



# pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

**SIMPSON NORTHEAST COAL REFUSE BANK FIRE**  
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project  
Contract No. OSM 35(4294)101.1

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
2 Public Square, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915

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

**SIMPSON NORTHEAST COAL REFUSE BANK FIRE  
ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT  
CONTRACT NO. OSM 35(4294)101.1**

**FACT SHEET**

- Location:** The fire was located within a large coal refuse bank approximately 1,200 feet east of Jefferson Street in Fell Township, Lackawanna County. The center of the mine fire was located at North Latitude 41° 36' 52.7", West Longitude 75° 28' 11.7" on the Waymart, 7.5 minute, U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangle Map.
- Watershed:** Lackawanna River, Warm Water Fishes (WWF)
- Official Start Date:** January 16, 2014
- Contract Completion Date:** May 28, 2014
- Contractor:** Minichi Inc.  
Dupont, PA
- Property Owners:** D & L Realty
- Project Cost:** \$ 2,180,129.80 (Final Contract Amount)  
\$ 741,000.00 (Bid Amount)
- Project Area:** 17.6 acres.
- Purpose:** The intent and scope of this project was to eliminate an imminent public health and safety hazard by extinguishing a coal refuse bank fire.
- Description:** The surface expression area of the fire measured approximately 200 feet wide and 200 feet long with the depth being unknown. Smoke and odor were affecting nearby residents. The height of the refuse bank was estimated to be 80 - 100 feet high. The bank covered approximately 4 acres and sat on the north side of a vastly larger flat coal refuse area. The mining in the project area was conducted by Northwest Colliery prior to 1977. It was evident the site was frequently visited by unauthorized recreational vehicles.
- The project consisted of establishing a water supply, excavating the burning refuse, quenching the fire and grading the surrounding area. It was necessary to excavate 279,700 cubic yards of material, pump 156,333,000 gallons of water, and use of 34,750 gallons of Class A Fire Fighting Foam to extinguish the refuse

fire. Upon completion of the quenching of the fire, any disturbed areas were seeded, cleaned up and prior to the equipment being demobilized.

**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  
(Contact: Victor Gazella @ 570.830.3144)

# SIMPSON NORTHEAST OSM 35(4294)101.1

## Location Map



Project No.: OSM 35(4294)101.1  
Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Simpson Northeast Coal Refuse Bank Fire  
Fell Township  
Waymart Quad 7½" USGS Quad  
Lackawanna County

**SIMPSON NORTHEAST  
OSM 35(4294)101.1**

**Venting from Burning Refuse**



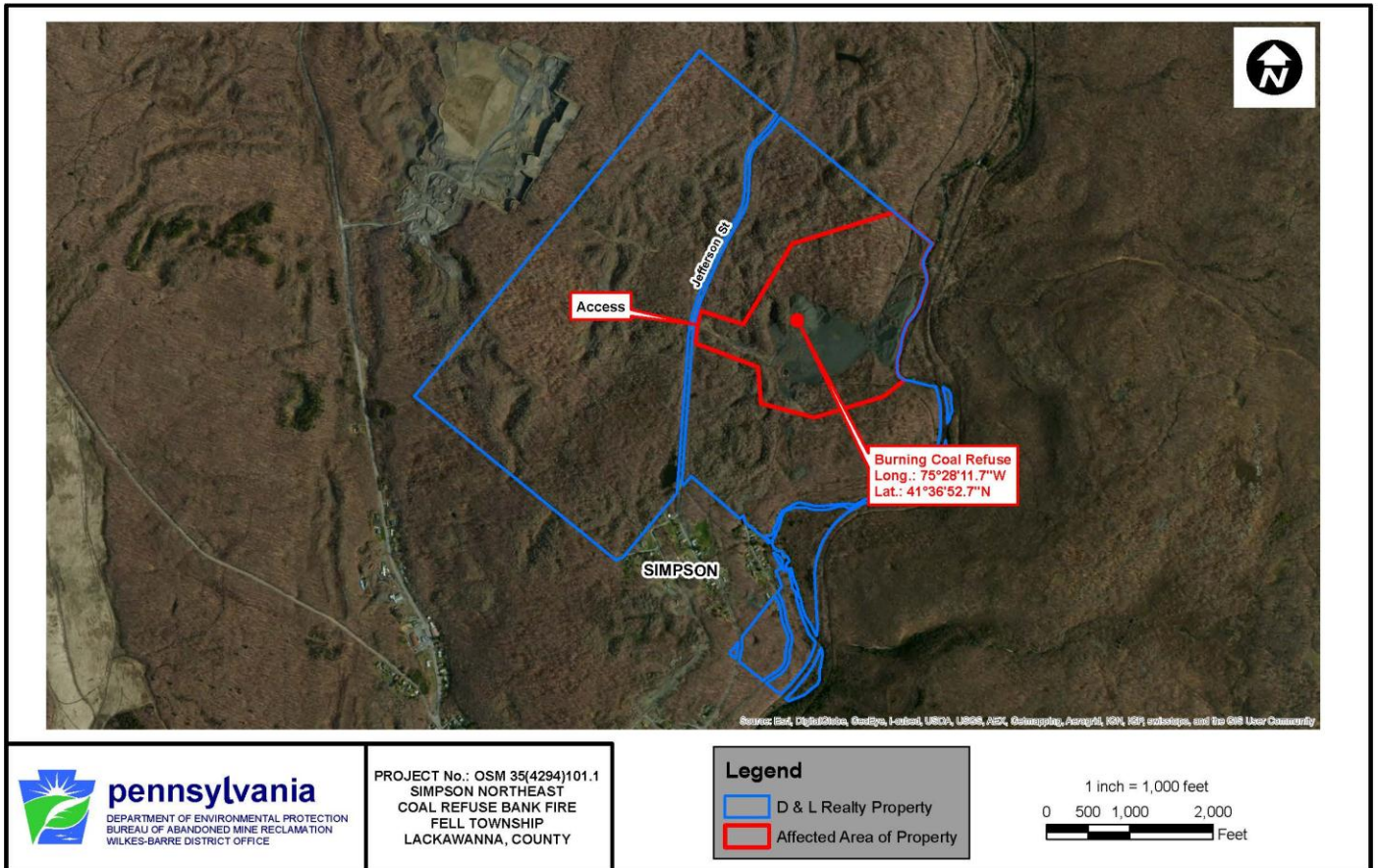
**SIMPSON NORTHEAST  
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**Burning Refuse**



# SIMPSON NORTHEAST OSM 35(4294)101.1

## Aerial View`



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**Excavating and Quenching Phase**





**SIMPSON NORTHEAST  
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**Excavating and Quenching Phase**



# **SIMPSON NORTHEAST OSM 35(4294)101.1**

## **Completed Project**

