

Coal Pit Run Upper/Lower System AMD Remediation Systems
SRI O&M TAG Project #37 Request #2
OSM PTS ID: PA-127

Requesting Organization: Blacklick Creek Watershed Association (BCWA)

Requesting Organization Representative: Dennis Remy

Municipality/County: Blacklick Township, Cambria County

Initial Request: During the 2018 Passive Treatment Snapshot, the Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and BCWA discovered that water was no longer flowing into the Coal Pit Run Lower system and the Vertical Flow Pond (VFP) was overflowing at the Upper System. Dennis Remy requested assistance on 7/31/18.

Initial Site Visit, Observations, and Identified Needs:

- An initial site investigation was conducted on 9/24/18 with an additional site visit on 3/6/19.
- At the Upper System, water was flowing over the emergency spillway of the VFP, indicating a likely permeability problem with the treatment media. The media had previously been stirred in 2015. The system is now almost 15 years old and the media likely needs replaced.
- At the Lower System, the collection piping system from the mine wet seal across the stream from the system had been severely damaged and no longer conveyed flow to the system. Damage was likely caused by erosion of the stream bank during large precipitation events over the past year.
- Observations made in the field indicate that the conveyance pipe may be partially encased in concrete and it may be very difficult to get equipment to the existing mine seal.
- There is a lack of information for the site regarding the mine seal, collection system and conveyance pipe which would likely cause potential difficulties to repair.
- It is uncertain at the present time, whether the mine seal is located on a separate landowner's property or not.

Recommendations & Future Considerations:

- Based upon site observations, lack of definitive as-built information, and system history, BioMost determined that the project was beyond the scope of the O&M TAG grant and recommended that funding should be sought to redesign and rehabilitate the passive system.
- Due to the numerous anticipated projects including the future construction of the Blacklick Creek Active Treatment Plant, coal refuse removal projects and the need for multiple passive treatment rehabilitation projects, BCWA has tabled seeking funds for this project until a later date after funding has been obtained for higher priority passive systems such as Richards, Laurel Run #1 and Yellow Creek.
- Evaluate existing treatment system and stream monitoring data prior to seeking funding in order to determine if the existing system has been beneficial and whether a more extensive reclamation approach would be necessary to restore Coal Pit Run.



Top Left: Lower system discharge collection and conveyance pipe from mine seal has been damaged.
Top Right: Pieces of the broken collection system conveyance pipe were still present in the stream channel.
Bottom Left: Water was poured into the damaged pipe to confirm it flowed to the system.
Bottom Right: Upper System VFP no longer appeared to be passing water through the media.

