Earth Conservancy

Narrative/Ranking Criteria

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SECTION 1 | PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION & PLANS FOR REVITALIZATION

Target Area & Brownfields

1.a. Overview of Brownfield Challenges & Description of Target Area: Along the Susquehanna River in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, is a collection of towns and villages surrounding the small city of Nanticoke. Known locally as the Lower South Valley, the area sits atop the largest known anthracite coal deposit in the Americas. Anthracite's clean, hot, efficient burn made it crucial during the Industrial Revolution, powering factories, heating homes, and propelling transit systems. As a result, the area flourished as a center of national coal production. More than 20 collieries operated within a 2.5-mile radius of Nanticoke[1], with over 100 million tons of coal extracted regionally each year.[2] After World War II, however, the anthracite market declined. This, coupled with the deadly Knox Mine Disaster of 1959, which flooded the underground labyrinth of tunnels and shafts, abruptly ended large-scale mining. Collieries shuttered, bankruptcies were announced, and, by the 1990s, over 173,000 jobs were lost.[3]

The Lower South Valley's mining heritage is a source of pride, having fueled America's Industrial Revolution and supporting generations of families. Nevertheless, the environmental and economic landscape left at the end of the coal era was grim. When the mines closed, operations were abandoned entirely, leaving a patchwork of towns abutting thousand-acre stretches of coal waste and gaping strip pits. Waterways suffered, too, with channels destroyed, lost underground, or stained orange by acid mine drainage. Newport Township – adjacent to Nanticoke and the location of the targeted brownfield cleanup – faced some of the harshest impacts. Bankrupt coal companies owed hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes. The damaged lands attracted proposals for landfills. In 2016, Glen Lyon, Newport Township's center, was ranked as Pennsylvania's most distressed community.[3] In 2020, the situation worsened: the township's largest employer – the State Correctional Institute at Retreat – closed. **Since 1950, the population has declined 52%, from 9,347 to 4,464 residents.[4]**

Newport Township urgently needs revitalization and reinvestment. **The Wanamie Reclamation project targets two mine-scarred parcels totaling nine acres.** Earth Conservancy (EC) is seeking a Brownfields Cleanup grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to address the environmental and economic challenges their current condition effects, making the parcels safe for redevelopment.

1.b. Description of the Proposed Brownfield Site(s): The Wanamie Reclamation project involves two mine-scarred parcels that bookend the primary residential area of Wanamie, Newport Township – Wanamie East (±2 acres) and Wanamie West (±7 acres). Historically, they were part of the Wanamie Colliery, operated by the Glen Alden Coal Company and later the Blue Coal Corporation, and were subject to extensive deep and strip mining. Environmental investigations conducted over multiple decades have consistently identified both sites as former strip mine lands. The properties exhibit highly irregular topography with steep peaks and valleys. Some slopes exceed 80 degrees. The spoil material itself consists of a coarse, rubbly mixture of coal, rock, and shale with minimal organic matter, resulting in poor moisture retention, sparse vegetation, and ongoing erosion.[5] Both sites are owned by EC.

In 1983, a comprehensive property analysis was conducted by Resource Technologies Corporation (RTC) on the 16,500 acres held by Blue Coal. The areas encompassing the Wanamie East and West parcels were described as strip mined and "rough." This characterization was later confirmed in Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) completed for each site in 2025 by Verdantas, LLC, which

[1] Metzger, B. (2008, April). Pennsylvania's Northern Anthracite Coal Field, ca. 1939 [map]. *Trains Magazine*.
[2] Adams, S.P. (2010). The U.S. Coal Industry in the Nineteenth Century. In R. Whaples (Ed.), *EH.Net Encyclopedia*.
[3] Economic Innovation Group. (2016). Economic Indicators for Pennsylvania [map]. *Distressed Communities Index*.
[4] US Census Bureau. *2024: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Data Profile* (Census Tract 2156).
[5] Bush, R.D. (1981). *Soil Survey of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania*. Washington, DC: US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in Cooperation with The PA State University College of Agriculture and the PA Department of Environmental Resources State Conservation Commission.

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identified potential impacts to soils, groundwater, and surface water associated with historical coal mining. These findings are further corroborated by the US Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement's (OSMRE) Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Inventory System, which classifies both parcels as containing mining refuse (culm) and spoil piles (AML sites PA-1653 and PA-2155).

Mining operations also disrupted local hydrology, profoundly altering natural surface and groundwater pathways. The properties lie within the Newport Creek watershed, a 14-square-mile subwatershed of the Susquehanna River Basin that ultimately drains into the Chesapeake Bay. Presently, precipitation infiltrates rapidly through the loose spoil materials into subterranean mine pools, resurfacing downstream as acid mine drainage (AMD). AMD makes water not only undrinkable; it coats streambeds with a thick, sludge-like layer of orange iron oxide, destroying habitat and poisoning aquatic life. The South Branch of Newport Creek flows approximately 260 yards away from both project sites.

The areas' degraded condition has made them a hotspot for undesirable activities, with off-roading, target shooting, and illegal dumping placing stress on the already damaged ecosystem.[6] These impacts occur in immediate proximity to the community: Between the two Wanamie properties lie the 20-acre Newport Township Recreation Area, approximately 100 homes, the township building, and a mountain bike trail. Wanamie East sits less than 200 feet away from the nearest home. Wanamie West is within 100 feet of active recreational space. Two additional neighborhoods are located within a half-mile radius, underscoring the direct and daily exposure of residents to site conditions.

Revitalization of the Target Area

1.c. Reuse Strategy & Alignment with Revitalization Plans: Since acquiring the Blue Coal lands in 1994, EC has spearheaded multiple land use planning initiatives, all grounded in practical land-use planning, market feasibility, and environmental risk reduction. Municipalities, residents, and agency partners have all been involved. These revitalization plans continue to drive EC's mission and guide its work. Key planning documents drawn on for the Wanamie reclamation project include:

- ***Land Use Plan* (1996):** This foundational study evaluated all 16,500 acres of the Blue Coal lands, identifying reclamation priorities and the most responsible course for development. The area containing the Wanamie sites was identified as appropriate for housing after reclamation.
- ***Newport Township Master Plan* (2019):** As EC's reclamation work progressed, it conducted a high-level evaluation of opportunities and constraints across Newport Township. The report recommended conservation and recreation for the larger ±335-acre Wanamie tract, consistent with the mountain biking trail EC had already built in the area. However, the two project parcels lie along the tract's edge, adjacent to an established neighborhood. Their location and mine-scarred condition make them well-suited for reclamation and residential reuse.
- ***Housing Needs Assessment – Earth Conservancy* (2023):** Supported by a USEPA Technical Assistance award, this study concretized the area's need for housing, finding a current shortage of 7,452 units, anticipated to grow to 9,862 units by 2032. The data prompted EC to prioritize residential use when evaluating reclamation of its remaining properties.

The Wanamie reclamation project also directly supports USEPA's *FY 2026-2030 Strategic Plan* by advancing **Goal 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American**."[7] It restores **Land** by remediating two abandoned mining sites, removing hazards, and preparing the parcels for residential use; protects **Water** quality through reduced nonpoint source pollution and improved site stabilization within the Newport Creek watershed; and reduces **Air** impacts through the control of dust and

[6] Vacant Properties Network. (2015). *Charting the Multiple Meanings of Blight*. Blacksburg, VA: Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.
[7] USEPA. (2026). *Strategic Plan, FY 2026-2030*. https://www.epa.gov/planandbudget/strategicplan

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particulate matter commonly generated by abandoned mine lands.

Based on these plans, community input, and EC's technical experience, the reuse strategy for Wanamie is to reclaim both parcels and prepare them for residential development. This work is part of EC's broader multi-site remediation approach, tying into its FY25-funded Center Street brownfield cleanup located 0.6 miles away. Clustering projects not only accelerates environmental recovery, but also creates more functional redevelopment areas than isolated projects can provide. Concentrating development on previously disturbed mine lands also helps deter sprawl, preserving the township's natural landscapes.

1.d. Outcomes & Benefits of Reuse Strategy: EC's approach focuses on three measurable outcomes: land safety, economic reuse, and the community's quality of life. The Wanamie project supports all three. Physical impairments will be addressed immediately through stabilization using best management practices (BMPs). On-site material will be reused and portions of existing topography preserved when feasible to reduce imported fill and costs. Revegetation with locally appropriate seed mixes will accelerate recovery and reduce erosion, sedimentation, and AMD. **Permanent stormwater controls will improve local resilience to significant rainfall events by managing runoff volumes and protecting downstream infrastructure and water quality**.

The project also supports long-term economic recovery. Since 2015, over 7.3 million square feet of development has occurred on EC-reclaimed land, generating 10,000 jobs and over $1 billion in private investment.[8] **The Wanamie parcels provide an infill opportunity to meet growing housing demand, offering the potential for modern, energy-efficient housing construction.** Reflecting multiple planning initiatives and community input, the reuse strategy is realistic and ready to implement, particularly given the sites' proximity to utilities, roads, and other residences. EC's Franklin Bank project in nearby Hanover Township demonstrates the success of this approach. Once a 14-acre mine spoil pile bordering a neighborhood, the site was reclaimed with a USEPA Brownfields Cleanup award. Now 40 townhomes have been constructed on the site, with more planned. The Wanamie cleanup has the same potential to strengthen property values, expand the local tax base, and enhance residents' quality of life.

Strategy for Leveraging Resources

1.e. Resources Needed for Site Characterization: No additional site characterization is required.

1.f. Resources Needed for Site Remediation: The requested Brownfields Cleanup grant will cover 60% of project costs. In addition to its required 20% cost share of $100,000, EC will contribute an additional $226,350 in organizational resources to complete the project. These commitments are documented in the **Documentation of Funding Commitments letter (Attachment A).**

1.g. Resources Needed for Site Reuse: Site reuse (i.e., housing development) would largely be financed through private investment. Several programs are available to support residential construction, particularly for low- to moderate-income housing. These include:

Agency[9]	Program/Description	Status
USDA	Direct loans for construction of eligible housing in federally-determined rural areas.	unsecured
USHUD	Municipal grants for residential development, and loans for new multifamily housing.	unsecured
USDT	Tax credits for real estate projects in low-income census tracts.	unsecured
PADCED	State-administered assistance for low-income residential development (PA HOME Program).	unsecured
PHFA	Tax credit program for construction of affordable rental units.	unsecured

1.h. Use of Existing Infrastructure: The Wanamie sites are adjacent to an established residential

[8] O'Boyle, B. (2023, October). Tradeport Ceremony Marks $1B of Investment, Honors Yudichak. *Times Leader*, p. 1A.

[9] The following are the agencies abbreviated, in descending order: US Department of Agriculture; US Department of Housing & Urban Development; US Department of the Treasury; PA Department of Community & Economic Development; PA Housing Finance Authority. The availability of these programs are subject to annual appropriations and Notices of Funding Availability.

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neighborhood and municipal infrastructure. West Wanamie needs no extensions. East Wanamie requires a roadway extension and utility tie-ins, estimated at $220,000. This cost should be financeable for private investors; however, EC may fund the infrastructure work with its own resources once the cleanup is completed to advance development.

SECTION 2 | COMMUNITY NEED & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Need

2.a. The Community's Need for Funding:

The coal industry's collapse devastated the Lower South Valley. Beyond the mine-scarred lands and damaged waterways, jobs with family-sustaining wages never reappeared. Many fled the area for better opportunities. These historic losses continue to shape conditions in Newport Township:

- **[to be updated with American Community Survey and US Department of Labor data]**

In short, neither the township nor the county can address the massive environmental issues or cleanup costs of the legacy mine sites. That is why EC was founded: to promote and partner in environmental, economic, and community revitalization in the region. For over 30 years, EC has worked to mend the scars of abandoned mine lands. **However, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EC can only proceed as funding allows. Grants are required to carry out our work, including for remediation of the target sites.** USEPA's investment in prior reclamation and restoration projects has been instrumental in our ability to leverage other funds and to make the progress we have.

2.b. Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations: The Wanamie sites are located in Census Tract 2156, a 17.2-square-mile area whose landscape – home to 4,464 residents[10] – remains visibly scarred by past mining: mountainous piles of cast-off rock, deep strip pits, and streams stained orange with iron. Spoil materials are unstable, prone to subsidence and fire, inviting injury and impairing environmental health. Within an approximately one-mile stretch encompassing both Wanamie sites and extending about a quarter mile wide, PADEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) has recorded nine AML complaints, reflecting persistent hazards near where residents live and recreate.[11]

- **[to be updated with American Community Survey data]**

2.c. Greater than Normal Incidence of Disease & Adverse Health Conditions: Whether attributable to working in the mines, an aging population, environmental conditions, or long-standing quality of life challenges, health indicators for those in Newport Township are wanting:

- **[to be updated with PA Department of Health and County Health Outcomes data]**

- **AMD Health Risks:** While the direct human health impacts of AMD are not fully understood, both USEPA and USDA recognize it as a potential health hazard.[12] AMD-contaminated water rarely meets federal standards for drinking water or aquatic life protection, limiting its use and

[10] US Census Bureau. *2024: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Data Profile* (Tract 2156, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania). https://data.census.gov/. *ACS* statistics going forward will reflect data from these three entities, unless otherwise noted.
[11] PADEP. *AML Inquiries and Complaints* [map]. eMapPA. Retrieved October 7, 2024, from http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/emappa/
[12] See https://www.epa.gov/nps/abandoned-mine-drainage & www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whitemountain/landmanagement/projects/

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contributing to ongoing environmental stressors.[13]

2.d. Disaster Preparedness: According to the US Global Change Research Program, Luzerne County is projected to experience more frequent and heavier rainfall events (16-17%) over the next several decades.[14] Intense rainfall could: 1.) accelerate erosion, sedimentation, and slumping of mine spoils; and 2.) increase infiltration/percolation through the spoil material, contributing to AMD production. Regrading, climate-resilient stormwater controls, and vegetation establishment will reduce erosive potential associated with more frequent and heavier rainfall.

Community Engagement

2.e-f. Project Involvement & Project Roles: EC values collaboration and the input of the community in its work. EC was formed by a coalition of education, business, neighborhood, and elected leaders, who believed local stakeholders should control the fate of local lands. It was for this reason EC involved the community in its original land use planning, and why we continue to engage a variety of local, state, and federal partners. USEPA, in particular, has been central to EC's success, understanding our mission, providing funding and expertise, and celebrating project achievements with us.

The Wanamie reclamation will continue this tradition of collaboration. As detailed below, eight entities have committed to support the project with technical, environmental, and/or outreach efforts, as needed or in future phases. EC has worked with all of them before.

Partner	Point of Contact	Mission & Project Role
Newport Township	Joseph C. Hillan, Manager	Will provide formal municipal input and assistance on cleanup project and serve as community liaison.
PADEP BAMR	Thomas J. Matinas, Section Chief	State agency for AML issues with local regional office. Will provide input/assistance as needed for reclamation activities.
Luzerne Conservation Dist.	John Levitsky, Watershed Specialist	Will provide permitting guidance and technical expertise shaping watershed, stormwater, and vegetation plans.
Lower South Valley Council of Govts.	Sam Guesto, President	Seven municipalities, EC, and local sanitary authority that work collectively on regional issues, including land use.
EPCAMR	Robert Hughes, Executive Director	Regional nonprofit working on AML issues in northeastern PA, providing technical assistance, outreach, & coordination.
NorthPoint Development	Brent Miles, Chief Marketing Officer	National developer with significant local investment in reuse of EC reclaimed properties.
HDC MidAtlantic	Dana Hanchin, President & CEO	Regional organization with expertise in developing affordable housing, including in the City of Nanticoke.
Newport Township Community Org.	Palmira Miller	Local organization serving as community liaison for outreach and volunteer coordination (e.g., cleanups).

2.g. Incorporating Community Input: EC's approach to community engagement dates back to a process established through a 2005 USEPA-funded project. It includes: 1.) establishing and maintaining a repository of project information and reports; 2.) releasing an analysis of cleanup alternatives for public review and comment; 3.) sharing project information through multiple platforms; 4.) holding public meetings to gather community feedback; and 5.) recording public comments and, where feasible, incorporating them into the project's scope of work. This structured approach ensures transparency, regulatory compliance, and consistent project delivery. In addition to these protocols, EC maintains direct engagement with stakeholders through regular communication and municipal/agency meetings to discuss

[13] Cravotta, C.A. (2008). Dissolved Metal & Associated Constituents in Abandoned Coal-Mine Discharges, PA. *Applied Geochemistry*, 23, pp. 166-202.
[14] US Global Change Research Program (2023). *The Fifth National Climate Assessment in 15 Maps* [interactive map]. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0c8f2a21bd8d438fb4503e13cee8c682

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plans. Our outreach is further supported by quarterly board meetings, open to the public, and by an open-door policy at EC's office, where residents often call with questions or simply stop by.

For the Wanamie project, this process is already underway. As documented in the Threshold Criteria, EC notified the public of its intent to apply for a Brownfields Cleanup grant via website, social media, and newspaper notices. Drafts of the ABCAs and the grant application, detailing cleanup goals and reuse priorities, were made available online and at our office for review and comment, including at an advertised meeting on December 2, 2026. If a Cleanup grant is awarded, EC will continue providing updates through press releases, newsletters, website updates, and social media posts, and at least one additional community meeting. EC will also engage directly with residents near the project sites by mail, providing clear information on the reclamation plan and project timeline. To ensure accessibility, materials will be presented in plain language and made available through multiple formats (e.g., email, virtual meetings, non-digital formats), as needed. While English is the predominant language in the area, translation services will be made available for residents with limited English proficiency to ensure all community members can meaningfully participate in the process.

SECTION 3 | TASK DESCRIPTIONS, COST ESTIMATES, & MEASURING PROGRESS

3.a. Proposed Cleanup Plan: As summarized in the draft ABCAs, site conditions include mine spoil deposits, unstable slopes, erosion, and uncontrolled stormwater runoff contributing to sediment loading and AMD within the Newport Creek watershed. These conditions present ongoing risks to surface water quality, ecological resources, and public safety. Reclamation of the two Wanamie brownfields addresses these environmental risks, while recovering the land for much-needed residential development. Three remediation alternatives were evaluated: no action, reclamation only, and removal of spoil material and restoration to native grade. Reclamation only (Alternative #2) was selected as the most appropriate and cost-effective cleanup option that fully meets environmental, safety, and community objectives.

EC will procure engineering services through a competitive, publicly advertised request for proposals (RFP) to complete final design plans, specifications, and permitting; followed by competitive procurement of construction services. Reclamation activities will convert the unstable mine lands into safe, buildable property through a sequenced plan of site preparation, slope reduction, stabilization, stormwater improvements, and revegetation, as summarized below and detailed further in Section 3.b-e.

- **Site Preparation:** Construction of site access, clearing of vegetation and debris, installation of erosion and sediment controls, establishment of boundaries and grading controls, and stockpiling of reusable on-site topsoil.
- **Grading & Stabilization:** Mass earthwork to reduce steep slopes and establish stable contours across the properties, together with stormwater controls (e.g., riprap-lined swales, conveyance pipes, outlet structures) to restore hydrologic function and reduce uncontrolled runoff.
- **Revegetation:** Placement of topsoil to reduce water infiltration into the mine spoils and provide a healthy base for vegetation, followed by seeding with meadow grasses and planting of 250 trees to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, restore habitat, and enhance site appearance.

Cleanup activities will comply with applicable federal and state regulations (e.g., environmental, labor) and permitting requirements (e.g., NPDES), with EC overseeing engineering and construction to ensure adherence. Sitework will follow BMPs for mine-scarred lands (e.g., recommended slope ratios, minimizing infiltration, revegetation). Required mitigation efforts (e.g., wetlands, wildlife avoidance) will be followed. BMPs also will be employed to protect nearby populations (e.g., work limited to daytime hours, dust control measures). The long-term safety and environmental improvements and the redevelopment potential of the site outweigh the temporary disturbances of construction. Schedule and

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budget controls will keep work on time and on budget to successfully complete the project within the 48-month period of performance. EC will remain responsible for the sites while under its ownership.

3.b-e. Description of Tasks/Activities & Outputs: Cleanup of both Wanamie sites will be conducted concurrently and will involve the same activities, differing only in quantities. Activities are grouped into three tasks: cooperative agreement oversight, community outreach, and cleanup. To avoid redundancy, tasks are described jointly; budget allocations are itemized separately for each site in Section 3.f.

