

## EXHIBIT 11

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Tab A - Plan Review Request Letter to Counties and Regional Planning Agencies
- Tab B - Plan Review Request to Other Agencies
- Tab C - Public Advertising Efforts
- Tab D - Letter Advising of Availability of Plan
- Tab E - Public Meeting Formal Presentation
- Tab F - Greensburg Public Meeting, October 14, 1980
- Tab G - Brookville Public Meeting, October 15, 1980
- Tab H - Lewisburg Public Meeting, October 16, 1980
- Tab I - Avoca Public Meeting, October 17, 1980
- Tab J - Public Review Comments and Responses

## EXHIBIT 11 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Introduction:

The public participation requirements and the opportunity for the public to provide input to this Plan was developed and carried out as stated on Page 34 of the basic plan. The Department of Environmental Resources prepared a draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan and distributed copies to the Chief Clerk of the 45 counties throughout Pennsylvania known to have coal and possible abandoned coal mine land lying within their borders. The Plan was also distributed to 8 of 10 uniform planning regions which have or are thought to have abandoned coal mine problems within them. The plan was distributed with a letter to the Chief Clerk or the head of the local development district (uniform planning region) with a request that they make the plan available to any agency or individual who might wish to review the plan at their office. A copy of the letter utilized for transmission and a listing of those to whom it was transmitted to is attached at Tab A to this Exhibit.

To meet additional public participation goals, the Department also furnished copies of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan draft to other specific agencies or individuals who were known to have interest in the plan development. These agencies are listed at Tab B to this Exhibit. In order to make the general public and other interested parties aware of the availability of the plan an official notice was published in 45 newspapers throughout the Commonwealth. This was done so that in each county, the newspaper with the highest circulation would receive a copy of this official paid notice. This notice advised of the availability of the plan and the schedule of public meetings. A copy of this notice, a listing of those counties, annotated with the date of publication is attached at Tab C to this Exhibit. In addition to the official paid newspaper notice, the Department through its Press Office issued Press Release (Number 80-245) to 21 county newspapers. The official paid notice appeared at least one week prior to all of the public meetings. The press release was released so that it could appear just prior to the dates of the public meeting to provide additional public knowledge and input to the plan review process.

Certain other agencies and individuals and organizations were advised of the availability of the abandoned mine reclamation plan draft through a separate letter sent to them. A copy of this letter is at Tab D to this Exhibit.

### Public Meetings:

Four (4) public meetings were held in different geographical regions of the Commonwealth at the scheduled dates. The public meetings consisted of a formal presentation, the contents of which is shown at Tab E to this Exhibit, and allowed for comments and questions to be made or asked by the individuals who attended these public meetings. A copy of the attendance registers and the summary of questions or comments received and the responses made are included at Tabs F, G, H and I to this Exhibit.

Public Review of Pennsylvania's Draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan:

The letter submitted to each county (Tab A to this Exhibit) requested that the plan be made available for review by the general public at each location for the purposes of reviewing or commenting on the plan. Each Clerk of the county or representative from the uniform planning region was requested to complete a form which certified the fact that the plan was reviewed or was available for review during specific periods of time and provided space for individuals who might wish to make comments with the space to do so. These are attached at Tab J to this enclosure. We have elected, for those counties which responded or returned the forms to our office, to make notations of the comments and our response to each specific comment adjacent to the comment that was made. These are reflected at Tab J.

Public Participation Summary:

The comments received during the Public Participation process are such the Department of Environmental Resources does not see any unresolved controversy regarding this Plan. We appreciate the comments received and look forward to public input to our program efforts.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
P. O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 783-8525



In reply refer to  
RM-AL

September 25, 1980

Attached is a copy of the draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan required under Title IV of PL 95-87 (The Federal Surface Mine Control and Reclamation Act of 1977).

Federal Regulations require that each coal producing state submit an overall master plan covering the general implementation of Title IV. The plan must: cover the state's authority to carry out abandoned mine reclamation work, indicate that the state has the necessary personnel and administrative procedures, show that the state has the necessary authority to acquire and dispose of lands affected by past mining practices if necessary to do so, indicate coordination techniques among various state and federal agencies, describe lands and waters in the state affected by past mining, and address social, economic and environmental impacts of abandoned mine reclamation work.

