



APPROVED

BY: FW DATE: 5/4/26

west virginia department of environmental protection

Division of Land Restoration
Office of Abandoned Mine Lands & Reclamation
601 57th Street, SE
Charleston, WV 25304-2345

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Frank Whittaker, Assistant Director,
Acquisition & Contract Administration Section
Purchasing Division

BJ Chestnut, Assistant Chief
Business Operations Office – Administrative Services

From: Jonathan Holbert, P.E., Southern Emergency Engineer
Division of Land Restoration

**Jonathan
Holbert**

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O = WVDEP/DLR OU = AML
Date: 2026.05.01 14:35:21 -04'00'

Date: May 1, 2026

Subject: Delbarton (Dardi) Portals (E)
Emergency Reclamation Project – Mingo County

AML received a complaint (2026-SOU-059-063) concerning Pigeon Creek turning orange in color. This was caused by Norfolk Southern performing maintenance on the railroad which discharged iron deposits that had accumulated from a previous AML project, Delbarton (Darbi) Portals. Another stream discoloration event is likely to occur if the existing wet mine seal drainage system is not upgraded. An HDPE culverted bat gate was installed as part of the prior AML project. A recent forest fire came through and melted the HDPE pipe exposing the open portal. There is evidence of visitation at this portal and video footage of the open portal and its location has been viewed on Facebook.

AML recommends completion of an emergency project to mitigate any further iron discharges and to close the dangerous open mine portal. The project is expected to consist of installation of a bat gate, construction of drainage structures, and temporary access. Construction costs are estimated to be \$150,000.

Professional services will be utilized to design the reclamation. The Thrasher Group, Inc. has been selected to perform the engineering design for the project. Professional services are not expected to exceed \$65,000.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 304-414-1182.

Promoting a healthy environment.