Environmental Frequently Asked Questions

How will air and water quality be ensured?

Air and water quality will be ensured with the inclusion of the Department's standard specification 1.10 Environmental Compliance under Form 818. The specification provides accountability to the Contractor to perform the construction in accordance with the Department's Required Best Management Practices (BMPs) which include dust control, erosion and sediment control, vehicle emission control, and controls for hazardous materials. All of these BMPs are standard practice for the Department and are designed to protect air and water quality. Additionally, the Department has Construction Inspectors and Environmental Coordinators who verify site conditions to ensure that the Contractor upholds the environmental requirements on the project.

For each of the Required Best Management Practices there are inspection requirements on the part of the Contractor and provisions to correct any identified protection failures within a timely manner (usually 24 hours). Provisions within the standard specifications allow the Department to correct any identified issues that the Contractor has not performed in a timely manner and the costs for said corrections would be withheld from payment to the Contractor.

Additionally, the site activities will be subject to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Construction and Dewatering Activities (General Permit). The General Permit requires the development of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan which outlines Erosion & Sediment Control requirements that will be required to be implemented including inspections after rainfall events to ensure that the best management practices that prevent erosion are implemented and maintained and corrective actions are promptly implemented.

Will there be baseline testing of the surrounding waters/soil to make sure there's no increase in contamination?

The proposed Department activities at the site have been designed to limit the disturbance of existing soils. The Department is aware of the numerous investigations that have been conducted on the property as well as the proposed Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the site (found within the document located here: http://www.manresaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ManresaFinalReport-020119-Compressed2_201902011416071727.pdf). The RAP outlines the potential remedial options for the site which includes capping, soil excavation and disposal, and long-term monitoring. The Department has designed its proposed site activities to minimize the disturbance of existing on-site soils and sediment. The site activities will be limited to paved areas and in proposed areas where no pavement exists, existing soils will be protected with the installation of a separation geotextile that will be placed directly on top of existing soils and then six (6) inches of crushed stone will be placed to serve as the working surface for the construction activities. At the end of the project, the stone and geotextile will be removed from the area and the site will be reseeded for the reestablishment of a vegetated surface. Due to the limited disturbance and installation of the protective measures outlined above the Department will not be performing baseline testing of the surrounding areas.

Will that testing extend to Village Creek and Hayes Creek?

The proposed site activities will be outside of the drainage area of both Village and Hayes Creek.

How do you guarantee the coal ash and other contaminants already on the site will remain 100% undisturbed?

The Department has designed activities to prevent disturbance of existing on-site materials. The only anticipated material disturbance is for the installation of proposed fence posts to secure the site activities. All excess materials for the installation will be transferred to the project's Waste Stockpile Area for waste characterization and disposal at an off-site permitted disposal facility.