When both the active surface mine regulatory program and the abandoned mine reclamation plan are approved by the Federal Office of Surface Mining, the state will have achieved primacy. The state will then be eligible to receive 50% of the reclamation fees collected from Pennsylvania coal operators to carry out abandoned mine reclamation work in accordance with Title IV of PL 95-87. This share should amount to \$6-8 million annually.

It is to be noted that the master plan is NOT project oriented -- it is a management implementation document. Specific projects will be covered each year, in accordance with the priorities set forth in the law, in the annual grant request. This request will be processed through the A-95 system so that LDDs will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed projects.

Public participation and comments on the plan are heartily encouraged. To facilitate such input, meetings will be held according to the following schedule:

October 14 - Southern Alleghenies District and Southwestern District  
3:00 p.m. at the Hempfield Township Municipal Building in the Hempfield  
Industrial Park on Route 136 West of Greensburg, Pennsylvania

October 15 - North Central District and Northwestern District  
3:00 p.m. at the Main Courtroom of the Jefferson County Courthouse  
in Brookville, Pennsylvania

October 16 - Northern Tier District and SEDA-COG  
3:00 p.m. at the Civil Defense Room in the Courthouse Basement of  
the Union County Courthouse in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

October 17 - Northeastern District and Capitol Region  
3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Economic Development  
Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania on the 2nd Floor of  
the Warren Building in Avoca, Pennsylvania

Notices have been sent to local newspapers to this effect.

It is important to the program for Development Districts and  
county Clerks to have the plan reviewed by County and Local officials  
and the general public who ask to review the plan. In order to document  
this review, it is requested that you have reviewers of the plan indicate  
their review by completing the form attached hereto. Plans should be  
made available until October 17, 1980. Please return these form to  
this office by October 21, 1980.

At the public meeting comments will be noted for the record.  
Additionally, written comments will be received at this office until  
close of business on October 21, 1980.

Your cooperation in this most important effort is appreciated.

Sincerely,



D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water  
Resources Management

Attachment

Chief Clerks for Coal Counties

(45)

Scott R. O'Donnell, Chief Clerk  
101 Court House  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dorothy C. Morris, Chief Clerk  
Armstrong County Court House  
Kittanning, PA 16201

Daniel Donatella  
Court House, Third Street  
Beaver, PA 15009

Dorothy Garlick, Chief Clerk  
203 Juliana Street, Annex 3  
Bedford, PA 15522

Ralph T. Mangus  
Blair County Court House  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

Gary L. Wood, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Towanda, PA 18846

Robert W. Cyphert, Chief Clerk  
Lafayette Bldg.  
Butler, PA 16001

Thomas Rafas, Chief Clerk  
Cambria Court House  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Verle Jack, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Emporium, PA 15834

Joseph P. Orsulak  
Box 129  
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

Vicki L. Bumbarger, Chief Clerk  
Commissioners Office  
Court House  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Donna R. Hartle, Chief Clerk  
Clarion County Court House  
Clarion, PA 16214

Margaret Morris, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Clearfield, PA 16830

Lucille Smith, Chief Clerk  
Clinton County Court House  
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Harry Faux, Chief Clerk  
Court House, Main Street  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Hubert E. Vogan, Chief Clerk  
Courthouse  
Meadville, PA 16335

Sidney Reese, Chief Clerk  
Dauphin County Court House  
Front and Market Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

William R. Gaffey, Chief Clerk  
P.O. Box W  
Ridgway, PA 15853

Joseph P. Korona, Jr., Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Uniontown, PA 15401

Avonelle L. Rudolph, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Tionesta, PA 16353

Richard L. Wible, Chief Clerk  
Fulton County Court House  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233

Herbert A. Cox, Chief Clerk  
County Office Building  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Lewis F. Greene, Chief Clerk  
Huntingdon County Courthouse  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Lynn Shields, Chief Clerk  
825 Philadelphia Street  
Indiana PA 15701

