



**OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
OVERSIGHT & INSPECTION BRANCH
NEWSLETTER
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**OSM SAYS COAL RECLAMATION FEES
CAN BE PAID ON-LINE
STARTING WITH JULY 2002 FILING**

The Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) announced that coal companies could pay their quarterly coal reclamation fees to OSM using the Internet beginning with the July 2002 filing.

In April 2002, OSM, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and three coal companies successfully conducted a pilot program to accept on-line payments for reclamation fees. Companies schedule their payments using OSM's Electronic Filing system and Treasury's Pay.gov system. Pay.gov is a tool developed by Treasury for Government-wide use. It's a free service that'll be available for all Electronic Filing companies for the second quarter filing in July 2002.

The automated payment option is the latest enhancement to Electronic Filing. Coal companies have been asking for on-line payments since E-Filing began. The three pilot companies thought paying on-line was an excellent enhancement. One of the companies commented: "This will save so much time doing payments."

OSM's Electronic Filing system is a web site that makes it easier for coal companies to report coal production and file their quarterly Coal Reclamation Fee Report (OSM-1) through the Internet. Electronic Filing began in April 2001 and it's now been in use for five calendar quarters. Currently, 178 companies are signed up to file electronically and more than 56 percent of the total reclamation fees collected are reported electronically.

The benefits include:

- Saving money -- the computer calculates a lower fee using the more advantageous

technical moisture equation, if the company has moisture adjustments.

- Reduced paperwork- saves processing time, postage and labor costs for coal companies and OSM.
- It's more accurate.
- Provides on-line permit history reports for companies.
- Provides e-mail notification and reminders of OSM-1 filing due dates.
- Provides an e-mailed receipt.
- Provides security through encryption.
- Allows the companies to work on their report incrementally.
- Maintains the status of company filings and amendments.
- Provides an On-Line Payment option.

For more information, or to view a Filing Example demonstration visit our web site at <http://ismdfmnt5.osmre.gov>.

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**LICK RUN EMBAYMENT PROJECT DEDICATION
HELD ON MAY 13, 2002**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Wildlife (DOW), hosted a dedication ceremony at the project site on May 13, 2002. The project is located on the west side of Piedmont Lake in Belmont County.

Piedmont Lake, built in 1937 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) primarily for flood control, is also a highly regarded fishery. The 2,270-acre lake offers quality sport fishing for species such as Muskellunge, Bass, and pan fish. Unfortunately, the lake also receives acid mine drainage (AMD) from old strip mines. The AMD has high concentrations of iron and aluminum that settle out on the bottom of the lake, smothering aquatic vegetation and bottom habitat for

fish and aquatic insects. The 32-acre Lick Run embayment is the most AMD-impacted area of the lake.



The project, which involved constructing over a mile of permanent access road, reconstructing three settling ponds, and creating pads for limestone dosing, was completed by a Kentucky firm, Ross Brothers Construction Co., in December of 2001. The limestone dosing will increase the pH of the AMD and increase the settling of the metals in the reconstructed ponds rather than in the Lick Run embayment of Piedmont Lake. All of the project work was done on lands owned by DOW on the Egypt Valley Wildlife Area.

The project was a cooperative effort between the COE, ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management (DMRM), DOW, and OSM. The COE provided 65 percent of the construction costs with the other partners making up the remaining 35 percent. The project was done under the authority of the COE section 1135 program, which enables COE to conduct restoration efforts on existing COE projects - in this case, Piedmont Lake.

The dedication was well attended in spite of cold rainy weather. Colonel John Rivenburgh, District Engineer COE; Sam Speck, Director ODNR; Jeff Jarrett, Director OSM; Mike Mozena, Project Officer DMRM; and Mike Budzik, Chief DOW, spoke about the project.

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OSM EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

OIO and Maryland representatives participated in a new OSM employee orientation training course conducted the week of May 12 in Washington, D.C., and Maryland. The course is designed to provide

new employees with an overview of OSM's mission, offices, and personnel policies.



Pete Hartman of the Pittsburgh Office, representing the Appalachian Region Coordinating Center, and Steve Layton of the

Maryland Bureau of Mines, provided information on Title V oversight and policy to approximately twenty-five OSM employees who have worked for OSM for between three and eighteen months.

Following these presentations, the employees traveled to Maryland, where representatives of the Maryland State Bureau of Mines, Tri-Star Coal Company, and George's Creek Watershed Association hosted them on a mine tour. Sites visited included two active surface mine



watershed Cooperative Agreement sites, and a deep mine. Also included was a lunch stop at a coalmine museum and reconstructed drift mine where Mr. Jack Ayers demonstrated and described underground mining techniques of the past and present.

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MILL RUN DEDICATION AND TOUR

On June 5, 2002, the Georges Creek Watershed Association, in conjunction with the Allegany County Soil Conservation District, sponsored a tour of three recently completed projects in the Georges Creek Watershed in Allegany County, Maryland.

**OSM AWARDS FY 2002 AML AND
A&E GRANTS TO OHIO**

The 70 square mile watershed with more than 90 miles of streams has been severely impacted by the affects of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), flooding, and other environmental problems.

Tour participants were first shown the Neff Run Project that involves improvements in water quality and fish habitat. The first phase of the \$250,000 project included streambed stabilization and planting trees along the stream banks. Other phases include limestone fines dumping and the construction of a limestone leach bed designed to treat AMD in the stream. The project is a collaborative effort between private groups and local, state, and federal partners.

The second site was the Greenway Park located in the town of Lonaconing, Maryland, where past flooding caused severe damage to homes in the area. Through the acquisition of 3.5 acres of land, the demolition of flood damaged homes, and the stabilization of Georges Creek, a 0.2 mile walking trail and wetlands was created. Future plans call for the creation of a community park at the location.

The third tour site was for the dedication ceremony for the completion of the Mill Run Diversion Well. This project is located on Mill Run, a tributary to Georges Creek and a major contributor (19 percent) of the acid from AMD going into the creek.

The Mill Run project employs a unique acid mine drainage treatment system developed by the Freshwater Institute and the U.S. Geological Survey. The project uses technology based on intermittently fluidized limestone beds integrated with Carbon Dioxide absorption and recycling. A Carbon Dioxide pretreatment step lowers the influent pH and maintains it at a lower level in order to increase limestone dissolution. Field tests have shown this technology to be useful in treating waters with high acidity and metal concentrations. Members of the Georges Creek Watershed Association keep the system operating.

The tour was completed with a luncheon at the historic Shaw Mansion where various speakers addressed the group.

On June 17, OSM awarded \$8,520,317 to Ohio to provide support for the State's Abandoned Mine Land program. This grant provides 100 percent of the administration and construction costs of the State's AML program. On that same date, OSM also awarded \$1,622,669 to Ohio to provide support for the State's active coal mining program. This grant provides up to 50 percent of the costs of the administration and enforcement of the approved state program for the regulation and control of surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

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