



in depth

news from the west virginia department of environmental protection

Growing green

Young students embrace learning about their environment



At left, campers go on a nature hike. Below, participants gather for a campfire circle.

RIPLEY — West Virginia students spent a week learning how to become young stewards of the environment during Junior Conservation Camp sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

The annual camp was held in Jackson County at Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley in June. The DEP's Youth Environmental Program is in charge of the event, which is for kids aged 11 to 14.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for kids to get hands-on conservation experience," said DEP Cabinet Secretary Stephanie R. Timmermeyer, who attended the awards ceremony for the campers. "We have a fantastic staff dedicated to making sure that every camper learns a lot about environmental protection while having



a great time."

Environmental education classes and activities on forestry, fishing techniques, nature walks, wildlife, water study, recycling, soil conservation, and hunter education

were offered. Afternoon and evening activities included archery, canoeing, geocaching, orienteering, swimming,

CAMP continued on Page 2

Man convicted of felony for illegal dumps

By Jessica Greathouse

BRADLEY—A Raleigh County man will serve two years probation and clean up his property after being convicted of operating an open dump.

Robert Phillips pleaded guilty in Raleigh County Circuit Court after a long history of open dump violations. In 2001, Phillips pleaded no contest to a willful open dump violation and was ordered by the magistrate court to pay a fine and clean up the dumps

on his property. Phillips failed to comply with the order.

Under the current conviction, Phillips was given a suspended one-year jail sentence and ordered to probation. Phillips has 120 days to clean up dumps on his property in Bradley, which includes trailer parks, a personal residence and trucking and farming operations.

Since 2005, Department of Environmental Protection inspectors have issued eight notices of violation and numerous warnings

to Phillips and his trailer park tenants, with little cooperation.

Creation of and contributing to open dumps is against state law. To report an area with heavy open dumping, call Governor Manchin's REAP program at (800) 322-5530, or go to www.wvdep.org/reportadump. The REAP program inventories and cleans up open dumps and provides tools to individuals and communities to conduct cleanup events along the state's highways and streams.



Above, campers participate in a Frisbee relay during the Junior Conservation Camp at Cedar Lakes near Ripley. At right, campers prepare for some time on the water.



Camp

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volleyball, miniature golf, relay races and much more.

State and federal environmental and conservation experts were instructors and counselors during the camp.

Many local organizations and businesses sponsored campers.

To learn more about this annual event, contact Diana Haid, camp director, at the Department of Environmental Protection, Youth Environmental Program, 601 57th Street, S.E., Charleston, WV 25304, by phone at (304) 926-0499, Ext. 1114, or by e-mail at dhaid@wvdep.org.

Agency repairs subsidence issue at residence

CHARLESTON — The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is excavating and building a new retaining wall after a landslide developed near a Kanawha County residence.

The Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation has awarded a \$97,769 contract to Carpenter Reclamation Inc.

A landslide developed behind a residence in the Davis Creek area causing a railroad tie retaining wall to fail and push into the rear of a residence. The hill movement exposed a thin coal seam within the landslide that was draining water into the slide area.

The contractor is excavating the slide material, building a new concrete retaining wall and creating a new drainage system at the site.

The lawn and damaged driveway will be restored.

Funding for this emergency project came from the Abandoned Mine Land Fund, which is supported by fees on each ton of coal produced by active coal mining operations. Congress recently reauthorized the fund through 2024. West Virginia is expected to receive nearly \$1 billion of that money.

DEP repairs subsidence issue in Harrison driveway

SHINNSTON — The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has repaired a mine subsidence crater that appeared in a residential driveway in Harrison County.

The Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation awarded a \$20,800 contract to Ten-A-Coal Company, Inc. for the project.

A mine subsidence crater suddenly appeared in an asphalt driveway that leads to two residences. The hole was approximately 3 feet in diameter at the surface enlarging under the asphalt. The Pittsburgh Coal Seam elevation is approximately 15 to

20 feet below the surface.

The subsidence was excavated to solid material and backfilled with 30 cubic yards of concrete. The resulting fill was then patched with bituminous asphaltic concrete.

All disturbed areas have been regraded and reseeded.

Funding for this emergency project came from the Abandoned Mine Land Fund, which is supported by fees on each ton of coal produced by active coal mining operations. Congress recently reauthorized the fund through 2024. West Virginia is expected to receive nearly \$1 billion of that money.