Chief Clerks for Coal Counties - continued

Florence Newhouse, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Brookville, PA 15825

Jeffrey J. Brundage, Chief Clerk  
200 Adams Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

Joseph A. Book, Chief Clerk  
Lawrence County Courthouse  
Court Street  
New Castle, PA 16101

Donald J. Rhine, Chief Clerk  
Room 207, Municipal Building  
Lebanon, PA 17042

P. J. Clarke, Chief Clerk  
Luzerne County Court House  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Shawn M. Schreck, Chief Clerk  
Lycoming County Court House  
48 W. Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

William L. Goodman, Chief Clerk  
R.D. 1  
Eldred, PA 16731

Mary Lou Weldon, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Mercer, PA 16137

John M. Brennan, Chief Clerk  
Courthouse  
Sunbury, PA 17801

F. W. Gunzburger, Chief Clerk  
P.O. Box 349  
Coudersport, PA 16915

Marilouise Reddington, Chief Clerk  
Schuylkill County Courthouse  
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dorothy B. Reffner, Chief Clerk  
Court House  
Somerset, PA 15501

Pamela Kravitz, Chief Clerk  
Sullivan County Courthouse  
Laporte, PA 18626

Evan A. Price, Chief Clerk  
Susquehanna County Courthouse  
Montrose, PA 18801

Donald Blackwell, Chief Clerk  
118 Main Street  
Wellsboro, PA 16901

Raymond Walz, Chief Clerk  
Courthouse  
Franklin, PA 16323

Georgianna Shea, Chief Clerk  
Warren County Courthouse  
Warren, PA 16365

Christine S. Dallatore, Chief Clerk  
Washington County Courthouse  
Washington, PA 15301

Richard Simpson, Chief Clerk  
Court House Annex  
Honesdale, PA 18431

Elaine Oravets, Chief Clerk  
101 Courthouse Square  
Greensburg, PA 15601

Carl W. Smith, Jr., Chief Clerk  
Wyoming County Court House  
Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Uniform Planning Regions

Capitol Area  
Capitol Region Planning and Development  
Agency  
4751 Lindle Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

SEDA-Council of Governments  
R.D. 1  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

North Central Pennsylvania  
Economic Development District  
Box 377  
Ridgway, PA 15853

Northwest Pennsylvania Regional  
Planning and Development Commission  
405 Biery Building  
Franklin, PA 16323

Northern Tier Regional Planning  
and Development Commission  
507 Main Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

Southern Alleghenies Planning and  
Development Commission  
1506 11th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601

Economic Development Council of  
Northeast Pennsylvania  
P.O. Box 777  
Avoca, PA 18641

Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional  
Planning Commission  
Manor Building - 8th Floor  
564 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
P. O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 783-8525



In reply refer to  
RM-AL

September 25, 1980

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Your cooperation in this most important effort is appreciated.

Sincerely,



D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water  
Resources Management

Attachment

Ralph W. Abele, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission  
3532 Walnut Street (Progress)  
P.O. Box 1673  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Glen L. Bowers, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
8000 Derry Street (Rutherford)  
P.O. Box 156  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

- (2) George Mandel, District Engineer  
Bureau of Operations  
Department of Environmental Resources  
Prave Building  
122 S. Center Street  
Ebensburg, PA 15931

- (2) Steve Yanchek, District Oper. Supervisor  
Bureau of Operations-North Anthracite Field  
Department of Environmental Resources  
95-93 N. State Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Robert T. Heidecker, Jr.  
State Resource Conservationist  
Soil Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 985  
Federal Square Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

- (5) Earl Cunningham, Assistant Regional  
Director for Abandoned Mine Lands  
Office of Surface Mining  
950 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25301

- (3) Larry Schweiger, Executive Secretary  
Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution  
Control and Conservation Committee  
408 Finance Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Colonel James W. Peck  
District Engineer  
Baltimore District - Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1715  
Baltimore, MD 21203

