The Powelson Wildlife Area Highwall Project is located in Muskingum Township, Muskingum County, Ohio. Directions to the site are as follows: From Interstate 70, take exit 153B for Maple Avenue. Continue on Maple Avenue for 1 mile and turn right onto Dresden Road. Follow Dresden Road for 6.7 miles and turn right to stay onto Dresden Road. Travel 0.56 miles to parking area on west side of road. The project's latitude and longitude are N 40°03'32", W 82°00'49", based on the WGS84 datum.

This area of mining disturbance is an abandoned surface mine that was in operation in the 1940's. The operation mined the Middle Kittanning coal (#6 coal) and covered an area of roughly three-square miles, and at the time of operations public roads were within the area being mined. These roads remained open during the mining operations and the mining activity did not mine through the public roads (discussion with locals). Because of this, many of the highwall segments are very close to the public roads.

This project will eliminate 8,025 LF of dangerous highwall within the 2,779 acres of Powelson Wildlife Area by utilizing the adjacent spoil as backfill material. The highwall segments closest to the public roads pose a hazard to traffic travelling through the area, and all portions of these highwalls prevent safe access by the public to the wildlife area beyond the highwalls. Of the highwall length noted there is 1,167 LF of Priority 1 and 1,074 LF of Priority 2 Dangerous Highwalls, both related to distances to public roads, and 5,784 LF of Priority 2 Dangerous Highwall related to high visitation due to being public land. As a result, approximately 87 acres of Powelson Wildlife Area will be reclaimed.

Construction: The scope of work involves clearing, grubbing, highwall backfill, grading, channel installation, sediment controls and revegetation.

The project officer for this project is Bill Jonard in the Blue Rock Office (740) 303-4425, and the project engineer is James Judge, P.E. in the Cambridge Office (740) 439-9079.