



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

NO. 1 SLOPE FIRE RECLAMATION
Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project
Contract No. OSM 49(2065)106.1 EMER

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

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

**NO. 1 SLOPE FIRE RECLAMATION
ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT
CONTRACT NO. OSM 49(2065)106.1 EMER**

FACT SHEET

Location: The site of the work performed under this project was located at Big Mountain, within Zerbe Township, Northumberland County, PA. Take Interstate 81 to Exit 116. Turn onto SR 901 West and travel 5.5 miles. Turn left onto High Road (SR 4024). Travel 21 miles and the entrance (Shingara Road) to the project will be on the right. Once on Shingara Road, travel for 0.7 mile, take the stabilized road to the left and follow for 0.8 mile to the project site.

Watershed: Mahanoy Creek / Susquehanna River (Warmwater Fishery)

Official Start Date: August 31, 2021

Contract Completion Date: October 28, 2021

Contractor: B.T. Adams, LLC of Factoryville, PA

Property Owners: Northumberland County Commissioners
Mahanoy City Coal Company, Inc.
Anthracite Outdoors Adventure Area
Luke Shingara Coal Company
Reading Anthracite Company
Famous Reading Outdoors, LLC

Project Cost: \$201,973.78 (Final Amount)
\$255,094.50 (Quote Amount)

Project Area: 3.5 acres

Purpose: To eliminate public health and safety hazards on abandoned mine land (AML) that are located in close proximity to high foot traffic areas.

Description:

On April 26, 2021, the Department’s BAMR investigated the site of a possible mine fire located on “Big Mountain”, a short distance south of Trevorton located in Zerbe Township, Northumberland County. The site was believed to be the location of the No. 1 Slope last mined in the early 1970’s. The slope opening measured 15 to 20 feet wide and 8 feet high at the surface; however, it quickly narrowed to 3 to 4 feet high as the slope steeply angled downward in a southern direction for an indeterminable depth. Heavy odorous smoke consistent with burning rubber billowed out of the mine slope limiting visibility below the surface. After several weeks of pumping large volumes of water into the surface openings, the visible signs of smoke and odor diminished.

The initial Construction Emergency (Phase 1), Contract No. OSM 49(2065)101.1 EMER, began on May 1, 2021 and was completed on May 17, 2021. During Phase 1, a total of 2,083,400 gallons of water were continuously pumped into the No. 1 Slope to suppress the fire until there was no longer any evidence of continued burning as determined by underground temperature readings obtained by BAMR staff and air monitoring performed by NCRO staff.

Immediately following, work on Construction Emergency (Phase 2), Contract No. OSM 49(2065)105.5 EMER, commenced on May 20, 2021 and was completed on August 31, 2021. Phase 2 consisted of exploratory drilling of the underground mine workings to further ascertain the status and extent of the mine fire. Eleven (11) boreholes were drilled and monitored for elevated temperatures while several were viewed with a borehole camera. No indications of fire were detected or seen.

The final project, Construction Emergency (Phase 3), involved excavating, loading, hauling and grading the on-site, borrow material to backfill the No. 1 Slope and five additional adjacent vertical openings following a mined coal seam. A total of 16,952 cubic yards of borrow material was utilized to backfill and reclaim all the vertical openings, AML features 2065-05 (VO), 2065-06 (VO), 2065-07 (VO), 2065-08 (VO), 2065-09 (VO) and 2065-10 (VO). Of that total, approximately 2,914 cubic yards was used to backfill the No. 1 Slope opening. Each dangerous abandoned mine land feature met the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s (OSMRE) Priority 2 safety criteria. Upon completion, the site was revegetated with a seed mixture of various grasses and legumes.

