

From: **Whittaker, Frank M** <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>  
Date: Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 4:38 PM  
Subject: Re: AML North Emergency - Buckhannon (George) Subsidence  
To: Ayers, Jeremy D <jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov>  
Cc: B J Chestnut <b.j.chestnut@wv.gov>, Totten, Mark L <mark.l.totten@wv.gov>, Greg Clay <gregory.c.clay@wv.gov>, Alisha S Pettit <alisha.s.pettit@wv.gov>, Jessica Chambers Smith <jessica.chamberssmith@wv.gov>, Eric Simpson <Eric.Simpson@wv.gov>

Jeremy,

Your emergency request is approved for the Buckhannon (George) Subsidence reclamation project. Please follow all emergency procedures outlined in the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook and return the completed contract to this office within 30 days of thes approval for public posting.

Thank you

Frank

On Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 12:33 PM Ayers, Jeremy D <[jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov](mailto:jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov)> wrote:  
For review and approval.

Thanks!

Jeremy

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***Jeremy Ayers, P.E.***

*Northern Emergency Engineer*

*WVDEP Abandoned Mine Lands*

*Department of Environmental Protection*

*1000 Technology Drive*

*Suite 3220*

*Fairmont, WV 26554*

*C 304-203-4058*

*O 304-842-1900*

*F 304-842-1928*



APPROVED  
J. H. Ward  
9/4/25

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west virginia department of environmental protection

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Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation  
1000 Technology Drive Suite 3220  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
304-842-1900

Harold D. Ward, Cabinet Secretary  
dep.wv.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Frank Whittaker, Assistant Director  
Acquisition and Contract Administration Section  
Purchasing Division (for approval of professional services)

B.J. Chestnut, Assistant Chief  
Administrative Services – Business Operations Office  
(For approval of construction)

FROM: Jeremy Ayers, P.E., Northern Emergency Engineer  
Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation

Jeremy D.  
Ayers P.E.

Digitally signed by  
Jeremy D. Ayers P.E.  
Date: 2025.09.04  
12:30:28 -04'00'

SUBJECT: Buckhannon (George) Subsidence  
Emergency Reclamation Project – Upshur County, W.Va.

DATE: September 4, 2025

Due to the findings from a recent BRIM investigation of the Georges' property, it has been determined that the underground mining is the result of some of the structural problems to the home. This problem area qualifies as an imminent health and safety hazard and does have subsidence insurance. This AML problem results in a dangerous situation posing a risk of injury or death to those in the area.

The subsidence problem is presumed to be the direct result of pre-1977 underground mining of the Pittsburgh coal seam only 6' below the surface. Their home is a human health and safety hazard that qualifies for abatement by the AML Emergency Program as soon as possible. The last known mining operator was Casto mining company in the Casto and Iris Mine and was last mined at an unknown date (pre-1977).

Based on the situation described above, an emergency geotechnical investigation will be initiated at the site to perform an exploratory drilling and data analysis program. If the abandoned mine workings have collapsed and are found to be causing damage to the house an emergency abatement project will be initiated. The initial idea is to grout to fill the subsurface voids encountered. However, the findings will dictate the scope of the abandoned mine reclamation.

Due to the scope of the project, the required services to investigate the problems at the site will have to be performed by an outside engineering firm. In accordance with Section 5G-1-4 of the State Code of West Virginia, since a special circumstance exists and the cost of the project is estimated to be less than \$250,000.00, I have the option of selecting an architectural/engineering firm on the basis of satisfactory performance and knowledge of the agency's needs. Therefore, I propose utilizing Dieffenbauch & Hritz, LLC. of Morgantown, WV to perform the required services at the site.

The estimated cost for these services should not exceed \$100,000.00. The estimated cost of the site reclamation portion of the project should not exceed \$125,000.00.

Please contact me at 304-842-1900, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

JDA

Cc: File  
Eric Simpson