



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

STACKHOUSE PARK
Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Contract No. OSM 11(1052)101.1

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
286 Industrial Park Road
Ebensburg, PA 15931

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

**STACKHOUSE PARK
ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION
CONTRACT NO. OSM 11(1052)101.1**

FACT SHEET

Location: Westmont Borough, Cambria County

Official Start Date: February 19, 2013

Contract Completion Date: September 16, 2013

Contractor: Gearhart Brothers Services, LLC

Property Owners: City of Johnstown
Kristen Denne, City Manager
401 Main Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

Project Cost: \$396,334.35 (Final), \$396,334.35 (Bid Amount)

Project Area: One (1) vertical opening 12 feet in diameter and 350 feet deep.

Purpose: To eliminate public health and safety concerns caused by the presence of a vertical opening. A public park complete with hiking trails promotes intense public visitation within the project site. Access to a 350 feet deep abandoned vertical mine opening was eliminated.

Description: Project OSM 11(1052) 101.1, Stackhouse Park, was located in Westmont Borough, Cambria County. Stackhouse Park is a public park that covers 227 acres which was gifted to the City of Johnstown by the Cambria Iron Company in 1931. Restored in 1986, Stackhouse Park has been a treasured park to Johnstown. Beneath the ground of Stackhouse Park are the Rolling Mill and Rosedale Mines. The Elk Run air shaft extended through the Rolling Mill Mine and down to the Rosedale Mine. The shaft originally supplied air to the Rolling Mill Mine and was eventually extended down to the Rosedale Mine to provide a haulage way through the Rosedale Mine to remove coal from the more productive Rolling Mill Mine. The haulage method was considered state of the art at the time and was featured in a 1921 article in Coal Age Magazine. The Rolling Mill Mine was in operation from approximately 1856 to 1931. The mine was one of the first mines in the area and produced about 30 million tons of coal when it finally closed. In 1912 coal production in the Rolling Mill Mine was halted for three days when an accident killing 112 miners in the Klondike section of the mine occurred. An explosion

killed 7 miners. The rest died from afterdamp, the toxic mixture of gases after an explosion. They shut down shortly after, in 1931. Although the mine was closed and abandoned, openings to the mine still existed. One such opening was the 350 foot deep Elk Run shaft. Although the shaft was capped and fenced in, the cap deteriorated and visitors to the park had tried to gain access. This shaft was not only a hazard with the vertical drop, but also toxic fumes ventilated from the mine. The Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation decided to reclaim the vertical opening to stop all chances of injury. The mining feature was determined to impact the Upper and Lower Kittanning Coal Seams. The pre-project condition at this site was a 12 foot diameter, 350 foot deep vertical opening, Abandoned Mine Land Feature (AMLF) No. 1052-01 (VO). The bottom 125 feet of the shaft was filled with stockpiled coal, leaving 225 feet of open entry to the surface. The shaft vented methane, hydrogen sulfide and other toxic gases. The area around the shaft and within the fence showed signs of human visitation. Prior to filling the shaft, exploratory drilling was performed to locate mine entries in the Rolling Mill and Rosedale Mines that intersected the shaft. These boreholes were cased and now serve as monitoring wells and mine vents. The exploratory drilling project was completed for a cost of \$89,000. The project collapsed the concrete collar into the shaft, the fencing was removed and 1,000 cubic yards of flowable material was placed into the shaft opening thus preventing the public exposure to toxic gases and fall hazards. Vehicular access to the shaft was difficult so the fill material was conveyed through a six-inch steel grout line that extended 640 feet from the closest access road to the shaft. This abandoned feature was a direct result of mining that was performed by the Cambria Steel Company, formerly known as the Cambria Iron Company, who ceased operations around 1938. Construction of a historical tribute with background detailing the heritage of the shaft is currently being planned by the park.

Funding:

This project was financed through Pennsylvania’s Federal Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Grant funded by the coal industry via fees paid on each ton of coal mined.

Project Management:

