AML Funding:  $0
- Regular AMD Funding:  $0
- Other Known Funding:  $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- 10 Mine Openings
- 165 feet Dangerous Highwall
- 1.4 acres of Pits
- 0.1-acre Industrial/Residential Waste
- 1.0-acre Spoil Area
Mocanaqua AML Recreation Access

AMLER Measurables

- 2,400 feet of access road improvements
- Parking lot for 30 cars
- Site security measures
- Visitor amenities
Project Partners

- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- PA Game Commission
- Earth Conservancy
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
The Audenried Coal to Solar - Phase 1 Project, a Category “B” AMLER Project, is part of a two-phase project proposed by Teichos Energy, LLC to reclaim 146 acres of abandoned mine lands (AML) and to accommodate construction of a utility scale solar photovoltaic facility. This phase of the Project will include reclamation of eight acres of Dangerous Piles and Embankments (DPE), the removal of one Hazardous Equipment and Facility (HEF), backfilling multiple abandoned strip Pits (PI), and grading approximately 1.9 million cubic yards of mine Spoil Area (SA) material.

As a result of the Project, it is anticipated that 150-300 full-time jobs directly related to the solar construction and 6-8 permanent jobs related to facility operations and maintenance of the solar panels will be created.
Audenried Coal to Solar-Phase 1
Audenried Coal to Solar-Phase 1

Phase 1 Project Limits

OSM 40, 54(1385,3723,3722)1011 - Audenried Coal to Solar
Hazle Township, Luzerne County
Kline Township, Schuylkill County
Audenried Coal to Solar-Phase 1

Dangerous Pile and Embankment and Spoil Area will be graded and used to backfill adjacent PI so the site can accommodate the installation of solar panels.
This Hazardous Equipment and Facility AML feature, known as the welding shop, is located within the Project Area and will be removed under the reclamation project.
Abandoned PI that will be backfilled and graded to accommodate the future installation of solar panels.
Audenried Coal to Solar-Phase 1

Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $6,200,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $3,950,000
- Regular AML Funding: $2,250,000
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- Reclaim 146 acres of AML that include approximately, eight acres of Priority 2 Dangerous Pile and Embankment, one Priority 2 Hazardous Equipment and Facility and Facility and 100 acres of Priority 3 Spoil Area and Pits.
AMLER Measurables

- 30.50 megawatts of solar panels will be installed by Teichos Energy, LLC following Phase 1 of the Project
- 150-300 fulltime equivalent jobs directly related to solar construction
- 6-8 permanent jobs related to facility operations and maintenance of the solar panels
Project Partners

- Teichos Energy, LLC
- Property owner of the AML site
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
Future Phase 2 (currently in Planning)

Phase 2 of the project will approximately 166 acres of AML and will include the removal of one abandoned Hazardous Equipment and Facility (HEF), grading the mine spoil area (SA), and backfilling an abandoned strip pit.

The restoration of Hunky Dory Creek (a tributary to Catawissa Creek in the Susquehanna River Basin) is also proposed under Phase 2. A new creek channel will be established, and Hunky Dory Creek will be reconnected with Catawissa Creek as it was pre-mining.

Following Phase 2 of the Project, Teichos Energy will install additional solar panels on the reclaimed AML.
Belnap South

As a result of the Belnap South Project, a Category “A” AMLER Project, 1,700 feet of Dangerous Highwall (DH) and twenty acres of Spoil Area (SA) will be reclaimed. The SA will be used to backfill the DH and provide grading conducive to farming. A DEP-approved additional may be added to neutralize soil acidity.

Reclamation of the Project site will increase hay production on this property by approximately 42%, which will provide increased local feed for cattle. The increase in hay production for the very rural area, with limited access to grocery stores, will keep local beef prices down.

