# Alternative Pollution Abatement of the Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Breach Discharge Outfalls to The Lackawanna River

October 24, 2024

Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference



#### Today's Speakers



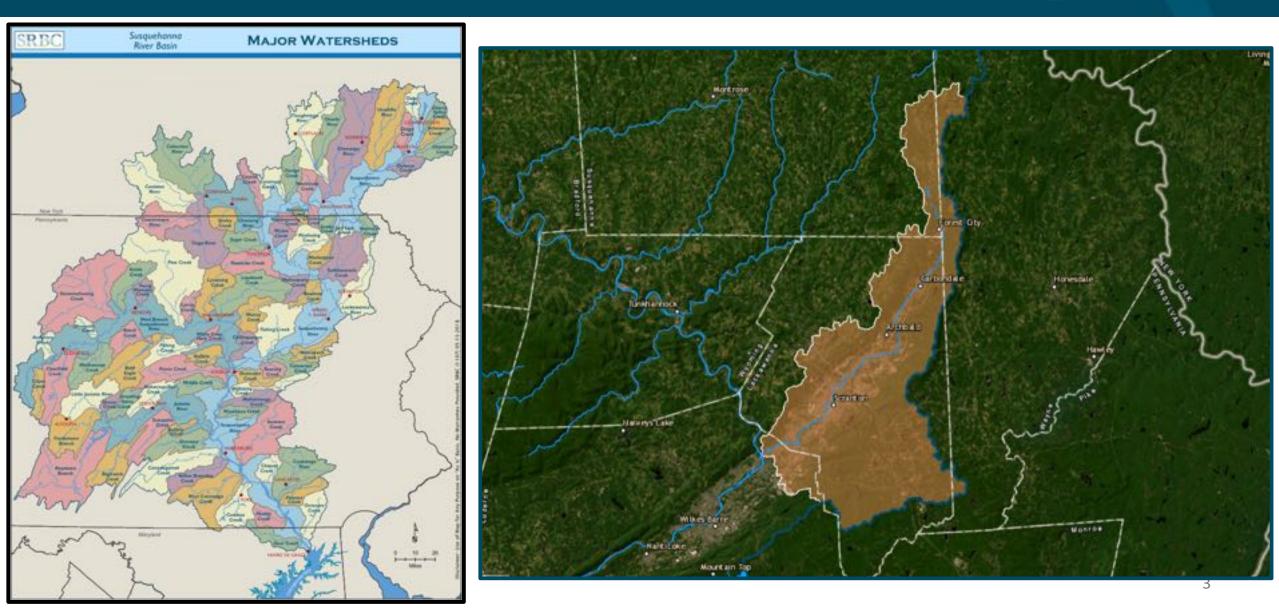


#### Tom Clark

Abandoned Mine Program Project Development Manager State College, PA

#### Lackawanna River Location





#### Old Forge Borehole and Duryea Breach





**Old Forge Borehole** 

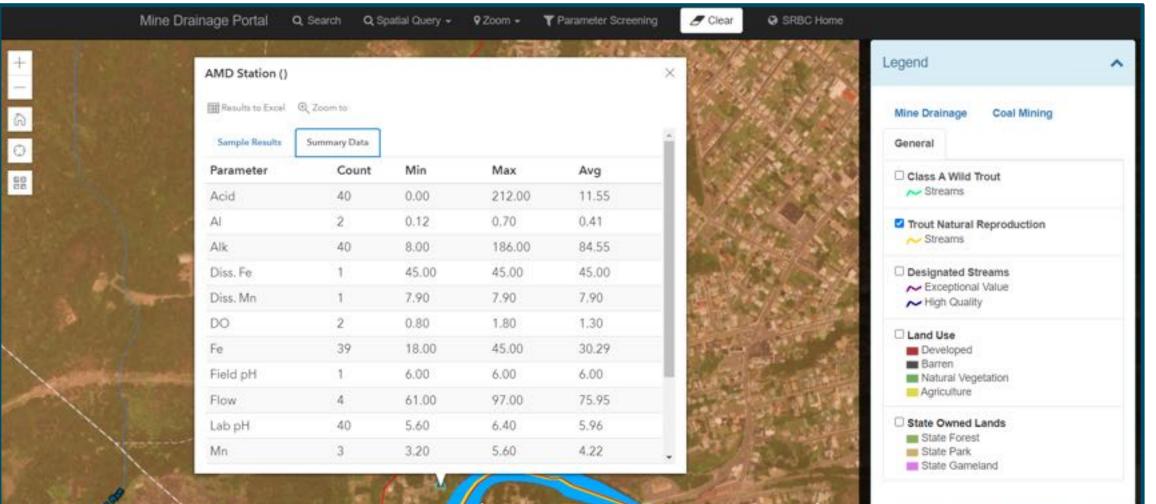


**Duryea Breach** 

#### Old Forge Quantity and Quality



SRBO



# 90-CFS, pH 6.57, -71-mg/l acidity, Fe 15.80-mg/l

#### **Duryea Quantity and Quality**

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HENCETHANNA RIVER BAND COMMISSION NY + M + MS + UM Hamilyang, PA 17110-1710

