

CAREER PROFILE

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



Name: Emily Clauson
Employer: Westmoreland Coal Company
Education: BSc. Environmental Engineering

DETAILS OF THE JOB: Emily is responsible for making sure the mine is in compliance with current environmental laws and regulations and for all of the environmental reporting and permitting on site. She also focuses on the reclamation activities on the land after the coal is removed and ensures that piles of earth left behind from mining are leveled, the topsoil is replaced on top of the leveled areas and then the topsoil is seeded. "One of the best parts of the job is showing people how great mined areas can look once the reclamation process is completed. The goal is to blend the mined areas with the undisturbed areas and most people cannot even tell where old mining areas once were located ", she says.

The environmental field is very busy and there is always something new to learn. Special projects like transplanting rare plants, seeding native prairie and various projects carried out to comply with environmental regulations keep the job fresh and interesting.

A TYPICAL DAY: A typical day varies, but is normally spent in the office organizing information, preparing reports and drafting maps. There are always opportunities to be out in the field helping with water samples, collecting data, and checking up on reclaimed areas and special projects. There are also many tasks that get done once a year so each month brings a new set of jobs that need to be completed.

Emily works Monday to Friday and is done work at 4:00. She has a young family and is able to enjoy her evenings and weekends with them.

SKILLS NEEDED:

- Strong math and science skills
- Critical thinking, problem solving and decision making skills
- An interest in helping the environment

COMMENT: Emily has always had an interest in the environment and when she first visited a mine site she realized that she was fascinated with the mining industry as well. Working as an environmental engineer she is able to combine her two interests in a very exciting and rewarding career.

WHERE CAN I GO TO GET AN EDUCATION? U. of Regina, U. of Saskatchewan

HELPFUL HIGH SCHOOL COURSES: Physical Science 20, Environmental Science 20, Earth Science 30, Biology 30, Chemistry 30, Mathematics 30, Calculus 30, English Language Arts 30

NOC: 2131

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