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**Conservation**  
1950  
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November 7, 2007

Mr. Bruce Golden, Regional Coordinator  
WPCAMR  
226 Donohoe Road, Suite 110  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601

RE: Super 7 Project


Dear Bruce:

The Cambria County Conservation District Board of Directors have initiated a new abandoned mine drainage project as referenced above, for remediation of the Little Conemaugh River Watershed. A White Paper (enclosure) on the subject was prepared and has been distributed to the PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. Our meeting and discussion with them, earlier this year, introducing this White Paper encouraged us.

The goal of the Super 7 Project is to develop a remediation strategy to address the seven largest abandoned mine discharges in the Little Conemaugh River Watershed. A 1995 Study by this conservation district revealed that of the thirty seven discharges identified, these top seven discharges contribute eighty-nine (89%) of the pollution loading to the Little Conemaugh River. We now have the Super 7 Project recognized as a Southern Alleghenies RC&D Council project. We are continuing to build support through awareness of this project.

We are asking that WPCAMR consider the merit of this project and formally recognize, endorse and support to the Super 7 Project. We believe it to be within WPCAMR's mission and all that it stands for. We are also soliciting any assistance that you may be able to provide us to meet our goal with this project. Your consideration of this matter is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robb Piper  
District Manager

Enclosure

## White Paper

### Cambria County Conservation District

401 Candlelight Drive, Suite 221, Ebensburg, PA 15931 Phone: (814) 472-2120

January 22, 2007

The Little Conemaugh River Watershed (State Subbasin 18C) is located completely within Cambria County, and is headwaters of the Ohio River Basin. As demonstrated by the 1995 Water Quality Assessment Report completed by the Cambria County Conservation District, it is one of the most severely degraded watersheds from abandoned mine drainage in Pennsylvania.

The Little Conemaugh Watershed needs attention. With the recent reauthorization of the AML Fund, a Fund established with the intent to rectify non-regulated water pollution problems as found in the Commonwealth, the Cambria County Conservation District believes that it is time to act to improve the water quality of this watershed. The reauthorization now allows up to 30% of a state's grant to be set-aside for mine drainage treatment. We encourage the Commonwealth to set this limit at this maximum amount of 30% from its allocation for water treatment. We need to prioritize a large discharge(s) and do something to improve the Little Conemaugh River.

Most of the abandoned deep mine discharges in the Little Conemaugh Watershed require active treatment. We propose setting aside a large enough amount of money, to actively treat a discharge(s) permanently or until a re-mining action or a better treatment method is developed. We already have significant data concerning the discharges in the Watershed. We don't want to spend a lot of money re-assessing and testing. The following information is provided to assist in selecting a site(s) for remediation, based on all known factors:

1. South Fork of Little Conemaugh River-Sulfur Creek Discharge- Land surrounding the discharge is owned by the Cambria County Conservation & Recreation Authority. We have data on the size of the flow and the chemistry. Access is good. The DEP has attempted passive treatment at the site. Requires Active treatment.
2. Little Conemaugh River-Trout Run-Miller Shaft Discharge- Access is good. A grant has been awarded to start remediation of Trout Run upstream from this site. We have data on the size of the flow and the water chemistry. Requires active treatment.
3. Little Conemaugh River-Hughes Bore Hole Discharge- We have data on the size of the flow and the chemistry. Access is poor. May be passively treated if land can be acquired.
4. Little Conemaugh River- Portage Wetlands Discharges- Three discharges, two net acid and one net alkaline. We have data on the discharge sizes and chemistry. Access is good. They are also in close proximity to the Portage Sewage treatment plant. Enough land may be available to treat these discharges passively and is currently for sale.
5. South Fork of Little Conemaugh River-Discharge at the Beavertdale Ballfield- This would include the discharge at the refuse pile upstream. Good access and discharge(s) may be passively treatable.
6. South Fork of the Little Conemaugh River-Topper Run Discharge- Status of Re-mining plans are not known but it probably needs to be actively treated and paid for by the mining company with a trust fund.