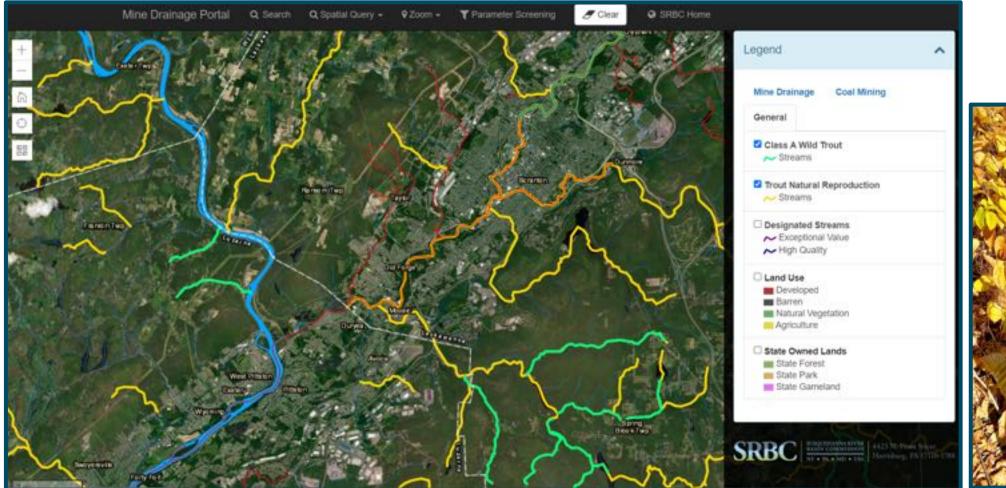
SRBC

Mine Drainage Portal Q Search Q Spatial Query + Q Zoom → TParameter Screening / Clear SRBC Home. Legend ~ AMD Station () × Mine Drainage Coal Mining Results to Excel @ Zoom to General Sample Results Summary Data Class A Wild Trout Avg ~ Streams Parameter Min Max Count 11.18 Acid 40 233.00 0.00 Trout Natural Reproduction ~ Streams 2 0.40 0.25 AL 0.10 145.15 88.61 Alk 41 72.00 Designated Streams ~ Exceptional Value 1.20 1.20 1.20 Diss, Al 1 ➤ High Quality Diss, Fe 2 25.00 48.00 36.50 Land Use Diss. Mn 2 1.80 7.30 4.55 Developed Barren DO 3 1.00 6.40 4.30 Natural Vegetation Agriculture 40 20.00 48.00 36.36 Fe State Owned Lands Field pH 4.40 4.40 4.40 1 State Forest 27.26 41 2.50 61.53 Flow State Park State Gameland 41 5.70 6.50 5.98 Lab pH 

