



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Division of Abandoned Mine Lands announces multi-phase reclamation project for Muhlenberg County

Project will address acid mine drainage problems in Caney Creek area

FRANKFORT, KY – (Nov. 25, 2009) – The Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) in the Department for Natural Resources (DNR) announced today the Award of Contract and the start of construction for the Luzerne Phase I Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Abatement Project in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. Road Builders & Parkway Construction LLC has been awarded the project contract with a low bid of \$879,326. Construction began Nov. 20, with a projected completion date of October 2010.

A water quality investigation, administered by AML, indicated that water flowing from the area is highly acidic and contains metallic contaminants such as iron and aluminum.

The project, totaling 20 acres, will address acid mine drainage issues in the upper Caney Creek watershed by the initial treatment of acidic water and the establishment of proper drainage patterns. The proposed project consists of filling remnant surface mining pits and grading, covering and revegetating abandoned coal spoils and wastes.

AMD has negatively impacted Caney Creek from its headwaters down to the city of Greenville. Water quality improvements will potentially benefit aquatic life, terrestrial species and vegetation within the area. Also, the project is intended to help Caney Creek meet standards for recreational use as set by the Division of Water.

"Anytime a project in Muhlenberg County, such as this, not only improves the appearance of our landscape but also benefits our environment, we get extremely excited. This project will make land suitable for future agriculture use and will clean one of our streams that has been contaminated for years," said Rick Newman, Muhlenberg County judge-executive.

DNR Commissioner Carl Campbell added, "This project will build upon past reclamation projects in the Luzerne community by restoring an AML-impacted stream in western Kentucky. It is an excellent example of the type of AML-AMD projects that will continue to improve water quality throughout the coalfields of our Commonwealth."

In the future, this multi-phase project will address mining-related problems from the same general area that also negatively affect the headwaters of Cypress Creek and Little Cypress Creek.

AML works throughout the coalfields of Kentucky to protect the public from health and safety hazards caused by mining that occurred prior to 1982. The AML program is a 100 percent federally funded, state-implemented program. Annually, the Commonwealth of Kentucky receives an Abandoned Mine Lands grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. AML expends funds from the grant to construct reclamation projects and to fund the division's administrative expenses.

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