Agriculture is the main component of the area’s employment and local agricultural equipment suppliers will also see the benefits of increased farmland.
Belnap South

Project Area
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $350,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $350,000
- Regular AML Funding: $0
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- 1,700 feet of Dangerous Highwall
- 20 acres of Spoil Area
AMLER Measurables

- Increase hay production by 42%
- Increase local feed for beef cattle
- Decrease local beef prices for area consumers
Project Partners

• Property owner farming the property adjacent to the AML site.
• Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
• PA Department of Environmental Protection
Coal Castle Revitalization

The Coal Castle Revitalization Project, a Category “A” and “B” AMLER Project, proposed by Famous Reading Outdoors, LLC, will reclaim 56 acres of abandoned mine land (AML). The project will facilitate future commercial development that will support the extreme off-road riding experience the site has to offer. A Dangerous Pile & Embankment (DPE), Hazardous Water Body (HWB), Strip Pits (PI) and Spoil Area (SA) will be reclaimed as a result of the Project. Nearly 690,000 cubic yards of on-site material will be regraded as part of the Project. An estimated 10-20 full and part time jobs will be created, not including temporary construction positions during reclamation.

This outdoor recreation area already holds events periodically attracting hundreds to thousands of patrons. Additional development of the property would encourage larger crowds to stay in New Castle Township for longer periods.
Coal Castle Revitalization
Coal Castle Revitalization

Coal Castle Revitalization OSM 54(4663)101.1

Project Area Map
OSM 54(4663)101.1
Coal Castle Revitalization
New Castle Township, Schuylkill County
7.5 Pottsville

Legend
- Project_area
- AMLER_features_for_reclamation

Coordinate System: State Plane Pennsylvania South
Projection:気になるutm_mercator_1zone
Datum: NAD83 2nd

Updated 02-01-22

Pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Photo 1: Entrance to location from Darkwater Road.

Photo 2: Aerial view from Google Earth showing the P1 Dangerous Pile & Embankment, P1 Hazardous Water Body, P3 Spoil Area, and P3 Pit.
Coal Castle Revitalization

Photo 3, below: 4663-02, Spoil Area, looking North.

Photo 4, right: 4663-03, Pit, looking South.
Coal Castle Revitalization

Photo 5, right: 4663-01, DPE, looking Northeast.

Photo 6, left: 4663-19, HWB, looking Northeast. Water body is a 0.3-acre impoundment. 4663-01, DPE, can be accessed by ATV trail in the upper left corner of the photo.
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $2,250,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $1,500,000
- Regular AML Funding: $750,000
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- 11 acres of Priority 1 Dangerous Pile & Embankment
- 0.3-acre Priority 1 Hazardous Water Body
- 43 acres of Priority 3 Spoil Area
- 2 acres of Priority 3 Pits
- 56 total acres of AML will be reclaimed
- Project Area encompasses 641 acres
AMLER Measurables

- 56 acres of reclaimed land suitable for future building
- Estimated 10-20 full and part time jobs will be created
Project Partners

- Famous Reading Outdoors
- Property owner of the AML site
- New Castle Township
- Schuylkill Headwaters Association
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
The Project Area is within an existing campground and located along the Allegheny River. Once completed, two (2) Dangerous Highwalls (DH), five acres of Spoil Area (SA), one (1) Dangerous Pile and Embankment (DPE), and two (2) Hazardous Equipment and Facilities (HEF) will be reclaimed. The SA will be used to backfill the DH, and the DPE will be graded on site to a more stable configuration. A DEP-approved alkaline addition may be added to neutralize soil acidity. The HEFs will be deconstructed onsite and buried as clean fill.

The reclamation plan of this Category “A” and “B” AMLER Project, includes grading a large green space to be used by the campground for recreational purposes and grading additional level areas throughout the campground for future campsites.
Forks Church North

OSM 03(4902)102.1
Forks Church North
Gilpin Township
Armstrong County
Forks Church North
Estimated Project Cost: $920,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $420,000
- Regular AML Funding: $500,000
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- 180-foot Dangerous Highwall
- 5 acres Spoil Area
- 2 acres Dangerous Pile and Embankment
- 2 Hazardous Equipment and Facilities
  - 25 coke ovens
  - three partially standing brick structures
  - building remnants
AMLER Measurables

- Large green space constructed for recreational purposes
- Grade level areas throughout the campground for future campsites
Project Partners

- Property owner of the AML site and owner of the campground
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
The Muse Project is a Category “A” AMLER Program Project with potential to be a Category “B” AMLER Program Project.

