

## **Goff AML Reclamation Project, Marion County, Iowa – 2014 Mid-Continent OSM Reclamation Award Recipient**

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The Goff abandoned mine site is 180 acres of strip mined land that was also previously underground mined. The project site included priority 1, 2 and 3 AML features and was an attractive nuisance with persistent trespassing and illegal dumping. The project included 330 feet of priority 1 dangerous highwalls and priority 2 features such as 12 acres of dangerous piles and embankments, 200 feet of dangerous highwall and 1 acre of industrial/residential waste. Priority 3 features included acid mine drainage (pH < 5.0), waste dumping, 5,150 feet of dangerous highwall, 1.5 acres of pits and 51 acres of spoil.

There were several site challenges for implementing the project. The largest challenge included working around three high-pressure natural gas pipelines which required precise planning and extreme caution during construction. A second challenge was related to the hydrology, which included an un-named tributary, 19 ponds (4 were determined to be jurisdictional by USACE) and 2.63 acres of delineated wetlands. The site design had to incorporate minimal disturbance to stream channels and wetlands and incorporated mitigation of affected resources. Lastly, due to the large size for Iowa's program budget, the project was divided into three phases.

The reclamation plan included traditional reclamation techniques such as clearing and grubbing, pit pond dewatering, mass-grading, soil neutralization and permanent seeding. Funding for the project was a partnership and included I-Jobs (state investment program), OSM Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program, and the Iowa AML Program.

The project attracted a lot of attention and interest and three field days were held on site over the three year project implementation period with 270 attendees. In addition, in 2013 the first annual 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mine and Conservation Field Day was held with students at Knoxville Middle School and the site was a tour stop during the 2012 NAAML P conference.