Colonel James G. Ton  
District Engineer  
Philadelphia District - Corps of Engineers  
Custom House - 2nd and Chestnut Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Colonel Joseph A. Yore  
District Engineer  
Pittsburgh District - Corps of Engineers  
Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Clifford L. Jones, Secretary  
Department of Environmental Resources  
9th Floor Fulton Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

William B. Middendorf, Deputy Secretary  
Environmental Protection  
Department of Environmental Resources  
10th Floor Fulton Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
3rd and Locust Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Douglas R. Blazey, Chief Counsel  
Office of Chief Counsel  
Department of Environmental Resources  
5th Floor, Executive House Apartment B1  
101 S. 2nd Street, P.O. Box 2357  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dr. John Demchalk  
The Appalachian Regional Commission  
1666 Connecticut Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20235

William J. Wewer, Executive Director  
PA Historic and Museum Commission  
William Penn Memorial Museum  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Frank H. Felbaum  
PA Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, Inc.  
718 N. 2nd Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) will conduct regional Public Meetings to discuss the Draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan which is to be submitted to the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining (OSM) to fulfill a requirement of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-87). The purpose of the meetings is to provide the public with an overview of the draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan and to receive comments from the public on the contents of the draft Plan.

Public Meetings will be held in accordance with the following schedule:

- October 14 - Southern Alleghenies District and Southwestern District  
3:00 p.m. at the Hempfield Township Municipal Building in the Hempfield Industrial Park on Route 136 West of Greensburg, Pennsylvania
- October 15 - North Central District and Northwestern District  
3:00 p.m. at the Main Courtroom of the Jefferson County Courthouse in Brookville, Pennsylvania
- October 16 - Northern Tier District and SEDA-COG  
3:00 p.m. at the Civil Defense Room in the Courthouse Basement of the Union County Courthouse in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania
- October 17 - Northeastern District and Capitol Region  
3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania on the 2nd Floor of the Warren Building in Avoca, Pennsylvania

To make the draft Plan available for public review, copies have been mailed to the Chief Clerk of the 45 counties known to have coal and possible abandoned coal mine problems. The Chief Clerk has been asked to have the draft Plan reviewed by appropriate county officials and to make the Plan available for review by the general public. Copies have also been provided to Regional Planning and Development Commissions in Avoca, Lewisburg, Harrisburg, Towanda, Altoona, Ridgway, Franklin and Pittsburgh and at DER offices in Harrisburg, (3rd and Reilly Sts.), Ebensburg (Prave Building, 122 S. Center Street), and Wilkes-Barre (93-95 N. State Street). These are also available for review by interested parties during normal business hours at each location. The draft plans will be available for review and comment until October 17, 1980 at each location. Written comments may be submitted to the DEPUTY SECRETARY, RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES, P. O. BOX 1467, HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120. All comments presented at the public meetings or in writing, if received by October 21, 1980, will be considered in the preparation of the Final Plan to be submitted to OSM.

Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan is intended to establish the policies and procedures and the administrative framework which will be followed by DER in executing an Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program funded and administered by OSM. It is intended to submit a final Plan to OSM at the conclusion of the meetings and review period. Submission of this Plan to the OSM Regional Office in Charleston, West Virginia will initiate the formal review process leading to approval of Pennsylvania's Plan on or about January 3, 1981. Approval of the Plan and Federal designation of DER as the Primary Regulatory Authority for Active Surface Mining will make the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania eligible to receive the State share of fees collected by OSM from active mine operators.

PETER S. DUNCAN  
DEPUTY SECRETARY  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER  
ADVERTISING FOR  
PLAN AVAILABILITY AND  
PUBLIC MEETINGS

