

From: **Whittaker, Frank M** <[frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 10:51 AM  
Subject: Re: AML Emergency - Branchland (Ellis) Portals & Landslide  
To: Matkins, Christopher T <[christopher.t.matkins@wv.gov](mailto:christopher.t.matkins@wv.gov)>  
Cc: B J Chestnut <[b.j.chestnut@wv.gov](mailto:b.j.chestnut@wv.gov)>, Totten, Mark L <[mark.l.totten@wv.gov](mailto:mark.l.totten@wv.gov)>, Hager III, Joseph E <[joseph.e.hageriii@wv.gov](mailto:joseph.e.hageriii@wv.gov)>, Atkins, Mark A <[mark.a.atkins@wv.gov](mailto:mark.a.atkins@wv.gov)>

Chris,

Your Emergency request for reclamation at the Branchland (Ellis) landslide is approved. Please follow all emergency procedures outlined in the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook and return all supporting documentation to this office within 30 days of this approval for contract completion.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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**Frank Whittaker, CPPB, NIGP-CPP**  
Assistant Director  
West Virginia Purchasing Division  
2019 Washington Street, East  
Charleston, WV 25305  
(304) 558-2316  
[frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov](mailto:frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov)

On Tue, Feb 21, 2023 at 10:07 AM Matkins, Christopher T <[christopher.t.matkins@wv.gov](mailto:christopher.t.matkins@wv.gov)> wrote:  
Frank / BJ

Please find attached for your review the attached Purchasing Memo for the Branchland (Ellis) Portals & Landslide AML Emergency. Let me know if you have any questions or comments concerning the memo.

Thank You

Chris Matkins  
Regional Engineer

WV Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Division of Land Restoration

Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation  
1159 Nick Rahall Greenway  
Fayetteville, WV 25840

Office: 304 574 4465  
Mobile: 304 380 7502



west virginia department of environmental protection



APPROVED  
H. Whittaker  
2/21/23

west virginia department of environmental protection

Office of Abandoned Mine Lands  
1159 Nick Rahall Greenway  
Fayetteville, WV 25840  
Telephone (304) 574-4465

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:** Chris Matkins, Southern Regional Engineer  
Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation

**DATE:** February 21, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Branchland (Ellis) Portals and Landslide  
Emergency Reclamation Project – Lincoln County

AML received a complaint (2023-SOU-043-021) on 2/17/23 concerning a landslide at 25 Ellis Farm Road in Branchland, Lincoln County. AML personnel investigated immediately and found the site was already in AML Inventory, PAD WV007162. A landslide recently occurred, placing saturated material against the residence. A collapsed portal was found directly above the landslide. The portal was discharging approximately 20 gallons per minute at the time of the investigation.

Preliminary research has not found any mapped mines in the area. However, several portals were identified on-site at an elevation consistent with the Stockton Coal Seam. Dilapidated mining equipment at the site and interviews with local residents indicate the mining occurred pre-1977, making the site eligible for AML funding.

It is recommended that the slide reclamation is approved for AML Emergency funding. The slide must be addressed immediately. Unstable material is currently pressing against the residence. Failure to address the slide as an emergency will likely cause additional damage to the residence as the slide continues to move.

The project is expected to consist of exploratory drilling, two wet seals, two bat gates, and landslide stabilization. Construction costs are estimated to be \$200,000.

Professional services will be utilized to design the reclamation. Thrasher Engineering has been selected to perform the engineering design for the project. Professional services are not expected to exceed \$75,000.

Promoting a healthy environment.

Please contact me at 304-574-4465 if you have any questions.

Cc: file