



Public Notice

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Abandoned Mine Land Division will be applying for funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining for the reclamation of 4 abandoned coal mines in Allegany County. All funding will be obtained in accordance with Title IV of Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

An agency must have an approved State Surface Coal Mining Regulatory Program and a State Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan to qualify for funding under these federal programs. Maryland has had approval of both programs since February 17, 1982. Funding for the project will originate from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, which is administered by the Office of Surface Mining.

The Abandoned Mine Land Division would like to gather comments on the following projects and/or any other abandoned mine problems in the Maryland Coal Region.

A public informational meeting concerning the proposed projects will be held as follows:

August 21, 2023
5:00 P.M.

Maryland Department of the Environment
Land and Materials Administration
Abandoned Mine Land Division
160 South Water Street, Room 107
Frostburg, MD 21532

Additional information concerning the proposed projects can be obtained by contacting Ms. Shayla Lewis, Abandoned Mine Land Division, 160 South Water St., Frostburg, MD 21532, (301) 689-1461. Written comments concerning these projects and the Maryland Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program will be received at the public meeting or by mail until August 21, 2023. Address all comments to the attention of Ms. Shayla Lewis at the address listed above.

The following is a general description of the proposed reclamation projects, including the location, County, nearest town or physical feature, and nature of the problem.

1. **Rankin Mine Drainage Control Project**

Location: The mine drainage control project is located at 20619 Bethal Drive, SW, Lonaconing, Allegany County, Maryland (39°34'46"N, 78°57'48"W) and can be found on the USGS 7 ½ Minute Lonaconing Quadrangle. The site is a residential area and is along one of the busiest roads in the County.

Mining Program – Abandoned Mine Lands Division - 160 South Water Street - Frostburg, MD 21532 (301) 689-1440

Problem: Acid mine drainage is seeping from abandoned deep mine workings, adversely impacting a retaining wall, resulting in unsafe conditions.

History: The site is located just below the down-dip outcrop of the Pittsburgh Coal Seam. The Pittsburgh Seam is known to have been heavily deep mined in this area and is the source of mine drainage at many locations within the Georges Creek Coal Basin. Mine drainage is seeping from abandoned deep mine workings causing damage to a retaining wall at this residency. Previously, a subsurface pipe was installed by AMLD to control mine drainage impacting a garage. An aggregate drain will be installed to control mine drainage impacting a retaining wall. The mine drainage is of relatively good quality which is typical of drainage from the Pittsburgh Coal Seam.

Plan: Install an aggregate drain and tie into the existing drainage system. Replace the retaining wall block with heavy duty 36-inch interlocking concrete block.

2. Mill Run Doser Improvements and Mine Pool Elimination Project

Location: The proposed project is located on Mill Run Road (39°31'08.42"N, 79°01'57.28"W) and is approximately 1 mile west of the intersection with Lower Georges Creek Road, SW, Allegany County, MD and can be found on the USGS 7 ½ Minute Barton Quadrangle.

Problem: A mine pool has developed due to a blocked pipe in the existing mine seal that was installed in the late 1980's. The Mill Run doser, which treats this discharge, also requires performance upgrades to enhance treatment efficiency.

History: The mine entrance is located on the heavily mined Barton Coal Seam. Historic mapping shows the mine entrance and although no mine maps are known to exist, the workings are likely very extensive. The existing mine discharge is treated directly below the discharge point using a hydrated lime dosing system.

Plan: The Mining Program has contracted with an engineering firm to evaluate the existing mine seal and pipe to determine if it is clogged, repair or replacement of the mine seal and performance upgrades to the Mill Run dosing system. A design will be developed for a drainage ditch connecting the mine seal to the Mill Run dosing system. Improvements will also be implemented from the Mill Run dosing system to the discharge point.

3. Frostburg Freeze Mine Subsidence Project

Location: The proposed project is located at 225 W. Main Street Frostburg, MD 21532 (39° 39' 58" N, 78° 56' 09" W) in Allegany County on the USGS 7 ½ Minute Frostburg Quadrangle.

Problem: Reoccurring mine subsidence has occurred in the parking lot of the Frostburg Freeze.

History: The Pittsburgh Coal seam was heavily deep mined in the Frostburg area from the 1880s to the 1940s by the Consolidation Coal Company. The Frostburg

Freeze lies along the up-dip outcrop of the Pittsburgh Seam which was later surface mined in the late 1960s by the B.M.W. Coal Company (see the attached Permit Completion Map date (8/25/1961). The Frostburg Freeze (aka Tastee Freeze) was constructed on the surface mined area shortly after the site was reclaimed.

Plan: This project would consist of determining subsidence prone areas and implementing mitigation measures.

4. Franklin Bat Gate Repair Project

Location: The proposed project area is located in the Lower Georges Creek approximately one mile north of Westernport, Maryland in Allegany County (39°30'30.0"N, 79°03'00.0"W). The Franklin Bat Gate Repair Project is located at the Franklin Coal Yard.

Problem: Fallen roof rocks crushed the preexisting culvert prohibiting wildlife, such as bats and small animals from entering.

History: The Washington Mine No. 3 operated from 1900 to 1927 in the Davis 6-ft seam under the ownership of Dickey, Gibson Coal Co. The Piedmont & Georges Creek Coal Co. took over in 1904 but stopped in 1910 due to a fault blocking further progress in the mine. In 1912, the Allegany Coal Co. obtained a lease to mine the abandoned coal in the old Washington Mine No. 3 until 1919. In 1920, they opened a new mine called Tacoma No. 2. However, by 1921, Tacoma No. 2 referred to two separate openings in different seams. The mine remained inactive after 1927 and was not included in subsequent reports. A mine seal, which consisted of a culvert enclosure with a bat gate, was installed at the mine opening in 2010.

Plan: Remove and replace two high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes. Remove rocks from behind the bat gates. The preexisting bat gates will be bolted and grouted onto the new culverts to allow wildlife to access the mine portal. During construction, if necessary, sediment and erosion controls will be installed to prevent erosion and control siltation from the site.