DEP to treat pollution from Preston mine

MASONTOWN — A reclamation project totaling more than \$300,000 will eliminate water pollution from an abandoned surface mine in Preston County.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection awarded the contract to Utilities Forestry Services, Inc. of Clearfield, Pa. On the 4-acre project near Masontown, it will construct an active chemical treatment system to treat the drainage to technology-based effluent limits.

The Daugherty Coal Co. abandoned the site in 1989. The land was reclaimed under DEP's Special Reclamation program in 1995 at a cost of \$347,754.

While the land reclamation has been complete for more than a decade, polluted water continues to affect an unnamed tributary of the Cheat River.

The contract requires Utilities Forestry Services, Inc. to construct open limestone channels, seep collectors, and an access road. The company must also install an active chemical treatment facility to treat pH and high iron, manganese and aluminum.

The project is made possible through the Special Reclamation Fund, which gets its money from forfeited bond collections, civil penalties, and the special reclamation tax on mined coal.

Fayette shines light on sustainability

Historic courthouse to get lighting upgrade

By Lalena Price

FAYETTEVILLE - Several public buildings located in the Fayette County Courthouse Complex are going to be upgraded to more efficient lighting systems after a recent audit revealed energy deficiencies.

In early April, members of the West Virginia Sustainable Communities project teamed up with a state energy efficiency expert to conduct a free lighting audit of the Complex, as well as energy, water and waste assessments of the historic courthouse.

The lighting audit alone detailed \$27,025 worth of upgrades that will make the Courthouse Complex more efficient. A grant from the West Virginia Division of Energy will cover half of the cost of the upgrades.

Bill Willis of the division's Energy Efficiency Program, along with interns from the sustainable communities project, recently presented findings to the Fayette County Commission, which voted unanimously to approve the upgrades. The Fayette County Courthouse, annex building, Sheriff's Offices, WVU

Extension Services Office, Prosecutors Office, Memorial Building and 911 Office were targeted in the assessment, which recommended replacing existing lamps and ballasts in the 4-foot, fluorescent fixtures in each facility with T8, 32-watt lamps and four-lamp ballasts instead of the two-lamp ballasts now in use. In addition, the audit recommended that T8, 59-watt lamps and two-lamp electronic ballasts be utilized in the 8-foot fixtures. In addition to fluorescent lighting, the report addresses the importance of utilizing compact fluorescent bulbs as an upgrade for incandescent lighting.

By going forward with the upgrades to the courthouse, the commissioners are looking at cutting emissions by 118,152 pounds per year of carbon dioxide, 456,858 grams per year of sulfur dioxide and 196,923 grams per year of nitrous oxides. Willis called the environmental savings impressive.

DEP Cabinet Secretary Stephanie R. Timmermeyer agreed. "Initially, it may seem like a lot of money to spend in order to save money, but the reality is that Fayette County is looking at great environmental benefits plus annual savings of nearly \$3,000 a year in energy costs," Timmermeyer said. "If we'd all follow the lead of the commissioners and make small changes like the types of light bulbs we use in our own homes, we'd enjoy great savings and make a difference in the health of our environment."

Fayette County Commission President Ken Eskew said, "The commission recognizes this as an opportunity to save tax payer money by lowering utility bills with efficient lighting and improve air quality in Fayette County by reducing emissions."

Annual energy savings in the courthouse are projected to total \$2,917. Annual energy savings for all county facilities will total \$11,546. The payback period for the initial costs is 4.4 years for the annex and 3.4 years for the courthouse. The payback period for the rest of the buildings is about one year. In-house labor will be utilized to further cut costs.

The assessment of the courthouse was part of a yearlong pollution prevention effort by the West Virginia Sustainable Communities project, which is sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Student Conservation Association and Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. Six interns and a project leader are living in Lansing and working to educate Fayette, Nicholas, Gilmer and Braxton county residents about opportunities to conserve energy and water as well as reduce waste.

The Division of Energy has funding available — up to \$20,000 a year — for schools, local governments, and nonprofit hospitals that qualify for a lighting grant. Go to www.energywv.org.



Proposed legislative rules out for comment

The agency has scheduled public hearings for its 2008 proposed legislative rules. All hearings will be held at DEP's Charleston headquarters, 601 57th Street S.E., Charleston, WV 25304. Oral and written comments shall be limited to the proposed revisions to the following rules. All comments will be made a part of the rulemaking record. Copies of the rules and other rule documents are available from the Secretary of State's office or from the agency at www.wvdep.org/2008rules. You may also obtain hardcopies of the information by calling the phone numbers listed below.

