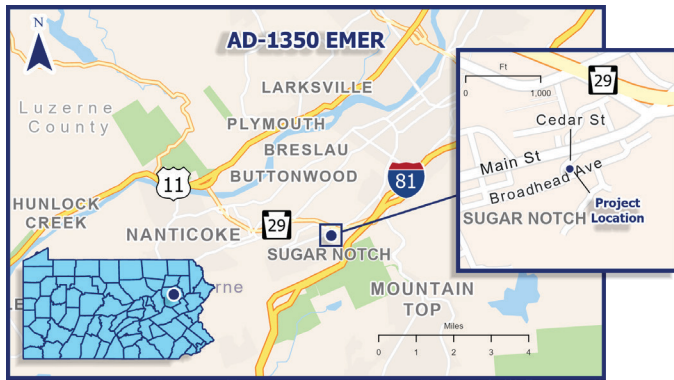


BUREAU OF ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION



SUGAR NOTCH AIR SHAFT ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

Purpose →

To eliminate eligible abandoned mine public health and safety hazards that were located near a residence.

During the early morning hours of Sunday, July 13, 2025, local emergency responders rescued an individual who became injured after falling from a rope ladder while exploring an abandoned air shaft in Sugar Notch Borough, Luzerne County.

In response, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (Bureau) initiated an emergency project to backfill the air shaft. The shaft measured approximately 15-feet by 18-feet inside and extended vertically to approximately 40-feet; the area at the bottom of the shaft appeared to extend laterally towards the south. The shaft opening was protected by a sheet metal building with large metal doors on the western and eastern sides. The doors were barricaded and well-sealed. Entry into the shaft was made via a hole measuring three-feet by four-feet that was cut into the eastern side of the shaft building. Prior to initiating construction, the Bureau coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and completed habitat studies to confirm protected bat species were not utilizing the air shaft or nearby trees for nesting or roosting.

Accomplishments for this project include the reclamation of Abandoned Mine Land Feature No. 23, a Priority 1 vertical opening in Problem Area 2133 (PA 2133). The project removed the above ground structure and fully backfilled the shaft with purchased stone.



Pre-Construction

Project at a Glance

Location:

The project site is located at 41.19697, -75.92530 in Sugar Notch Borough, Luzerne County

Watershed:

Warrior Creek-Susquehanna River, Cold Water Fishery (CWF), Migratory Fishery (MF)

Project Period:

July 21, 2025 – July 29, 2025

Project Size:

0.1 Acres

Total Project Cost:

\$47,243.19

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 Owner:

E. F. Estate, Sugar Notch, PA 18706

Project Management:

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Wilkes-Barre District Office



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

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