Task 1: Cooperative Agreement Oversight	**Lead: G. Shaw**	**Funded by: EC**
Activities:	Cooperative agreement management, including establishing an information repository; preparation of final *ABCA*s, progress reviews, reporting (USEPA, ACRES, MBE/WBE), and overall compliance activities and institutional controls. Also includes participation in brownfields/AML conferences	
Schedule:	ongoing, for duration of project (months 1-48)	
Outputs:	(1) information repository; (2) ABCAs; documentation of progress to USEPA via (16) quarterly reports, (1) final report, ACRES updates, and compliance reports; travel to (2) brownfields/AML conferences	

Task 2: Community Outreach	**Lead: E. Hughes**	**Funded by: EC**
Activities:	Preparation and implementation of community involvement plan, including public notices, project correspondence, coordination with partners, webpage maintenance, and at least one public meeting	
Schedule:	ongoing, for duration of project (months 1-48)	
Outputs:	(1) community involvement plan; (1) advertisement of ABCAs availability; (1) mailing to residents nearby project site; (1) community meeting/event; creation of/updates to (1) project webpage	

Task 3: Cleanup Activities	**Leads: T. Ostrowski, J. Tarnowski**	**Funded by: USEPA, EC**
Activities:	Cleanup will be completed by contracted, licensed professionals. **Design:** preparation of construction plans, permitting, contractor procurement, construction supervision. **Construction:** bonding, mobilization, site layout, installation of E&S controls, earthwork and grading, topsoil placement, hydroseeding, tree plantings	
Schedule:	engineering/permitting, months 1-18; construction, months 18-48	
Outputs:	preparation of (1) RFP for engineering services; procurement of (1) engineering firm; preparation of (1) RFP package for cleanup activities; procurement of (1) cleanup contractor; acquisition of permits; stabilization of ±9 acres of mine-scarred land; revegetation of ±9 acres; 250 trees planted	

The outcome of the Wanamie reclamation is continued remediation of mine-scarred lands in the region, advancing EC's mission and bringing lasting improvements to the land, economy, and community.

3.f. Cost Estimates: Based on a professional estimate, prior project costs, and average hourly rates, the Wanamie reclamation will cost $826,350. EC believes this amount is reasonable, realistic, and consistent with federal cost principles. **EC seeks $500,000 from the Brownfields Cleanup Program for the project, with 100% of funds committed to environmental cleanup.** In addition to its required 20% cost share of $100,000, EC will contribute an additional $226,350 in organizational resources. to support the project.

Budget Categories		**Cooperative Agreement-Funded Project Tasks**			**Total**
		T1 | Agreement Oversight	**T2 | Community Outreach**	**T3 | Cleanup Activities**	
Contractual	East				
	West				
Construction	East				
	West				
Total Direct Costs				$500,000.00	$600,000.00
Indirect Costs				0.00	0.00
Total Federal Funding				**$500,000.00**	**$500,000.00**
Cost Share				**100,000.00**	**100,000.00**
				Total Budget:	**$600,000.00**

To Be Updated

- **<u>Task 1 | Cooperative Agreement Oversight (both sites, funded by EC)</u>**
  - **Cooperative Agreement Management/Documentation**
  - **Conference Travel**

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- **Task 2 | Community Outreach (both sites, funded by EC):** Personnel to develop Community Information Plan, facilitate public meeting(s), create/update information repository and webpage, publish media releases, and interact with stakeholders and the public
- **Task 3 | Cleanup Activities ($500,000 funded by USEPA)**
  - **Project Facilitation/Management**
  - **Engineering**: survey, engineering, permits, procurement, & supervision
  - **Construction**

Item	Cost/Unit	Qty East	Cost East	Qty West	Cost West
Mobilization/Demobilization					
Performance/Payment Bonds					
Construction Layout					
Project Supervision					
Clear & Grub					
Rock Construction Entrance					
12" Silt Soxx					
32" Silt Soxx					
Remove Garbage (Tires, Etc.)					
Mass Earthwork (Cut/Fill)					
Grass Lined Swale					
Rip Rap Lined Swale					
15" HDPE Pipe					
24" HDPE Pipe					
Basin Outlet Structure					
R-5 Rip Rap					
Import & Place Topsoil					
Seed & Mulch					
Riparian Tree Planting					
Tree Planting					
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS					

To Be Updated

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3.g. Plan to Measure & Evaluate Environmental Progress & Results: EC will monitor the project to ensure timely progress and compliance with consultant plans, regulatory guidelines, and the Cooperative Agreement. Outputs described in 3.b-e. will be tracked against approved schedules and work plans, and regularly verified through field inspections, digital and drone photography, and written documentation. Long-term success will be evaluated using indicators such as sustained vegetative cover, absence of erosion, functional hydrology, and site readiness for redevelopment. Specific items (e.g., cleanup actions, expenditures) will be submitted to USEPA through quarterly reports and ACRES updates. EC will also share project results publicly through its website, newsletter, and social media feeds.

