

**From:** [Douglas, Barbara](#)  
**To:** [Chase Allred](#); [John Schmidt](#); [craig stihler](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rockwell Mining - Knob Fork of Clear  
**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2017 11:09:20 AM

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Please note that I was only aware of the release in Feb - which had documented sediment traveling 14 miles downstream. I was not aware of the subsequent releases in March or May, so we (USFWS) have no information as to the extent of effects, and there was coordination on potential effects to listed species. This all went on while we were in the midst of coordinating with WVDEP to develop protection and enhancement measures for crayfish - and when they were saying that there were no effects from mining, that their sediment control measures were adequate and that there was nothing additional they needed to do. They did not mention that additional spills had occurred. Sounds like one potential additional measure would be that all sediment control ponds in crayfish watersheds be constructed with Claymax liners. Clear Fork is one of the only two streams that supports *C. veteranus*, so making sure that additional spills and sediment releases do not occur is very important.

Barb

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**From:** **Allred, Chase** <[chase\\_allred@fws.gov](mailto:chase_allred@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 9:48 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rockwell Mining - Knob Fork of Clear  
**To:** John Schmidt <[john\\_schmidt@fws.gov](mailto:john_schmidt@fws.gov)>, "Douglas, Barbara" <[barbara\\_douglas@fws.gov](mailto:barbara_douglas@fws.gov)>, "Stihler, Craig W" <[Craig.W.Stihler@wv.gov](mailto:Craig.W.Stihler@wv.gov)>

Hi everyone - I asked for a final report on the sediment and control structures that malfunctioned into Knob Fork of Clear Fork and this is what I received.

Chase Allred  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
West Virginia Ecological Services Field Office  
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304-636-6586, ext. 21  
[chase\\_allred@fws.gov](mailto:chase_allred@fws.gov)

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**From:** **Vernon, John T** <[John.T.Vernon@wv.gov](mailto:John.T.Vernon@wv.gov)>  
**Date:** Thu, Aug 17, 2017 at 5:34 PM  
**Subject:** Rockwell Mining - Knob Fork of Clear  
**To:** "[chase\\_allred@fws.gov](mailto:chase_allred@fws.gov)" <[chase\\_allred@fws.gov](mailto:chase_allred@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Halstead, Lewis A" <[Lewis.A.Halstead@wv.gov](mailto:Lewis.A.Halstead@wv.gov)>, "Flesher, John L" <[John.L.Flesher@wv.gov](mailto:John.L.Flesher@wv.gov)>

Chase,

I reviewed the file concerning the Clear Fork spills per your request. The complaints involved permit S-5006-13, Rockwell Mining LLC and the discharges were into Knob Fork of Clear Fork.

These were not “Slurry Spills”. There were four separate instances of leaks from constructed sediment control structures of sediment laden water. The four leaks occurred in February, March, and May and were of short duration, approximately one day. In each instance violations were issued and the separate sediment control structures were required to be cleaned and a Claymax liner installed. After the last leak all existing sediment control structures on the permit were required to be lined with the Claymax liner. In addition, a revision to the permit was required which changed the design and construction of all future sediment control structures, to include lining with a Claymax liner. There have been no reported leaks in the structures since the modification to the sediment control design was put in-place.

John Vernon

Assistant Deputy Director

Division of Mining and Reclamation

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

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