

Project Description - Abandoned mine drainage (AMD) from the Reevesdale #2 Mine Discharge adds metals and acidity to the Wabash Creek, a tributary to the Little Schuylkill Watershed, near its headwaters. Above its confluence with the Reevesdale #2 Mine Discharge, the Wabash Creek is alkaline with low concentrations of iron, aluminum, and manganese, below its confluence, the water and streambed take on a decidedly orange tint caused by iron and other metal loadings from Reevesdale #2 Mine Discharge. Pollution from the Reevesdale #2 Mine Discharge is a reason Wabash Creek is designated “impaired because of metals” on the 303(d) list (2014 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report).

Project Timeframe - April 01, 2016 through June 30 2022

Project Goals - The proposed project will incorporate beneficial components implemented at other treatment systems and transform the system from a lateral flow configuration to an upflow configuration, add treatment capacity, provide active flushing capability, add pre-settling and screening, and add cleanout access with active flushing capability to the flushing system. Hence, this project will again effectively reduce AMD loadings from the Reevesdale #2 Mine Discharge to the Wabash Creek by using a more efficient upflow limestone treatment system. Improvements will allow the following estimated load reductions: 13.7 lbs/iron; 4.1 lbs/day of aluminum and 38.2 lbs/day of acidity.

Pictures



Reevesdale #2 AMD Treatment System

Project Results - The AMD treatment system, an upflow limestone bed with a combination flushing pond and final settling pond, was installed in the footprint of the old existing AMD treatment system. The treatment system is working as planned and designed. Additionally, 1,650 tons of limestone sand was delivered to Blythe Water Authority’s property where the Caparell discharge (another AMD discharge in the watershed) is located with 250 tons placed into the stream, resulting in water quality improvement downstream.

Project Costs - \$645,772 EPA Section 319(h).

Partners – Schuylkill Headwaters Association