



LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE (TOBY CREEK)

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 Sunday, April 14, 2024, a mine subsidence occurred on the edge of Toby Creek, located behind the Luzerne Lumber business in Luzerne Borough, PA. Toby Creek, a Susquehanna River tributary, was being lost entirely to the mine cave-in, and a large barn on the property was threatened due to the eroding stream bank. The subsidence measured approximately 30'x40' and caused approximately 75' of the adjacent stream bank to collapse and disappear into the workings below. The creek was completely dry downstream of the subsidence and further erosion threatened to collapse a nearby outbuilding.

The Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation responded immediately and began reclamation work on the same day. Additional work had partial stream flows restored by the end of the day, and complete backfill and sealing of the subsidence was completed by the following Saturday. On October 3, 2024, the streambank above the backfilled area was encased in grout to reduce stream loss. The stream is regularly monitored for losses, and no further maintenance has been necessary.

Accomplishments for this project include the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Land Feature (AMLF) No. 9 vertical opening (VO) in PA 2227, a Priority 1 VO which subsequently restored the diverted stream flow caused by the subsidence.



Project at a Glance

Location:

The project site is located within Toby Creek, a tributary to the Susquehanna River, behind Luzerne Lumber Company, 445 Main Street, Luzerne Borough, Luzerne County. The site can be accessed from Pennsylvania Route 309 by taking Exit 6 for Union Street. Turn right on Union Street for 0.3 miles and continue straight onto Main Street for another 0.3 miles. The site will be on the right behind Luzerne Lumber Company.

Watershed:

Toby Creek, Trout Stocked Fishery (TSF)
Susquehanna River, Warm Water Fishery (WWF)

Project Period:

April 14, 2024 - April 20, 2024

Maintenance Date:

October 3, 2024

Project Size:

0.5 Acres

Total Project Cost:

\$404,364.83

Funding:

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

Contractor:

Construction completed in-house by the Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Anthracite District Construction Crew.

Property Owners:

Luzerne Lumber Company
445 Main St, Luzerne, PA 18709

Project Management:

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Wilkes-Barre District Office



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE
(TOBY CREEK)

Pre-Construction



LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE
(TOBY CREEK)

Pre-Construction



**LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE
(TOBY CREEK)**

Construction



**LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE
(TOBY CREEK)**

Construction



LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE
(TOBY CREEK)

Grouting



**LUZERNE LUMBER SUBSIDENCE
(TOBY CREEK)**

Post Construction