A 5-acre Dangerous Pile and Embankment (DPE) will be graded on site to eliminate the health and safety hazards and a DEP-approved alkaline amendment will be added to neutralize acidity and re-establish vegetation. Five Hazardous Equipment and Facilities (HEF) within the Project Area will be demolished and buried onsite and a five-acre area will be graded to suit the property owner’s plans to develop a storage facility business. Additionally, an access road will be constructed for emergency and municipal crews.

A storage facility business will provide a significant economic benefit to the area which is heavily populated by large housing developments.
Muse

Project site
Muse
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost:

• AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $1,291,530
• Regular AML Funding: $0
• Regular AMD Funding: $0
• Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- Five-acre Dangerous Pile and Embankment
- (5) Hazardous Equipment Facilities
AMLER Measurables

- Five acres of area will be graded for a storage business
- Allows for the development of Phase 2 which will develop multiple new businesses and jobs in the community as well as a 3,700-foot multi-use access road/trail
Project Partners

- Property owner of the AML site
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
A Priority 2, 2,500-foot Dangerous Highwall (DH) and 19 acres of associated Priority 3 Spoil Area (SA) will be reclaimed as a result of the Wildcat Run Project, a Category “A” AMLER Program Project. A seven-acre Priority 2 Dangerous Pile and Embankment (DEP) will be graded onsite and a DEP-approved alkaline material will be added during reclamation to neutralize soil acidity.

Improvements to the Project Area include, regrading and paving an existing gravel parking lot to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, constructing a large green space, with amenities, for outdoor recreational purposes, and adding amenities along the trail for use by visitors.
Wildcat Run
Wildcat Run
Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost: $571,000

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $571,000
- Regular AML Funding: $0
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- Dangerous Highwall - 70 feet high by 2,500 feet long
- Spoil Area - 15 acres
- Dangerous Pile and Embankment – 3.5 acres
AMLER Measurables

- Regrading and paving an existing gravel parking lot to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and adding amenities on the trail for use by visitors.
- Increase the recreational activities along the trail as well as business and tourism in Rimersburg, located 3,000 feet from the trail.
- Construct a large green space, with amenities, for outdoor recreational purposes.
Wildcat Run

Project Partners

- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- Redbank Valley Trails Association
The Thompsontown Project is a Category “A” and “B” AMLER Program Project located in Chest Township, Clearfield County. A dangerous pile and embankment (DPE), situated adjacent to Wilson Run, measuring ten acres and containing approximately 240,000 tons of coal refuse with steep, unstable slopes will be reclaimed as a result of the Project. The Thompsontown Cooperative Trout Nursery is located immediately downstream of the DPE pile and after rainstorms the stream often overflows its banks depositing sediment into the raceways of the nursery, killing the fish.

The proposed scope of work involves removing roughly half of the coal refuse and hauling it to a waste coal burning plant and the remaining refuse will be regraded to more stable slopes and revegetated. A portion of the alkaline fly ash by-product of burning the coal refuse will be hauled back to the site and mixed with the remaining refuse to neutralize the acidic soil to promote revegetation. By removing the DPE, the trout nursery will experience fewer fish kills related to sediment pollution significantly increasing the number of trout available for local youth fishing events.
Thompstown
Thompstown

Project Cost and Funding Sources

Estimated Project Cost:

- AMLER (Non-Water Supply Project): $1,000,000
- Regular AML Funding: $0
- Regular AMD Funding: $0
- Other Known Funding: $0
AML/AMD Measurables

- 10-acre Dangerous Pile and Embankment
Thompsontown

AMLER Measurables

- Reduction in fish kills
- 30% increase in trout stocked per year
- Increase in local youth fishing opportunities
Project Partners

- Thompsontown Cooperative Trout Nursery
- Property owner of the AML site
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
For more information about the AMLER Program in Pennsylvania, visit:

dep.pa.gov/AML-Pilot

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary