

Anthracite Tour April 6, 2010

9:00 Meet along Route 209 at the turn off for Mary D approximately 2 miles east of Middleport. There is a yellow gate on the south side of Route 209. We will meet there. Look for the white DEP truck.

9:05 Mary D Borehole Treatment Project – Schuylkill Headwaters Association has received an EPA 319 Grant in the amount of \$664,500 for the construction of a mine drainage treatment system for the Mary D boreholes. The project is the culmination of several years of extremely hard work by numerous private, governmental, and quasi-governmental entities. In order to allow for the project, a new recreation complex with a baseball field, multi-purpose field, walking trail, and skating pond was constructed for the citizens of Mary D. This project was completed and dedicated in 2008. As part of the Mary D recreation complex project, the Headwaters was granted a permanent easement by the owners of the old ball field parcel (the Mary D Fire Company) to construct a passive wetland treatment system.

10:00 Alfred Brown Coal, SMP #54011301, Blythe Township, Schuylkill County. A typical anthracite underground mine (deep mine) that employs 5 men. The operation is nestled in amongst acres of abandoned and active mine land. It is a slope mine with its primary workings approximately 300 feet below the surface. The mine was started in 2001 and is currently mining in the mammoth vein.

11:00 Sharp Mountain Reclamation Project Phase VI, Growing Greener Project, City of Pottsville, Schuylkill County. Dangerous mine subsidences (cropfalls) are a public safety hazard. The City has received \$504,000, which is its 6th grant, to backfill and reclaim the dangerous features. The project will restore hazards as well as prevent surface water from becoming polluted in the minepool.

12:00 Blaschak Coal Corp, Mahanoy City. – Blaschak Coal Corp has numerous surface mines along with their coal breaker. Their Primrose Mine in Mahanoy City is a great example of a fairly large anthracite surface mine.

The Tour will conclude at 1:00 pm. Please wear appropriate attire to navigate in dusty or muddy conditions. It will be necessary to travel off road, therefore off-road vehicles are preferred. There will be the ability to carpool in the rugged areas. Times are approximate.

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