



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Kentucky Department for Natural Resources Announces \$3 Million Project for Stream Cleanup in Muhlenberg County**

*Acid mine drainage problems in the Drakesboro area will be addressed*

**Frankfort, Ky.** (Dec. 22, 2011) – The Kentucky Department for Natural Resources (DNR) announced today the award of contract and the start of construction for the Ebenezer Slurry acid mine drainage (AMD) abatement project in Muhlenberg County. Pollard & Son Excavating, LLC of Madisonville was awarded the contract with a low bid amount of \$3.04 million. Project construction is set to begin Jan. 3, 2012, with a projected completion date of October 2012.

The Ebenezer site consists of 45 acres of coal slurry and 16 acres of highly acidic coarse refuse material created as a result of Caney Creek Mine's operations prior to the 1950s. The AMD leaving the site has severely degraded the water quality and aquatic life downstream in Pond Creek. Additionally, the exposed coal slurry at the site is a source of airborne dust when strong winds occur in the area.

The project, led by the Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML), will reclaim and abate acid mine drainage at the abandoned coal processing area approximately 2.5 miles west of Drakesboro that is polluting the water of Pond Creek. Approximately 2.3 miles of limestone ditches and 1 mile of erosion control devices will be installed to control and treat AMD and prevent sediment from entering Pond Creek. When reclamation is completed, the project area will no longer present a danger to the public and environment.

"This project will provide major benefits to the local citizens, aquatic life, and the surrounding environment. Improving the general welfare of Kentuckians and the lands

and waters of the Commonwealth is a continued mission carried out by DNR through its AML program,” said acting DNR Commissioner Larry Arnett.

AML is authorized under Kentucky law (KRS.350) to abate hazards to public health, safety and the environment caused by mining that occurred prior to 1982. The abandoned mine land program is a 100 percent federally funded, state-implemented program.

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