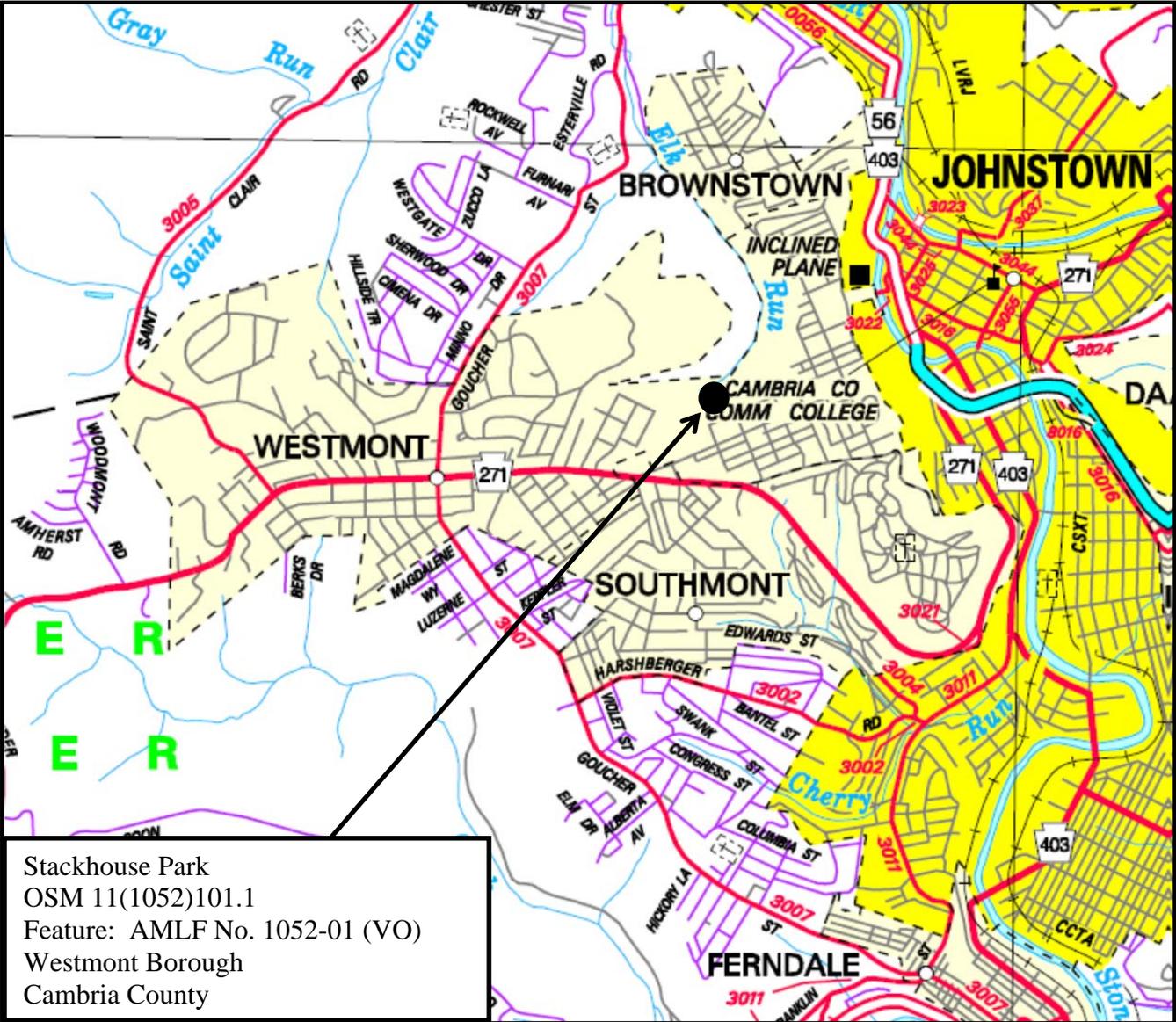
Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
Cambria District Office
814.472.1800

Accomplishments:

PRIORITY	AMLF #	AMLF KEYWORD	MEASUREMENTS						QUANTITY	UNIT
			ACRES	HEIGHT	LENGTH	COUNT	VOL.	FLOW		
2	01	VO	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	COUNT

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Project Location Map



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Pre-Construction



Shaft prior to reclamation

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During Construction



Filling shaft (Note: Grout line on right)
Removing fence



Removing grate and rails from top of collar



Demolishing collar and placing it into shaft

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During Construction



Steel reinforced concrete grout cap work being performed



Site grading

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Post-Construction

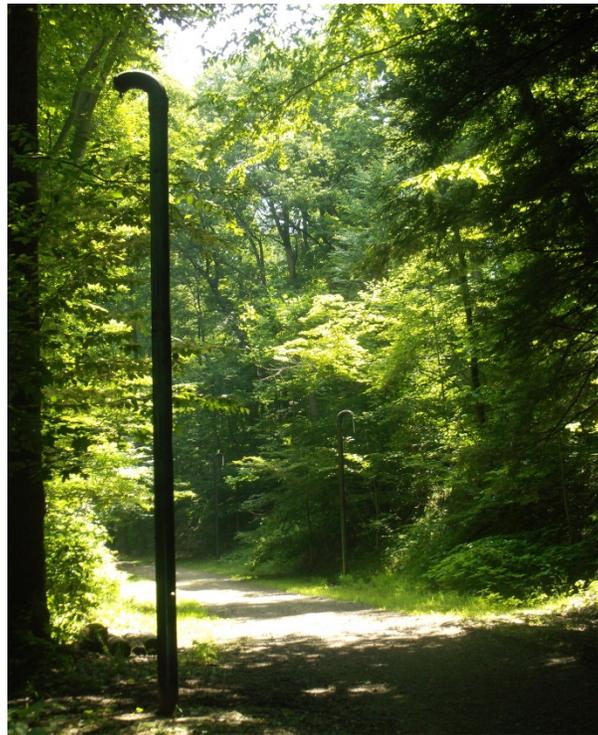


Site restoration – seeding and mulching

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Post-Construction
(One Year After)



Shaft area reclaimed – illustration of vegetation



Monitoring wells