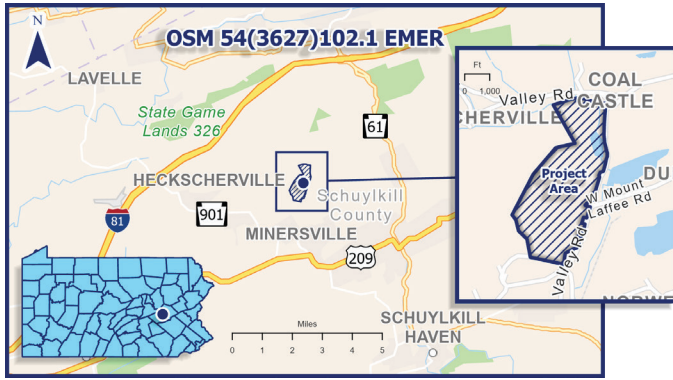


BUREAU OF ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION



DUNCOTT NORTH REFUSE BANK FIRE EXTINGUISHMENT ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

Purpose →

To eliminate eligible abandoned mine public health and safety hazards that are located within close proximity to places of intense visitation of humans.

On November 24, 2024, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation was notified of a coal refuse bank fire located in Cass Township, Schuylkill County, that was likely started by a nearby brush fire. After investigation, it was determined that two separate areas of the refuse bank were burning, as evidenced by the presence of smoke, charred trees, and elevated surface temperatures. The project was Phase 2 of a multi-phased effort to extinguish the fire and burning material. Phase 1 was an immediate response and only involved the dispersal of water to the two fire areas and used approximately 3,250,000 gallons of water. The Phase 2 work involved initially excavating a cut off trench to isolate the fire. Then the remaining burning material was excavated, quenched and transported to one of the disposal areas. Phase 2 used an additional 3,531,000 gallons of water and removed approximately 40,000 cubic yards of hot or burning material. The excavation and quenching continued until there was no longer any fire or elevated temperatures detected. Several vertical and angular boreholes were drilled and cased for future monitoring and all affected areas were revegetated with a mix of grass and legume.

Accomplishments for this project include the reclamation of a dangerous abandoned mine land feature, located within Problem Area 3627 (PA 3627), which met the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Priority 1 safety criteria.



Pre-Construction

Project at a Glance

Location:

The project site is located at 40.71522, -76.2485 in Cass Township, Schuylkill County.

Watershed:

West Branch Schuylkill River, Cold Water Fishery (CWF), Migratory Fishery (MF)

Project Period:

January 24, 2025 – May 20, 2025

Project Size:

50 Acres

Total Project Cost:

\$1,329,224.74

Funding:

Funding was made available through Pennsylvania's federal Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program.

Contractor:

LEW Site Construction, LLC

Property Owner:

Reading Anthracite Company
200 Mahantongo St.
PO Box 1200
Pottsville, PA 17901

Project Management:

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Wilkes-Barre District Office



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

DUNCOTT NORTH REFUSE BANK FIRE EXTINGUISHMENT

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