Written comments may be submitted to the Public Information Office at the above address. Comments may also be e-mailed to comments@wvdep.org. The hearing dates, locations and comment deadlines are as follows:

Division of Air Quality

- 45CSR6 - Control of Air Pollution from Combustion of Refuse
- 45CSR8 - Ambient Air Quality Standards
- 45CSR16 - Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources
- 45CSR18 - Control of Air Pollution from Combustion of Solid Waste
- 45CSR25 - Control of Air Pollution from Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities
- 45CSR34 - Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
- 45CSR39 - Control of Annual Nitrogen Oxides Emissions
- 45CSR40 - Control of Ozone Season Nitrogen Oxides Emissions
- 45CSR41 - Control of Annual Sulfur Dioxide Emissions
- 45CSR42 - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Program

The public hearing for all air quality rules will be held at 6 p.m. on July 9 in the Dolly Sods conference room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.

Upon authorization and promulgation of revisions to 45CSR6, 45CSR8, 45CSR39, 45CSR40 and 45CSR41, the DAQ will submit the rules to the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency as revisions to the State Implementation Plan pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act.

Rules 45CSR16, 45CSR18, 45CSR25, and 45CSR34 will also be submitted to EPA to fulfill other federal obligations under the Clean Air Act, including delegations, plans and program approvals. For more information on any of the air rules, call (304) 926-0475.

Division of Land Restoration

- 33CSR10 - Recycling Assistance Grant Program - The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 12 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 60CSR3 - Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Rule - The public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 12 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.

For more information on any of the DLR rules, call 926-0455.

Division of Water and Waste Management

- 33CSR9 - Standards for Beneficial use of Filtrate from Water Treatment Plants - The public hearing was held at 6 p.m. on July 2. The comment period ended at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 33CSR20 - Hazardous Waste Management System - The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 11 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 33CSR30 - Underground Storage Tanks - The public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 11 in the Coopers Rock Training Room at DEP's Charleston headquarters. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 47CSR2 - Rules Governing Water Quality Standards - The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 16 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at 5 p.m. on July 17. The rule includes a proposed use redesignation for Pat's Branch in the Guyandotte River Basin.
- 47CSR10 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - The public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 17 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment

period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.

- 47CSR34 - Dam Safety - The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on July 11, 2007, in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 60CSR5 - Antidegradation Implementation Procedures - The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on July 16 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at 5 p.m. on July 17.

For more information on any of the DWWM rules, call 926-0495.

Division of Mining and Reclamation

- 38CSR2 - Surface Mining Reclamation Rule - The public hearing will be held at 5 p.m. on July 10, 2007, in the Canaan Valley Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 47CSR5A - Individual State Certification of Activities Requiring a Federal Permit - The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 10 in the Canaan Valley Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 47CSR30 - WV/NPDES Rules for Coal Mining Facilities - The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 10 in the Canaan Valley Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 199CSR1 - Surface Mining Blasting Rule - The public hearing will be held at 5 p.m. on July 10 in the Canaan Valley Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.

For more information on any of the DWWM rules, call 926-0490.

Office of Oil and Gas

- 35CSR3 - Coalbed Methane Wells Rule - The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on July 17 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing. For more information, call (304) 926-0450.

Public Information Office

- 60CSR8 - Environmental Excellence Rule - The public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on July 17 in the Coopers Rock Training Room. The comment period will end at the conclusion of the hearing.

For more information, call (304) 926-0440.



Photo by Jessica Greathouse

Youth groups from across the state participated in the agency's 44th Annual Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park. Below, a participant learns about runoff at a DEP display.

Youth earn awards for projects

CAIRO – More than 1,000 conservation-minded members of the Youth Environmental Program were on hand for the presentation of awards and prizes during the 44th Annual Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park near Cairo in May.

The awards – totaling more than \$11,000 – are made possible with the help of Columbia Gas Transmission of Charleston, Toyota Motor Manufacturing of West Virginia, Inc., Go Mart Corporation, the West Virginia Coal Association, Pepsi Cola Bottling, Inc. and Waste Management, Inc., as well as many other organizations. The Department of Environmental Protection, along with Columbia Gas Transmission of Charleston, co-sponsors The Youth Environmental Program, which is housed within DEP.

Scholarships to Junior Conservation Camp and State Conservation Camp, as well as cash awards, ribbons and trophies were presented to students for their work in the Cardinal and Vecellio Art Poster competition, the Youth Environmental Hall of Fame category, and the Mountain Laurel, Bear, Rhododendron, and Mountain State awards of excellence divisions.

