

Communicating Maintenance of Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Projects in Ohio¹

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Abstract: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Mineral Resources Management (ODNR-MRM) manages State AML funds and contracts with local watershed partners to monitor and maintain active and passive AMD treatment projects in Southeast Ohio. The ability to share maintenance data with ODNR-MRM between different types of organizations was identified as a critical need to efficiently address project performance issues, broken project components, and create a shared historical record of maintenance activities. Chemical monitoring already occurs according annual monitoring plans in project discharges and in the receiving stream channels to assure that water quality improvements are maintained. Water Quality data is entered into the Ohio Watershed Data website: www.watersheddata.com by watershed partners and is accessible for public viewing. Regular maintenance is performed in accordance to annual maintenance plans to assure that project components stay in working order. To facilitate data sharing between watershed partners, a Maintenance Tracker was created by the Ohio University Voinovich School and added to the Ohio Watershed Data website. The Maintenance Tracker is only accessible by watershed partners with a username and password. Data is organized by watershed and electronic forms are available for individual projects. For each project a detailed User Manual and Inspection Form are available on the Maintenance Tracker to provide specific information about project operation and project components. Watershed partners have the capability to “flag” entries in the electronic form, which automatically sends an email alerting the appropriate project officer with ODNR-MRM. Once maintenance issues are addressed, the form can be marked as “inactive” and a record still exists in the database. Records are searchable by project, date, and keyword and data can easily be exported into Excel. The Maintenance Tracker has streamlined communication between watershed partners and created a place to store important historical data regarding the operations and maintenance of individual projects.

Additional Key Words: passive treatment, active treatment

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