



BERNIER CONSTRUCTION, INCORPORATED PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title: Alvan (Great Trough Creek) Abandoned Mine Reclamation Project

Location: Broad Top Township, Bedford County and Wells Township, Fulton County, PA

Scope: Provide labor, materials, equipment, and supervision to reclaim an abandoned surface coal mine area

Berner Construction was awarded a contract from the PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, to reclaim an abandoned surface coal mine site located in Bedford and Fulton Counties, PA. The 55 acre site is owned by East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company. This ecosystem restoration project includes clearing and grubbing, implementation of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, dewatering and backfilling of three ponds, reclamation of the abandoned mine sites, and site restoration.



The site contained three ponds holding approximately 35 million gallons of water with a pH of less than 5. The water was required to meet effluent standards including pH of 6 to 9 and suspended solids < 70 mg/L. Prior to dewatering the ponds, Berner conducted treatability studies using high calcium limestone and filter fabric to determine the quantity of rock required to satisfy the effluent standards.

The passive treatment system was constructed onsite to direct the water through the fabric filter bags, limestone, and an energy dissipating area prior to discharge to the existing stream. The pH of the effluent was continuously monitored during discharge.

Approximately 500,000 cubic yards of displaced materials from the mining operation was used to backfill and grade the abandoned mine site. The ponds were filled in and the surrounding area graded to provide a structurally stable slope. The E&S Control Plan included construction of a series of spillways and channels to control drainage during the execution. In conjunction with site grading, the project included relocation of the access road.

The final site restoration includes planting 8,000 trees and seeding, fertilizing, and mulching 55 acres of restored area.



Dewatering Ponds