Governor Manchin praised the work that members of the Youth Environmental Program do – organizing and participating in litter cleanups, recycling drives, school beautification projects, tree plantings, backyard composting, wetland preservation, wildlife management and other conservation projects.

“These kids have the right idea,” Manchin said. “They roll up their sleeves and work hard to make West Virginian shine



by starting in their own communities. The work they are doing now will inspire them to keep our state beautiful for the rest of their lives. I really appreciate their drive.”

DEP Chief Communications Officer Jessica Greathouse, along with Danny Haught, chief of Gov. Manchin's REAP – The Next Generation program, presented the awards on behalf of the governor.

The Youth Environmental Program has a current enrollment of more than 830 groups representing 76,000 young members throughout the state. The program's mission is to empower West Virginia's youth to become environmentally involved with their communities.

For more information, please contact Diana Haid at (304) 926-0499, Ext. 1114 or at dhaid@wvdep.org.

Braxton County High volunteers organizing cleanup of Elk

GASSAWAY— Volunteers from Braxton County High School and surrounding communities will be swapping their swimsuits for hip waders and cleaning up the Elk River next week.

Dozens of volunteers are expected to come out for the cleanup in partnership with Governor Manchin's REAP program and the Braxton County Commission. The cleanup will be held July 9-13 at various points along the Elk River.

REAP staff will be providing boats, canoes, trash and equipment hauling, cleanup supplies and disposal costs. REAP Chief Danny Haught helped the volunteers on July 10 at a site in Gassaway.

The events are made possible in part through Governor Manchin's REAP – The Next Generation initiative within DEP's Division of Land Restoration. REAP brings together all of the state's cleanup programs to maximize the state's cleanup efforts.

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ERU workers clean up a diesel spill on the Elk River.

On call 24-7 for emergencies

By Colleen O'Neill

ELKVIEW – The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has a unit that can be called to help deal with incidents concerning known or unknown chemicals. Called the Emergency Response Unit of the DEP Homeland Security and Emergency Response Office, this group is made up of six individuals who take their jobs seriously. It's a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week job. And it covers the entire state.

In every aspect of the word team – Together Each Accomplish More – these guys are specialized, yet come together when the situation dictates. Dave Wheatcraft is the radio specialist and keeps the sample truck/command post ready to roll. He maintains much of the section's portable analytical equipment. Bob Sattler maintains the hazardous waste pad at the facility, secures the services of a hazardous waste contractor when waste disposal is needed, and maintains the GM pickup. Lou Spatafore is a specialist in electronics, welding, plumbing and equipment fabrication, and he keeps the Dodge pickup stocked and maintained. He also operates an electroplating groundwater treatment facility near Fairmont. Rusty Joins is the procurement, equipment and vehicle specialist and maintains the section's two crane trucks. Although each has a special area, they all can and do everything.

The Elkview site is the only government-operated Resource Conservation and Recovery Act hazardous waste storage facility in West Virginia. The pad is where the team stores the hazardous materials they collect.

"We bulk a lot of stuff," said Tom Blake, program manager of the ERU. "If we get waste gasoline or other compatible flammable liquids from three or four places in small quantities, we can put it all together in a drum and accumulate it, or we can lab-pack many small containers of compatible materials in one drum. Disposing of these items in bulk is cheaper."

Whatever the job, the ERU has the people and the tools to make things happen — promoting a healthy environment through cleanups and emergency response.



Who do you call when you find bottles or jars of unidentified chemicals? If flood

waters leave behind hazardous materials, who picks them up? If there's a chemical spill anywhere in the state, who gets called out in the dark of night?

The DEP's Homeland Security and Emergency Response Unit. No emergency is too big or too small for this crew. The unit consists of a director – Mike Dorsey; a program manager – Tom Blake; four hazmat specialists – Rusty Joins, Bob Sattler, Lou Spatafore, and Dave Wheatcraft; and an office assistant – Maureen Clemons.

"We've done everything from cleaning up mercury from a broken thermometer to getting propane cylinders out of trees after a flood," said Dave Wheatcraft, an environmental resource specialist with DEP. A member of ERU since 2002, Wheatcraft was part of the chemical industry for more than two decades before he joined DEP. "Say if there's a flood and you live downstream from a facility or service station and have a 55-gallon drum full of used motor oil or a chemical end up in your yard – we'll go get it.

