



APPROVED
BY: *JW* DATE: *7/2/26*

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: 2026.07.01
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SUBJECT: Bethlehem (Hawkins) Subsidence III
Emergency Reclamation Project – Harrison County, W.Va.

DATE: July 1, 2026

Due to the findings from a recent emergency field investigation of the Kim Hawkins property, it has been determined that active mine subsidence has caused significant structural failure and ground displacement. This property has a documented history of mine subsidence instability and prior reclamation activities, including a past drilling and grouting project that injected a high-percentage fly-ash grout mixture into the mine voids. This previously inventoried problem area is being elevated to an emergency due to the close proximity of the structural failure to the primary residence, requiring immediate subsurface remediation. This problem area involves a localized sinkhole, structural settlement, widening cracks, and load-bearing failure localized at the right front corner of the residence, as well as a 30-foot overburden that is actively collapsing into a degraded mine void.

This AML problem results in a dangerous situation posing a risk of injury or death to those in the area. The hazard is the direct result of pre-1977 historical underground room-and-pillar extraction of the existing Pittsburgh Coal Seam by the Bethlehem Coal Company at the Scott Mine, circa 1927. A persistent, fluctuating mine pool has leached, softened, and ultimately washed out the previous stabilization barrier. The site is a human health and safety hazard that qualifies for immediate abatement.

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 utilizing a qualified professional engineering consultant to generate the final drilling, testing, and grouting plan for permanent abatement of the subsidence threat at the Hawkins residence. The firm will be tasked with designing a robust injection program using a water-resistant, high-strength grout mixture capable of displacing the mine pool without degrading over time. The estimated cost for these services should not exceed \$92,000.00. The estimated cost of the site reclamation portion of the project should not exceed \$138,000.00.

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

JDA

Cc: File
Eric Simpson



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

AML North Emergency - Bethlehem (Hawkins) Subsidence III

1 message

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

Wed, Jul 1, 2026 at 4:15 PM

To: Frank M Whittaker <frank.m.whittaker@wv.gov>, B J Chestnut <b.j.chestnut@wv.gov>

Cc: "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>, Eric Simpson <Eric.Simpson@wv.gov>, Brandon L Barr <brandon.l.barr@wv.gov>

For review and approval.

Thanks!
Jeremy

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Jeremy Ayers, P.E.

Northern Emergency Engineer

WVDEP Abandoned Mine Lands

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