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Smooth Rock Lick of the Upper Buckhannon River Passive AMD Treatment Project

Project No. WV-140
Recipient: West Virginia University
Principal Investigator: Brady Gutta, Research Associate
West Virginia Water Research Institute
Funding: \$64,401 WVDEP
\$ Cost-Share
\$ Total Value
Project Duration: 10/1/2007 – current

Project Description: This project seeks to remediate the acid mine drainage from the Smooth Rock Lick #3 mine. The reclamation of 1.5 miles of Smooth Rock Lick is addressed by the Upper Buckhannon Watershed-Based Plan. The Upper Buckhannon Watershed Based Plan indicates that 37,564 lbs/year of aluminum and 48,194 lbs/yr of iron need to be reduced to meet TMDL goals. Upon installation of the treatment system at Smooth Rock Lick #3, we anticipate a total reduction of 2,464 pounds per year of acidity and 288 pounds per year of aluminum. The Smooth Rock Lick passive treatment project is currently undergoing pre-construction sampling by the Buckhannon River Watershed Association. Engineering has been completed and NMLRC is in the process of applying for the necessary permits in order to begin construction. Construction will begin in spring of 2010.

Project Significance: Lessening the impacts of water draining from coal mines has a positive impact on water quality downstream.