"A drum may weigh anywhere from 400 pounds to 800 pounds depending on its contents," he said. "You can't lift the drums by hand. We have trucks that have winches and cranes on them. We use the winches for rigging cables to retrieve hazardous materials from over steep hills and occasionally from heights such as trees and railroad trestles. We use the cranes to lift anything heavy including drums, tanks and totes."

Wheatcraft says that it's not uncommon to find 55-gallon drums dumped over a hill.

"We picked up several drums last year that were in a national forest," he said. "The people that dumped the drums went out of their way to get rid of them. They had driven the drums to an isolated area by some old railroad tracks and dumped them. We just do whatever it takes to clean it up."

The unit is readily equipped with five four-wheel drive trucks, each with a specific purpose, but all stocked with the basic emergency supplies and equipment.

Basic emergency supplies and equipment include radio and cellular communications, lights and sirens, personal protective suits, hazmat gear, sampling equipment and containers, as well as chemical characterization kits, hazmat cleanup supplies, hand tools and instruments. Each truck has

specific supplies that translate to that truck's use.

"We have two ¾-ton pickup trucks used for small waste site pickups and large site surveying," Wheatcraft said. "They also are used as support vehicles for our large trucks.

Two crane trucks are also handy tools to get the big jobs done. One truck is affectionately known by the crew as Truckzilla.

"Truckzilla has a powerful compressor that we use to operate air hand tools, an air vacuum, skimmer and two diaphragm pumps for transferring hazardous materials," said Wheatcraft. "The crane has a 6,400 pound lift capacity and is operated by remote control. Truckzilla has a two-speed, 12,000-pound capacity winch and a 1,600-pound capacity lift gate. This truck is very well equipped with tools, HAZMAT supplies, personal protective equipment including HAZMAT suits, breathing air packs and emergency medical supplies.

"The 1994 Ford crane truck is basically worn out with more than 100,000 miles on it," Wheatcraft said. "A new 2007 Ford Chassis has arrived and is awaiting the installation of the utility bed and crane. This crane truck is smaller than Truckzilla, but is also very well equipped. It will be used for hard to access places and smaller cleanup jobs where a crane is required."

Another truck in the ERU fleet serves as the mobile laboratory. This truck is stocked with sampling tools and safety supplies that enable the team to sample and identify unknown chemicals.

"Anything we don't know what it is, we'll analyze it on our equipment," he said. "We need to know what things are, so we can protect the public and environment and properly package it for transport, and have it disposed of.

"We used to send all the unknown chemicals we picked up out to a laboratory for identification," Wheatcraft said. "Now, with the GC Mass Spec (Gas Chromatograph/ Mass Spectrometer), and the Sensor IR, we can figure out what most items we pick up are."

"With the GC Mass Spec, we can identify volatile chemicals like toxic industrial chemicals and chemical warfare agents. Its library has more than 18,000 chemical compounds," he said.

Emergency

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The Sensor IR is a hazardous materials chemical identifier.

"It uses infrared spectroscopy, which is the measurement of how infrared, or heat, radiation interacts with molecules," Wheatcraft said. "We can identify solids, liquids, pastes and most gases through its specialized molecular fingerprinting process. "When the chemical is analyzed, the Sensor IR takes a picture and then goes into its library of over 30,000 chemical compounds, and matches it," Wheatcraft said. "Both devices work together to help us identify many chemicals.

Wheatcraft said that figuring out the identity of an unknown chemical is sometimes a process of elimination.

"We have to be able to interpret the data we are looking at," he said. "It is not always finding out what something is, it's finding out what something is not."

Before ERU got the instruments, the unit's laboratory costs were astronomical, Wheatcraft said. He spoke of the Rock Cave incident, where analysis of the seven or eight drums they retrieved cost a whopping \$7,000.

"We can tell you 99.9 percent of the time what a chemical is," he said. "With our instruments, we can usually figure it out. It's probably been three years since I've sent something out. We are saving the agency thousands of dollars a year on



Hazardous materials found in a shed.

analytical costs."

The unit uses various hand held instruments and indicators in the field; including radiation meters, organic vapor analyzers, gas detectors and detector tubes. Earlier in the year when kids from Clendenin spread liquid mercury around town after stealing it from a dentist's office, the crew's mercury meter came in handy.

"The dangerous thing about mercury is the vapor," Wheatcraft said. When mercury is vacuumed up, the air going through the filter accelerates the volatiles coming off of it. "We have a mercury vacuum - it's sort of like a Shop-Vac except it has a carbon filter in it and a receptacle that collects the mercury. This vacuum doesn't let the mercury vapor go back out into the room."

