



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NO.2 TUNNEL OPENING
Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Contract No. OSM 40(3110)101.1

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
2 Public Square, 5th Floor
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ACTIVE AND ABANDONED MINE OPERATIONS
BUREAU OF ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION

NO.2 TUNNEL OPENING
ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION
CONTRACT NO. OSM 40(3110)101.1

FACT SHEET

- Location:** The project site is located from Interstate 81, Exit 164, as follows:

Take Exit 164 from I-81, merge onto PA-29 North toward Nanticoke. Exit onto US-11 North towards Plymouth. Travel approximately 2,500 ft. and make a right onto Flat Rd. Make another quick right and you will be at the gated Access Road 'A'.
- Official Start Date:** October 31, 2013
- Contract Completion Date:** January 31, 2014
- Contractor:** C.E. Ankiewicz Construction & Excavation, Inc.
- Property Owners:** Earth Conservancy & UGI Penn Natural Gas, Inc. Trustee
- Project Cost:** \$ 36,927.75
- Project Area:** 1 acre
- Purpose:** To eliminate public health and safety hazards by installing a bat gate over an opening into an abandoned mine tunnel.
- Description:** The project site was determined to have historical significance because it was used to access the 110 miners who were trapped and killed during the Avondale Mine Disaster of 1869. The area was easily accessible and there were many indications that people not only frequent the area, but entered the mine through the opening. The opening into the tunnel was found to be approximately four feet wide by two feet high. Once inside the opening, the tunnel opens up to approximately ten feet by seven feet. The opening developed more recently than 2009 when a ceremony and small memorial was held at the site and the opening did not exist. It is not clear whether the opening resulted from natural causes or if the mine tunnel was dug into by vandals.
An Accelerated Response Project was implemented which involved clearing and grubbing, excavation, installation of a bat gate, pouring of concrete, staining of the architectural surface treatment, and revegetation and cleanup of the area. The architectural surface treatment gives the concrete the appearance of natural stone to blend it in with the other features in the area

adjacent to the tunnel, a detail greatly appreciated by the Plymouth Historical Society.

The Plymouth Historical Society awarded a number of certificates of appreciation to Department staff for the work done at Avondale and their Board of Directors described the project as “great” and thanked the Department for its involvement, stating that the work will “compliment the historical appearance of the mine site”.

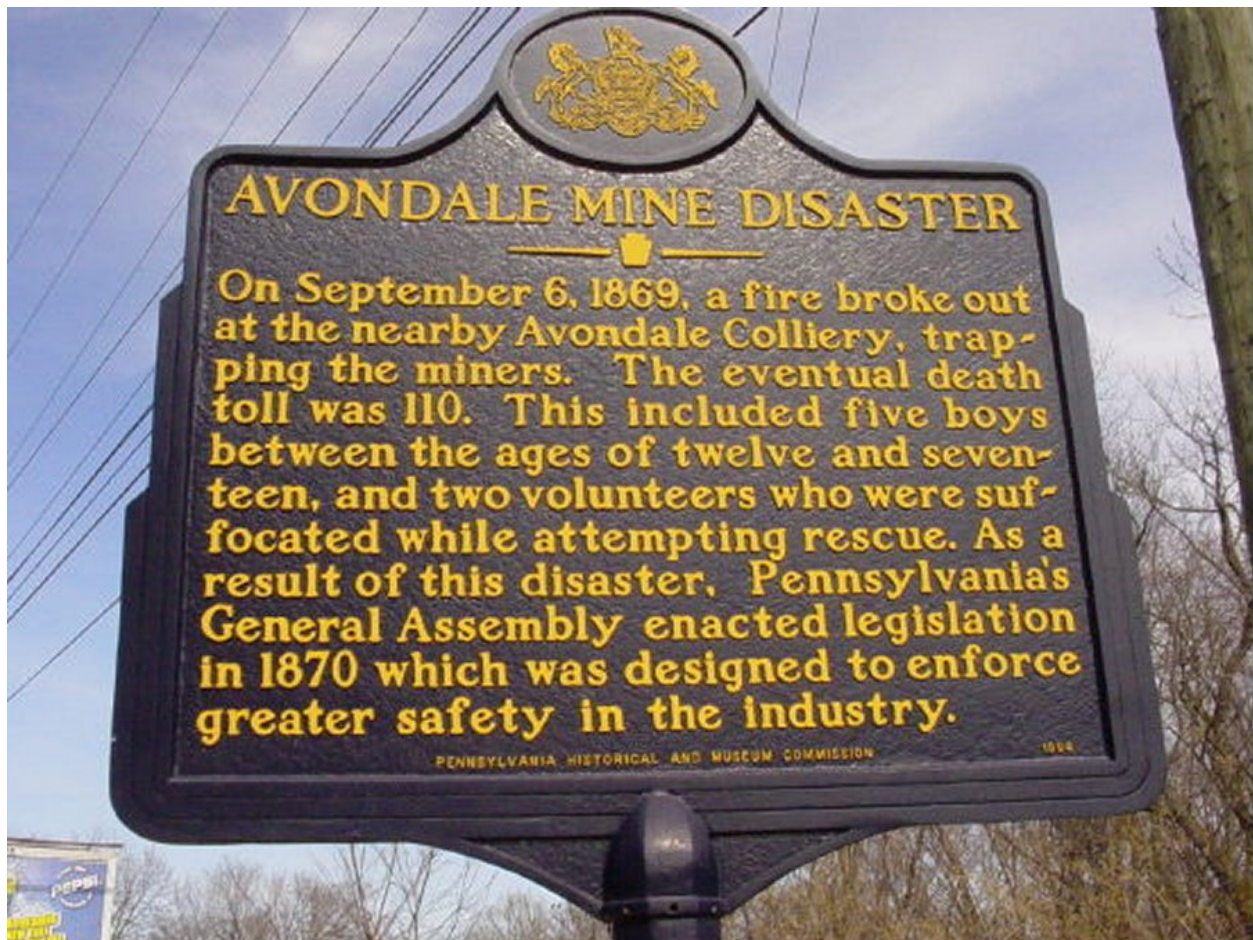
Funding:

The project was funded by the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Trust Fund, which is subsidized by the coal industry via fees paid on each ton of coal mined.

Project Management:

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Wilkes-Barre District Office
570.826.2371

Avondale Mine Disaster Historical Plaque



**No. 2 Tunnel
OSM 40(3110)101.1**



Before Construction – Mine Opening with Access into the No. 2 Tunnel

**No.2 Tunnel
OSM 40(3110)101.1**



After Construction – Completed Bat Gate with Artificial Stone Surface Treatment