

From: **Whittaker, Frank M** <[frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov)>

Date: Thu, Apr 16, 2026 at 11:06 AM

Subject: Re: AML North Emergency - West Milford (Williams) Landslide

To: Ayers, Jeremy D <[jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov](mailto:jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov)>

Cc: B J Chestnut <[b.j.chestnut@wv.gov](mailto:b.j.chestnut@wv.gov)>, Greg Clay <[gregory.c.clay@wv.gov](mailto:gregory.c.clay@wv.gov)>, Alisha S Pettit <[alisha.s.pettit@wv.gov](mailto:alisha.s.pettit@wv.gov)>, Jessica Chambers Smith <[jessica.chamberssmith@wv.gov](mailto:jessica.chamberssmith@wv.gov)>, Eric Simpson <[Eric.Simpson@wv.gov](mailto:Eric.Simpson@wv.gov)>

Jeremy,

Please see the attached approval and follow all emergency procedures outlined in the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook.

On Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 1:51 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*

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**APPROVED**  
BY: *JW* DATE: *4/16/26*

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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.  
DN: CN = Jeremy D Ayers, P.E, email =  
Jeremy.D.Ayers@WV.GOV C = US O =  
WVDEP OU = DLR AML&R  
Date: 2026.04.15 13:48:00 -0400

SUBJECT: West Milford (Williams) Landslide (Complaint #: 2026-NOR-033-034)  
Emergency Reclamation Project – Harrison County, W.Va.

DATE: April 15, 2026

Reportedly, a pre-law surface mine bench (Ernest Huffman Highwall Pad #2666) in the Redstone and Pittsburgh coal seams is causing severe issues for a residence located at 262 Green Acres Rd., Clarksburg, WV. AML staff investigated the site, noting that land movement began approximately 27 years ago but saw significant acceleration in March 2026. There is a visible landslide causing active lateral earth pressure, indicated by bulging CMU walls, splitting floor joists, and broken water and sewer lines at the residence. The pre-law bench above the residence acts as a catchment area, retaining standing water that potentially saturates the subsurface and potentially increasing the slope instability.

A thorough geotechnical investigation, including borehole monitoring and analysis, is required to determine the exact failure plane and to confirm whether the slide is mining or non-mining related, which will establish AML eligibility. 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.

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 to utilize The Thrasher Group of Bridgeport, WV to perform the required services at the site.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

The estimated cost for these services should not exceed \$135,000.00. The estimated cost of the site reclamation portion of the project should not exceed \$85,000.00.

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

JDA

Cc: File  
Eric Simpson