## 22-CFS, pH 6.21, -66-mg/l acidity, Fe 19.60-mg/l

#### Lackawanna River Upstream Quality

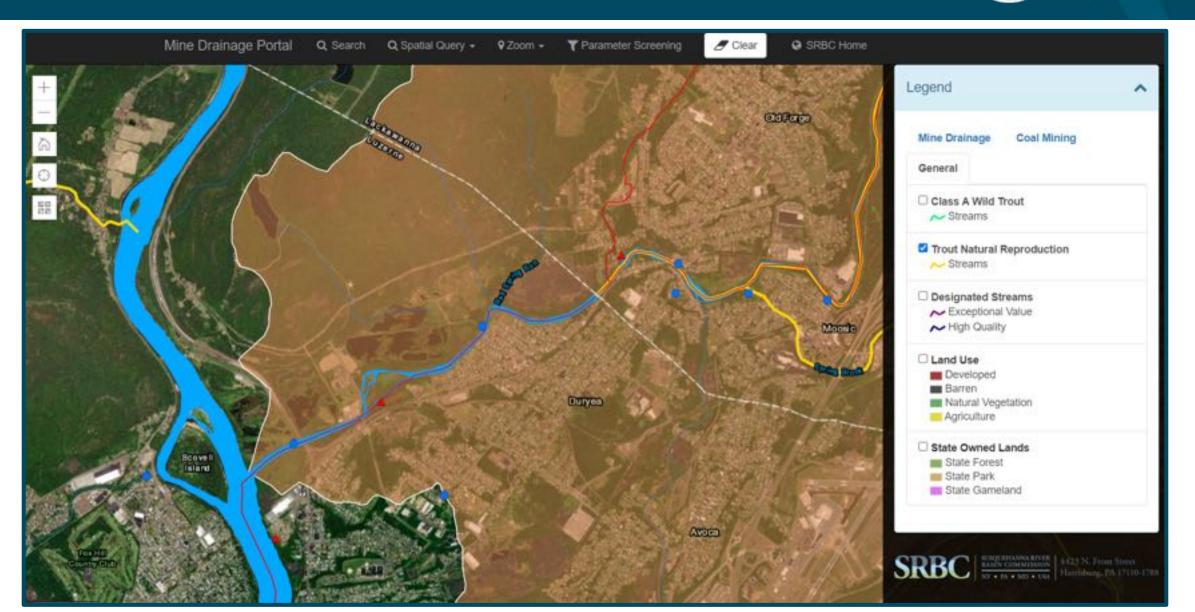






#### Lackawanna River Downstream Impact

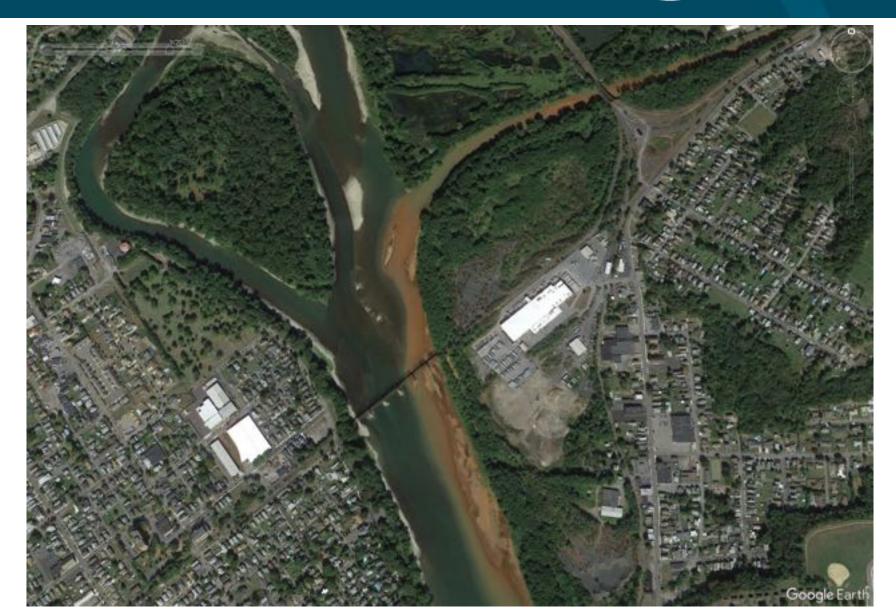




#### Visual Impact to the Susquehanna River



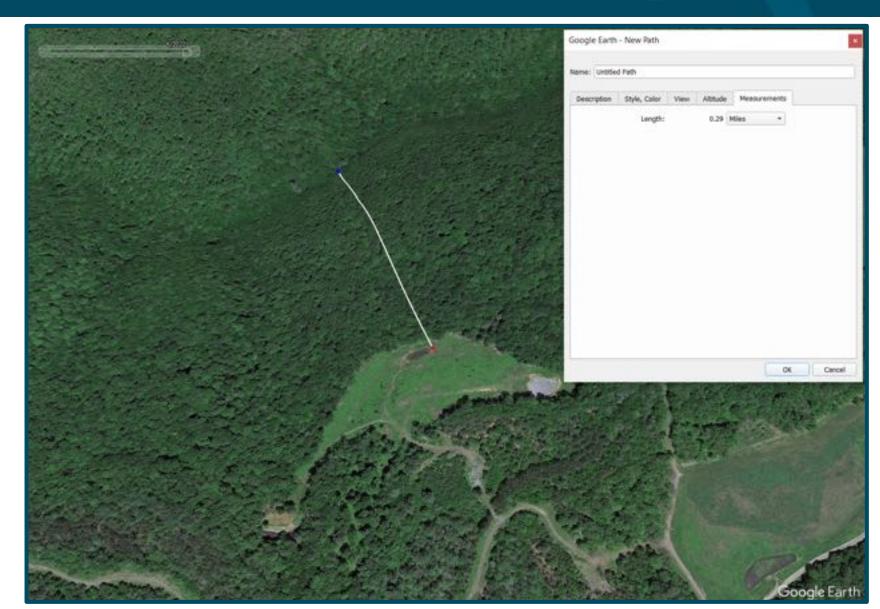
- Discharges are circumneutral/net alkaline.
- Only impact is iron hydroxide.
- Visual impact to the Lackawanna and Susquehanna is significant.
- Lackawanna could be Class A through lower reach.
- •Cost/Benefit keeps the treatment stalled (estimates of \$150 million).



#### Origin of the Level Spreader Idea

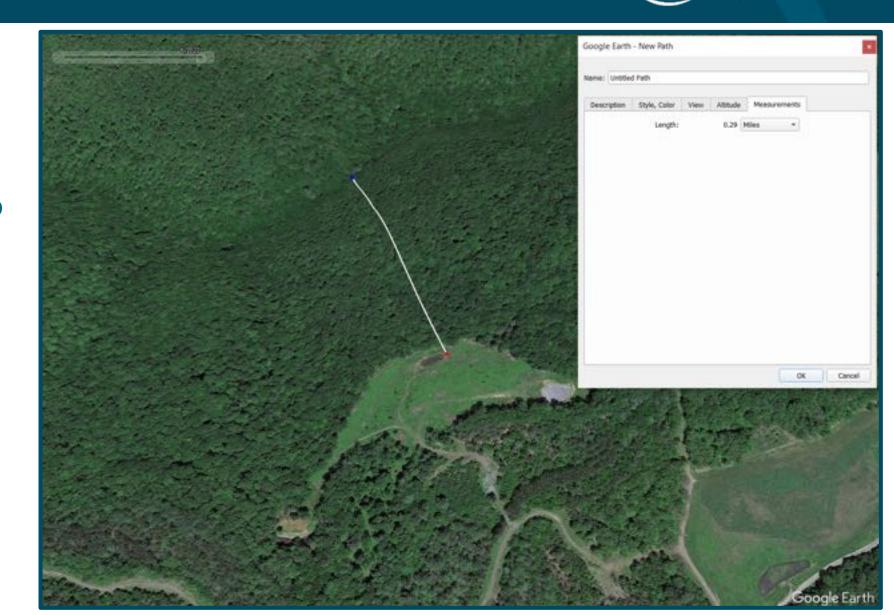


- Little Birch Island Run
  Systems.
- LBI now Class A Brook
- Coal seams well away from the stream (1,600').
- Started to theorize, was it necessary to build that system, but instead use the forest buffer to "deal with" the discharge.
- Build level spreader to test idea. We have never seen discharge water make it to the stream.



## Could Something Similar / Different Work OF/DB

- Could the solution be to merely capture the OF and DB and remove them from the Lackawanna River.
- Utilize available property to treat the best you can passively with ponds/ wetlands.
- However, instead of discharging to the Lackawanna River, pipe the effluent and level spread into the Mighty Susquehanna and let dilution kill it?