SECTION 4 | PROGRAMMATIC CAPABILITY & PAST PERFORMANCE

Programmatic Capability

4.a-b. Organizational Structure & Description of Key Staff: EC's organizational structure has supported over 30 years of successful reclamation and restoration work. The all-volunteer Board of Directors provides strategic leadership, financial oversight, and performance evaluation. Daily operations are handled by a dedicated core staff, well-equipped to carry out the project's technical, financial, and administrative elements, ensuring regulatory compliance and timely expenditure of funds:

- **Project Director | Terence Ostrowski, PE, President/CEO:** Ostrowski, with over three decades of engineering experience, joined EC as President/CEO in 2019. He leads EC's strategic direction and manages all organizational operations. He will provide executive oversight for the Wanamie

project, ensuring technical quality, regulatory compliance, and alignment with project goals.

- **Project Manager | Jason Tarnowski, PLS, Project & Operations Manager:** With 27 years of expertise in surveying and engineering, much of it within the coal industry, Mr. Tarnowski is integral to project execution. He will collaborate closely with the engineering and construction teams to finalize design plans, oversee site work, and ensure timely progress reporting.
- **Grant Manager | Geoffrey Shaw, CPA, Executive Administrator:** Mr. Shaw, a CPA with over 38 years of experience, has led EC's financial and grant activities since 2014. He will oversee project financial management, such as budget tracking, internal controls, reimbursement requests, and compliance with grant terms and conditions, including ACRES reporting.
- **Public Relations | Elizabeth W. Hughes, EdD, Director of Communications:** Dr. Hughes has been with EC since 2015, bringing a strong background in nonprofits, community engagement, and marketing. She will ensure transparent stakeholder communication throughout the project and represent EC at brownfields-related conferences and trainings.

4.c. Acquiring Additional Resources: EC will competitively procure a qualified engineering firm and licensed construction contractor for the Wanamie cleanup in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal procurement standards (e.g., 2 CFR §200). Procurement will be conducted through publicly advertised RFPs to ensure full and open competition, including participation by small local and diverse businesses. EC will monitor contractor performance through contract terms, progress meetings, and field inspections to ensure adherence to project specifications, schedules, and regulations.

Past Performance & Accomplishments

4.d. Currently or Has Ever Received an EPA Brownfield Grant: EC has received 27 USEPA awards since 1994. All work has followed approved plans and has produced measurable environmental improvements and successful site reuse. The following table details our three most recent cleanup projects, with funds spent as of [TBU]. All ACRES reporting is current.

Year	Grant No.	Project	Award	Outlay	Status
2025	4B-953A0163	Center Street Reclamation	$1,660,360	TBU	In Progress
2023	4B-95319901	Nanticoke Creek Watershed Restoration, I & II	$1,956,427	TBU	In Progress
2020	BF-96378001	Espy Run Stream Restoration, Segment F	$500,000	$500,000	Closed

4.d.1. Accomplishments: To date, EC has reclaimed 2,090 acres of mine-scarred land, built three AMD treatment systems, and conserved over 9,375 acres for recreation and greenspace. Together, these projects have helped generate major private redevelopment on former mine lands, supporting thousands of permanent jobs and demonstrating strong returns in prior USEPA investments in our work. EC has earned nine PA Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence, a USEPA Mid-Atlantic Award for Environmental Excellence (2009), and was featured as a USEPA *Brownfield Success Story* in 2015. EC regularly shares its expertise at industry events, including the WV Brownfields Conference (2016), the PA Brownfields Conference (2018, 2024), and poster presentations at the National Brownfields Training Conference, winning the award for Best Overall Poster in Chicago in 2025. EC has hosted three press events with USEPA announcing grant awards, underscoring our successes in the brownfields community.

4.d.2. Compliance with Grant Requirements: EC has a reputation for conscientious project management and fiscal responsibility. We have received and successfully administered 37 grants from nine federal agencies, with project costs exceeding $21.8 million. In all cases, EC has performed grant activities in compliance with work plans, terms and conditions, and audit requirements, including 2 CFR §200 and 40 CFR §33. EC has two open USEPA Brownfields Cleanup grants, the first closing on September 30, 2027; the second closing on September 30, 2029. Both projects are expected to be

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completed within performance periods. All ACRES reporting is current, with no unresolved audit findings or compliance issues.

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