COUNTY	NEWSPAPER, CITY	DATE PUBLISHED
Allegheny	Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh	October 7, 1980
Armstrong	Leader Times, Kittanning	October 7, 1980
Beaver	County Times, Beaver	October 7, 1980
Bedford	Bedford Gazette, Bedford	October 7, 1980
Blair	Mirror, Altoona	October 7, 1980
Bradford	Daily Review, Towanda	October 7, 1980
Butler	Eagle, Butler	October 7, 1980
Cambria	Tribune Democrat, Johnstown	October 7, 1980
Cameron	Cameron County Echo, Emporium	October 7, 1980
Carbon	Times News, Lehighton	October 7, 1980
Centre	Center Daily Times, State College	October 7, 1980
Clarion	Clarion News, Clarion	October 7, 1980
Clearfield	Progress, Clearfield	October 7, 1980
Clinton	Express, Lock Haven	October 7, 1980
Columbia	Morning Press, Bloomsburg	October 7, 1980
Crawford	Tribune, Meadville	October 7, 1980
Dauphin	Evening News, Harrisburg	October 7, 1980
Elk	Daily Press, St. Marys	October 7, 1980
Fayette	Evening Standard, Uniontown	October 7, 1980
Forest	Forest Press, Tionesta	*
Fulton	Fulton County News, McConnellsburg	October 7, 1980
Greene	Democrat Messenger, Waynesburg	October 7, 1980
Huntingdon	Daily News, Huntingdon	October 7, 1980
Indiana	Evening Gazette, Indiana	October 7, 1980
Jefferson	Spirit, Punxsutawney	October 7, 1980
Lackawanna	Times, Scranton	October 7, 1980
Lawrence	News, New Castle	October 7, 1980
Lebanon	Daily News, Lebanon	October 7, 1980
Luzerne	Evening News, Wilkes-Barre	October 7, 1980
Lycoming	Gazette, Williamsport	October 7, 1980
McKean	Bradford Era, Bradford	October 7, 1980
Mercer	Herald, Sharon	October 7, 1980
Northumberland	Daily Item, Sunbury	October 7, 1980
Potter	Potter Enterprise, Coudersport	October 7, 1980
Schuylkill	Republican, Pottsville	October 7, 1980
Somerset	American, Somerset	October 7, 1980
Sullivan	Sullivan Review, Dushore	October 7, 1980
Susquehanna	Independent, Montrose	October 7, 1980
Tioga	Gazette, Wellsboro	October 7, 1980
Venango	Derrick, Oil City	October 7, 1980
Warren	Times Observer, Warren	October 7, 1980
Washington	Observer-Reporter, Washington	October 7, 1980
Wayne	Wayne Independent, Honesdale	October 7, 1980
Westmoreland	Tribune Review, Greensburg	October 7, 1980
Wyoming	New Age-Examiner, Tunkhannock	October 7, 1980

\* Did not publish; surrounding county coverage considered adequate.

In reply refer to  
RM-R

September 25, 1980

Draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

Bill Pennewill, Press Secretary  
Press Office - DER

Donald E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water  
Resources Management - DER

Attached are copies of a letter dated September 25, 1980 and an Official Notice which is to be published in a newspaper in each of 45 counties which are known to have coal and possibly abandoned coal mine problems. The Official Notice will be a paid advertisement and we will handle the necessary distribution.

We are notifying your office so that you can develop a press release on this matter to expand our public contact and public involvement opportunities.

Should you need additional information, please contact me at 3-8525.

Enclosures (2)

JKH/fmm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARRISBURG -- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources' Office of Resources Management will hold four public meetings in coal-producing areas of the commonwealth this month to receive comments on the recently drafted Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan.

Title IV of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act requires each coal-producing state to submit an overall master plan covering the implementation of the act.

The plan must:

- Cover the state's authority to carry out abandoned mine reclamation work.
- Indicate that the state has the necessary personnel and administrative procedures.
- Show that the state has the necessary authority to acquire and dispose of lands affected by past mining practices if necessary to do so.
- Indicate coordination techniques among various state and federal agencies.
- Describe lands and waters in the commonwealth affected by past mining practices.
- Address itself to social, economic and environmental impacts of abandoned mine reclamation work.

The master plan is not project oriented. It is a management implementation document. Specific projects will be covered each year in accordance with the priorities set forth in the law.

Each of the following meetings will begin at 3 p.m.:

- Southern Alleghenies and Southwestern districts, Tuesday, Oct. 14, Hempfield Township Municipal Building, Hempfield Industrial Park, Rt. 136 west of Greensburg.



