

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

Date: Thu, Sep 12, 2024 at 9:34 AM

Subject: Re: AML North Emergency - Whitehall (Winston) UMF

To: Ayers, Jeremy D <jeremy.d.ayers@wv.gov>

Cc: B J Chestnut <b.j.chestnut@wv.gov>, 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>

Jeremy,

Your emergency request for the Whitehall (Winston) emergency is approved. Please follow all Purchasing Division emergency procedures outlined in the Purchasing Division Procedures Handbook.

On Thu, Sep 12, 2024 at 9:11 AM 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*

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**Frank Whittaker, CPPB, NIGP-CPP**

Assistant Director

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APPROVED  
L. Whittaker  
9/12/24

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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

Austin Caperton, 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

SUBJECT: Whitehall (Winston) UMF  
Emergency Reclamation Project – Marion County, W.Va.

DATE: September 12, 2024

AML has been notified and investigated a potentially mining related underground fire. An investigation revealed no open flames along the hillside behind the tire shop of “Winston Tires and Wheels”. This area is approximately 600 feet long between the two previous projects. The surface reading from one depression is consistently about 150 degrees with high levels of CO. The coal outcrop is very near the surface and immediate action is required. These draft and ventilation spots need filled immediately through emergency funding to help seal the mine fire from expanding and venting smoke to any additional residences. The dead vegetation will be removed to prevent the surface burning and a cut-off trench may need be excavated to prevent the fire from continuing to the surface near the outcrop of the coal seam. The smoke from this area was being blown across the hill towards houses. The smell from the mine fire can be apparent at several businesses and residences in the vicinity. Due to the hazardous gases and future possible open flames behind the tire shop; this problem needs abated through the AML Emergency Program.

The mining took place in the Pittsburgh coal seam which is located approximately 0 to 10 feet below the ground surface. The mining operator at that time is Kuhn Mine #1 and the mining took place prior to 1977 (Unknown).

A thorough subsurface investigation is required to determine AML eligibility and if necessary, to design a reclamation project.

Promoting a healthy environment.

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. If the abandoned mine workings are on fire like the surface indicates; an emergency abatement project will be initiated.

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 EL Robinson of Charleston, WV to perform the required services at the site.

The estimated cost for these services should not exceed \$90,000.00. The estimated cost of the site reclamation portion of the project should not exceed \$150,000.00.

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

JDA

cc: File  
Eric Simpson