Bright People. Right Solutions

### The Mix Numbers Say the Answer is Yes (2/23/2012)



Station	Q (CFS)	Fe (mg/l)	Fe (lbs/day)	Station	Q (CFS)	Fe (mg/l)	Fe (lbs/day)
OFB	65.0	14.27	5003	OFB	65.0	5.00	1753
DB	11.3	20.25	1230	DB	11.3	5.00	305
SR US	7880.0	0.098	4166	SR US	7880.0	0.098	4166
SR DS	7956.3	0.242	10399	SR DS	7956.3	0.145	6224
	WQS Fe	1.50			WQS Fe	1.50	

Station	Q (CFS)	Fe (mg/l)	Fe (lbs/day)	Station	Q (CFS)	Fe (mg/l)	Fe (lbs/day)
OFB	65.0	5.00	1753	OFB	750.0	14.27	57735
DB	11.3	20.25	1230	DB	11.3	20.25	1230
SR US	7880.0	0.098	4166	SR US	7880.0	0.098	4166
SR DS	7956.3	0.167	7149	SR DS	7956.3	1.49	63131
	WQS Fe	1.50			WQS Fe	1.50	

#### **Quality Summary**

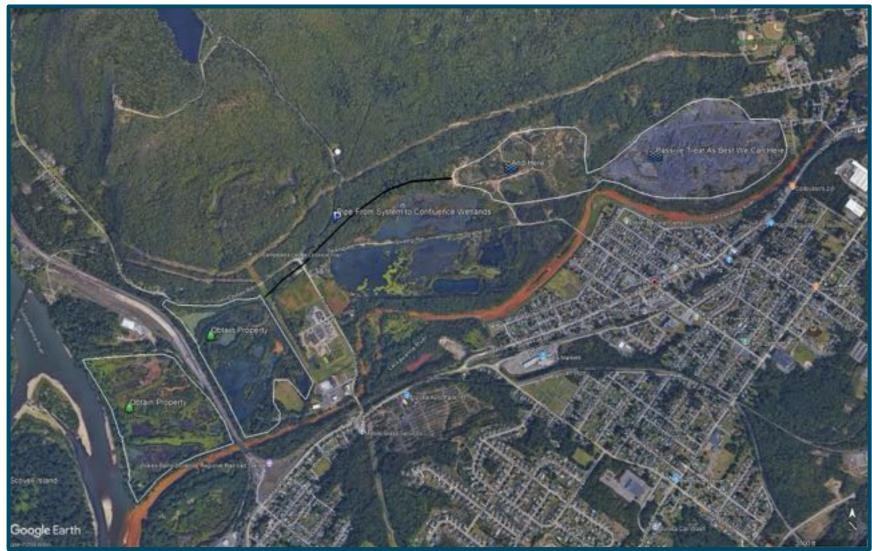


- Mixing raw and untreated Old Forge and Duryea Breach with Susquehanna River:
  - Susquehanna Fe concentration increases from 0.098 to 0.242 mg/l
- Mixing partially treated Old Forge (~ 5 mg/l Fe) and untreated Duryea Breach with Susquehanna River:
  - Susquehanna Fe concentration increases from 0.098 to 0.167 mg/l
- Mixing partially treated Old Forge and Duryea Breach with Susquehanna River:
  - Susquehanna Fe concentration increases from 0.098 to 0.145 mg/l
- What would Old Forge concentration have to be to push Susquehanna River Fe concentration to near 1.50 mg/l?
  - 750-cfs, which is about 500-percent higher that its max flow.

#### So Where Do You Do It?



- Get Duryea on the north side of the Lackawanna River. Two options.
- Using a mix of County Line River Land
  Corporation Property, Pagnotti, Duryea Borough, Denaples, Allegheny
  Sanitary Landfill Property, construct treatment/
  conveyance.
- Place effluent into level spreader across SR, if necessary.





- Solar on what isnt used for the passive treatment systems and convenance.
- So much water offers the ability to create hydropower.
- Would produce about 5-tons per day of iron hydroxide which could be sold.
  - Would make two redundant treatment systems. You use one for treatment initially, then when full, adjust flow to System #2 while iron hydroxide is dried and prepped for shipment from System #1. Then when System #2 is full, you flip the flow in perpetuity.
- I doubt there is REE in these waters since the water is net alkaline. I have only seen commodity level REEs in waters that are very acidic as you need

#### Speaker Contact Information / Questions





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