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MINES

Graymont Pleasant Gap Limestone Mine, Pennsylvania

DA Smith ran a multisite exploration core drilling campaign at Graymont's Pleasant Gap underground limestone mine near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

CLIENT	LOCATION	YEAR	WORK
Graymont	**Pleasant Gap, Pennsylvania**	**2023**	**Mines**

DA Smith completed a multisite exploration core drilling program at Graymont Pleasant Gap underground limestone mine near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Extending more than 2,500 feet below surface, Pleasant Gap is one of the deepest limestone mines in North America. The investigation was designed to obtain rock mechanics and structural geology data to support mine design and planning for deeper downdip mining.

HQ3 core holes were drilled at orientations ranging from subhorizontal to subvertical, including holes aligned along strike, down dip, and perpendicular to bedding. These varied orientations provided geotechnical and structural information essential for evaluating rock mass conditions and future mine development.

Drilling was complicated by pressurized natural gas encountered within the limestone formation. To safely manage these conditions, DA Smith developed and deployed a proprietary high-pressure gas diverter and blowout preventer (BOP) assembly installed at the borehole collars and connected to grouted-in steel surface casing. The system contained and diverted gas away from drilling equipment and personnel. Continuous gas

monitoring using personal and remote monitoring stations, combined with strict gas-control operating procedures, provided additional safeguards throughout the program.

The drilling campaign was successfully completed in May, demonstrating DA Smith's capabilities in precision underground core drilling, high-pressure gas control, and specialized drilling operations in challenging mine environments.