DEP helps fund new Wyoming County waterline

CHARLESTON – The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation is helping to fund a much needed waterline project in the Ravencliff, McGraws, Saulsville Public Service District of Wyoming County.

The Keyrock Area Waterline Project has been issued a subgrant from the DEP in the amount of \$1,995,714.60.

The total cost of the project is \$2,995,714.60. Additional funding comes from the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service.

The DEP conducted a study to assess the pre-law mining impacts of the groundwater resources and found that 92 percent of the residences within the project area have been

impacted by pre-law mining.

The sub-grant will cover the extension of the water system and the construction including installation of one finished water storage tank totaling 150,000 gallons, approximately 72,400 feet of water lines, 150 service connections, and 40 fire hydrants.

The project area is located in the central part of Wyoming County near Saulsville beginning on West Virginia Route 97 at Wolf Gap on Pretty Ridge approximately 1 mile south of Saulsville. It will generally follow Route 97 south toward Pineville approximately 1 mile and then diverge along county routes. The waterlines will serve the unincorporated communities of Castle and Keyrock, White Oak Fork, Left Fork and Coon.

The project is part of the Manchin administration's ongoing infrastructure development efforts across West Virginia.

City gets infrastructure loan for wastewater system

SUMMERSVILLE — The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Water State Revolving Fund is providing financial assistance to a Nicholas County community to expand its wastewater treatment system.

The City of Summersville closed on a \$2 million Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan. This loan carries a zero percent interest rate and will be repaid over a 27-year period. The total project cost is \$10,682,265.

The West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council is providing the balance of the funding.

The city will modify the existing wastewater treatment plant to increase the average daily flow to 1.5 million gallons per day and the peak flow capacity to 40 million gallons

per day, using a vertical loop reactor system.

The existing equipment is aged and needs to be replaced in order for the city's wastewater treatment system to remain in compliance with environmental regulations. Two separate sewer overflows will be eliminated. In addition, the existing discharge point will be relocated from Arbuckle Creek to Muddlety Creek, a tributary of Summersville Lake.

The project will allow the city to meet its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit requirements.

The system serves approximately 1,541 customers in Nicholas County. The project should be completed in early 2009.

The project is part of the Manchin administration's ongoing infrastructure efforts across the state.

"After the Clendenin story appeared in the newspaper and on TV, people would call from all over the state and say they either had some mercury or had broken a thermometer," Wheatcraft said. "If someone calls and requests us to clean something up, we go. We don't mind, though. Chemicals such as mercury can be dangerous to young children in their developing stages."

People unknowingly try to vacuum up the mercury when they break a thermometer, which contaminates the vacuum and renders it useless.

"We have taken a number of vacuums from people," Wheatcraft said. "When we explain why we need to take their vacuum, they're usually agreeable and accommodating."

The crew finds chemicals of all types in the hands of ordinary citizens, from collections of chemicals to clandestine meth labs.

"You'd be surprised at the chemicals people have in their houses; some people have hobbies or maybe they refinish furniture," Wheatcraft said. "A lot of times we are called out to collect unknown chemicals from the home of someone who passed away that worked at a chemical plant. They had brought home enormous amounts of chemicals over the years. We have collected truckloads from some."

After their experiences, members of the group are ready for nearly every situation, thanks to the broad expertise and myriad of tools at their disposal.

Kingwood area gets funding to expand lines

KINGWOOD – Twenty-eight residences in central Preston County that have had their water supplies affected by abandoned mines are going to have quality drinking water thanks to the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation.

A yearlong contract has been awarded to Bryco Bore & Pipe, Inc. of Cabins in the amount of \$336,670 to extend the City of Kingwood's water system to serve residences along a stretch of Route 72 just south of Kingwood and north of Tunnelton between the communities of Preston and Camp Dawson.

The project will include the installation of approximately 6,200 linear feet of 6-inch pipe, installation of four fire hydrants, the placement of water meters and other related equipment.

The abandoned mine that caused the damage to wells and springs is Maplewood Mine 3, an operation last mined in 1959.

In 2004, a 13-mile water line project costing \$2.82 million also was fully funded through the AML program.

Funding for these projects comes from the Abandoned Mine Land Fund, which is supported by fees on each ton of coal produced by active coal mining operations. Congress recently reauthorized the fund through 2024. West Virginia is expected to receive nearly \$1 billion of that money.



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Joe Manchin III

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