

The \$232,000 contract for the Albert Highwall Enhancement Project construction project was awarded to Break Away Inc.

The project is being funded by monies that Friends of Blackwater secured from the Office of Surface Mining, state Department of Environmental Protection and the 319 grant program for the repair of an acid mine drainage treatment system located on the Albert Highwall in Douglas. The current non-functioning system contributes to the acid mine drainage problems that plague Long Run and the North Fork of the Blackwater River. Native trout, caddisflies, damselflies, crayfish, clams, and mussels cannot survive the current high levels of acid in the North Fork and the contributory runs.

As part of the project, new pipe will be installed at the bottom of the water treatment system and an improved spillway and channels will be created. The contract includes the creation of a new 19-foot fabric channel with gabion baskets that will be filled with steel slag and the pond, lined with steel slag, will have a SMART drainage system installed which will automatically flush daily removing the iron precipitate from the pond.

The goal of this project is to restore the Albert Highwall pond which flows into Long Run and it is anticipated that this project will result in a site specific reduction in the amount of acid mine run off into Long Run.

Doug Vincent, vice president of Sutton-based BreakAway said he expects to begin construction shortly. Break Away has been in business for 13 years and will have a construction foreman and a two- to three-person crew on site.

Tanya E. Vincent, Doug's spouse, is president of Break Away and a graduate of Braxton County High School and Fairmont State University. Doug was raised in Fairmont and graduated from WVU.