



APPROVED
BY: *JW* DATE: *6/9/26*

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: 2026.06.09
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SUBJECT: Allen Sheridan Hazardous Facilities Maintenance
Emergency Reclamation Project – Harrison County, W.Va.

DATE: June 9, 2026

An investigation was conducted on April 1, 2026, by Matt Crowder. The investigation revealed that two mine shafts (8-foot diameter; 19 feet and 15 feet deep) have again settled. These shafts were previously filled in 1996 as part of the Allen Sheridan Project (WV-4343). This problem area was initially sent to AML Maintenance due to the failure of the previous project. However, a thorough investigation of the site and the documented previous attempts to repair the facility through maintenance have indicated the repairs are far too expansive to cover under a routine maintenance project. Most recently maintenance repaired a very similar failure in 2010.

To eliminate the recurring site hazard, an emergency project needs to be initiated to complete a thorough reclamation of the hazardous mine shafts. The shafts are estimated to be 350 feet to the abandoned workings of the Clinchfield Coal Compass #2 Mine. Since 1996, an estimated 1,900 tons of rock has been placed into the shafts. Upon this latest investigation, there is approximately 6 feet of water in the southern shaft as well as 12 feet of water in the northern shaft. With the vertical sides and deep water in the settled shafts, there is a significant risk to those in the vicinity.

This AML problem results in a dangerous situation posing a risk of injury or death to those in the area. The site carries a high risk level due to visitation and being a public hazard. Based on the situation described above, a geotechnical investigation will be initiated at the site to perform an exploratory drilling and data analysis program. The findings will dictate the scope of the abandoned mine reclamation project required to permanently secure the shafts.

Due to the initial 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 based on satisfactory performance and knowledge of the agency's needs. Therefore, I propose utilizing Civil Tech Engineering of Hurricane, WV to perform the required services at the site.

The estimated cost for these services should not exceed \$85,000.00. The estimated cost of the site reclamation portion of the project should not exceed \$160,000.00.

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

JDA

Cc: File
Eric Simpson