Funding:

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

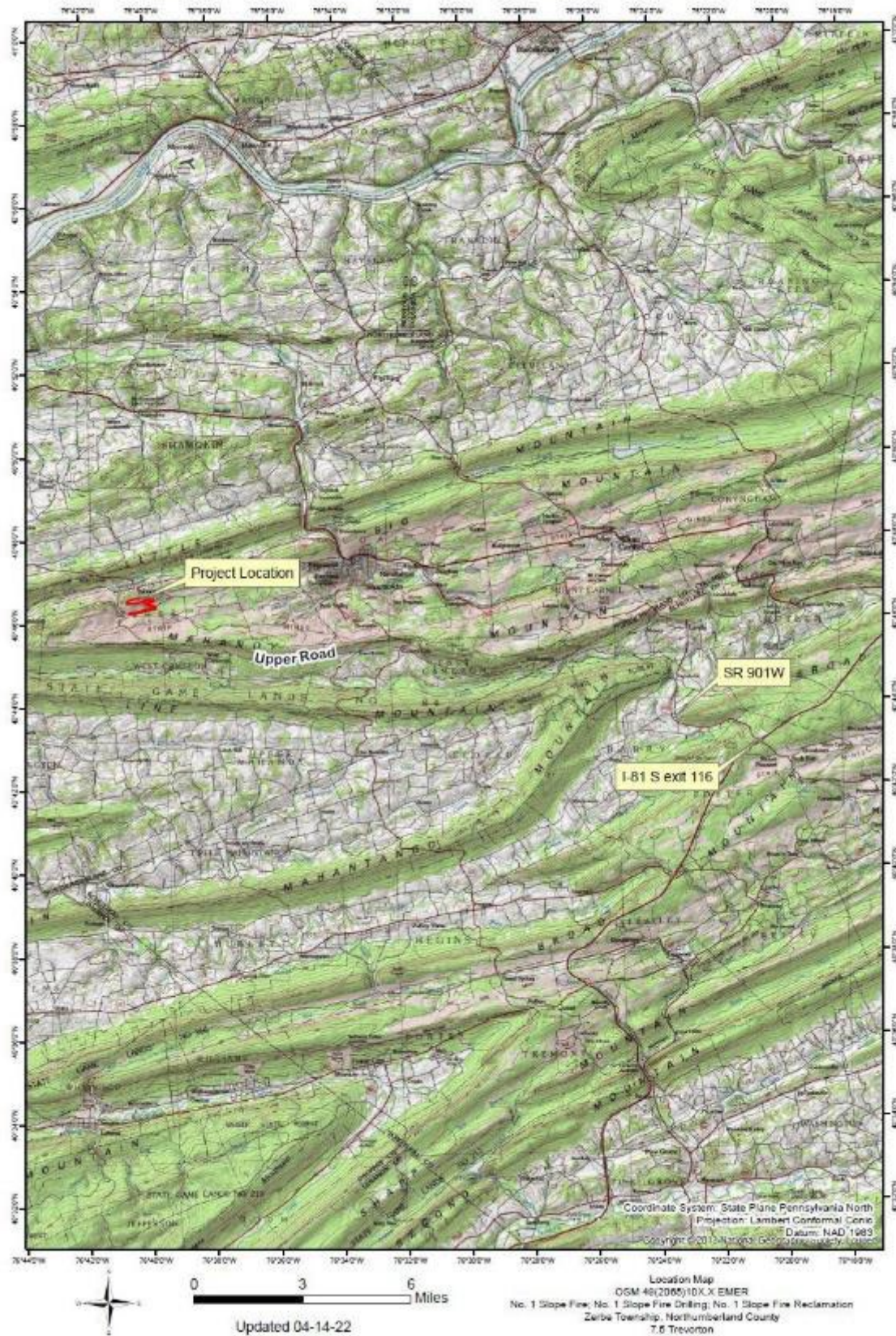
Project Management:

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Wilkes-Barre District Office, 570.826.2371

NO. 1 SLOPE FIRE RECLAMATION CONTRACT NO. OSM 49(2065)106.1 EMER

Location Map

OSM 49(2065)10X.X EMER - No. 1 Slope Fire projects



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Pre-Construction



AML Feature 2065-05, the No. 1 Slope opening, looking Southeast



Looking East, the series of six vertical openings reclaimed in this project follow the coal seam at the foot of the rock face in the right of the photo.

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During Construction



Backfilling the No. 1 Slope

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Post-Construction



Mulching of Grading Area



Mulching of Grading Area and No. 1 Slope