The Miners Mountain mine shaft has been reclaimed as a result of the Agreement (L12AC20558) between the Utah Bureau of Land Management and Utah Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program. The project was a coordinated effort between AMRP and the BLM’s Utah State Office and Henry Mountain Field Station.

BLM had conducted all engineering and NEPA analysis on the project however due to environmental concerns, they asked the AMRP to complete the closure of the shaft.

BLM had tasked Weston Solutions to perform sampling to determine the environmental hazards associated with the site. Based on the analytical data and gamma screening, the primary contaminants of concern were arsenic and potential radioactive dust. As such, additional Personal Protection Equipment and HAZWOPER certification was required during construction.

Landowner: Bureau of Land Management
General Contractor: Eastridge Construction LLC
AMRP Project Manager: Lisa Reinhart
Miners Mountain Project, 2014  --  Construction Summary

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

On June 11th, 2014, Kortney Leavitt from Eastridge Construction LLC. backfilled the shaft using a Terex TX760 backhoe. Clean fill material was acquired from the Cockscomb Pit to cap the shaft. (Note the red soil in the bucket in the photo to the left.)

In addition to the shaft backfill, the adjacent highwall was scaled down slightly to prevent human falls. Other adits that had started to slough open were probed and backfilled accordingly. The BLM, AMRP, and contractor negotiated the extra work for no additional charge to the current contract.

Radiation levels were measured throughout the construction process using a Bladewerx SabreAlert and Ludlum Model 19 for alpha and gamma measurements respectively. The alpha levels were measured at 0.00002 Working Levels with one high reading of 0.00004 Working Level. Gamma readings averaged 10 mR/Hr at the dump and shaft and 5mR/Hr at background.

Although radon readings were quite low, Kortney donned full personal protection equipment including a Tyvek suit, gloves, and respirator for arsenic protection.

The AMRP in the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, Utah Department of Natural Resources, was created in 1983 to address physical safety hazards associated with abandoned mines as authorized by the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act (SMCRA) of 1977. The Program is funded by The Utah Coal Producers who pay an abandoned mine reclamation fee to the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) on each ton of coal mined in Utah.