



APPROVED
BY: *[Signature]* DATE: *6/8/26*

west virginia department of environmental protection

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: 2026.06.04 11:54:16
-04'00'

SUBJECT: Mudlick (Ralphsnyder) Portal
Emergency Reclamation Project – Marion County, W.Va.

DATE: June 4, 2026

Due to the findings from a recent site investigation of the Ralphsnyder property, it has been determined that an abandoned open mine portal with impounded drainage exists only 100 feet from the residence. This previously inventoried problem area is being elevated to emergency due to the increasing mobility of the Ralphsnyders' grandchildren. This problem area involves a 5-foot high by 12-foot wide open portal, impounded AMD waters, and a 30-foot exposed unstable vertical highwall.

This AML problem results in a dangerous situation posing a risk of injury or death to those in the area. The hazard is the direct result of pre-1977 undocumented underground mining of the existing Upper Kittanning coal seam. The site is a human health and safety hazard that qualifies for abatement.

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 Dieffenbach & Hritz, LLC. of Morgantown, WV to perform the required services at the site. The estimated cost for these services should not exceed \$70,000.00. The estimated cost of the site reclamation portion of the project should not exceed \$120,000.00.

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

JDA

Cc: File
Eric Simpson



Whittaker, Frank M <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>

Fwd: AML North Emergency - Mudlick (Ralphsnyder) Portal

1 message

Ayers, Jeremy D <jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov>
To: Brandon L Barr <brandon.l.barr@wv.gov>
Cc: Frank M Whittaker <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>

Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 2:45 PM

Brandon,

I received an out-of-office notification regarding this request. I was recommended to see if you can process this request.

Thanks in advance.
Jeremy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ayers, Jeremy D** <jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov>
Date: Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 11:56 AM
Subject: AML North Emergency - Mudlick (Ralphsnyder) Portal
To: Frank M Whittaker <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>, B J Chestnut <b.j.chestnut@wv.gov>
Cc: 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>

For review and approval.

Thanks!
Jeremy

--

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

--

Jeremy Ayers, P.E.

Northern Emergency Engineer

WVDEP Abandoned Mine Lands