-- North Central and Northwestern districts, Wednesday, Oct. 15, Jefferson County Courthouse, Brookville.

-- Northern Tier District and SEDA-COG, Thursday, Oct. 16, civil defense room, Union County Courthouse, Lewisburg.

-- Northeastern District and Capitol Region, Friday, Oct. 17, conference room of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, second floor, Warren Building, Avoca.

Written statements will be received by the Office of Resources Management, Department of Environmental Resources, Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120, until 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21.

DER offices with copies of the draft plan available for review are:

Office of Resources Management, Third and Reily Sts., Harrisburg.

Ebensburg District Office, Prave Building, 122 S. Center St., Ebensburg, Pa. 15931.

Wilkes-Barre District Office, 93-95 N. State St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701.

Copies also may be reviewed at Regional Planning and Development Commission offices in Altoona, Avoca, Franklin, Harrisburg, Lewisburg, Pittsburgh, Ridgway and Towanda, and in the Chief Clerk's office in the County Courthouse of each of the commonwealth's 45 coal-producing counties.

#

Preceding Departmental Press Release submitted to newspapers in the following counties:

Lackawanna	Allegheny	Greene
Susquehanna	Armstrong	Indiana
Luzerne	Beaver	Jefferson
Carbon	Butler	Lawrence
Columbia	Cambria	Somerset
Northumberland	Crawford	Washington
Schuylkill	Fayette	Westmoreland



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
P. O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 783-8525



In reply refer to  
RM-AL

September 25, 1980

This is to advise you that the Office of Resources Management, DER has completed the draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan required under Title IV of the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, PL 95-87. Copies of the draft plan are available for review at the following locations:

Office of Resources Management, Department of Environmental Resources,  
3rd and Reilly Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
Prave Building, 122 S. Center Street, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania 15931  
93-95 N. State Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Chief Clerk of each County in Courthouse of each coal producing county

Office of each Regional Planning and Development Commission having coal producing counties. These offices are located at Avoca, Towanda, Lewisburg, Ridgway, Franklin, Pittsburgh, Altoona, and Harrisburg.

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close of business on October 21, 1980.

Sincerely,



D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water  
Resources Management

Letter to be sent to:

Mrs. Wyona S. Coleman  
Vice-Chair and Surface Mining  
Committee Chair  
Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club  
551 Pettsburgh Road  
West Brownsville, PA 15417

William R. Kodrich, Ph.D.  
R.D. #1  
Fairmount City, PA 16224

Mr. Joseph Bonetto  
Vice-President  
Western PA Coal Operators Assn.  
715 Henry W. Oliver Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Robert Shostak, Esquire  
Shostak, Merritt and Purcell  
2532 Oliver Building  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Mr. William J. Curry III  
Environmental Planning Consultant  
Box 188, Furnace Run  
Laughlintown, PA 15655

Mr. Ronald J. Ulmer  
Vice-President  
Reading Anthracite Company  
200 Mahantongo Street  
Pottsville, PA 17901

Mr. Franklin H. Mohney  
President  
PA Coal Mining Association  
240 North Third Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dr. Lee W. Saperstein  
Associate Professor of  
Mining Engineering  
Department of Mineral Engineering  
The Pennsylvania State University  
118 Mineral Sciences Building  
University Park, PA 16802

Mr. David J. Myers  
Project Engineer - Coal  
Bethlehem Mines Corporation  
Martin Tower  
Bethlehem, PA 18016

Mr. Clyde L. Machamer  
President  
Independent Miners and Associates  
Room 406-407, Masonic Building  
Pottsville, PA 17901

John M. Mores, Executive Director  
Turtle Creek Watershed Association  
700 Braddock Ave-452  
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112

William Sabatose, Executive Director  
Toby Creek Watershed Association  
Box 247  
Brockway, PA 15823

Curtin Winsor, Director, PEC  
Mezzanine Lewis Tower Building  
225 S. 15th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

William Penniwell, Director (w/memo)  
Press Office  
Department of Environmental Resources  
9th Floor, Fulton Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Fred Fox, Legislative Coordinator (w/memo)  
Department of Environmental Resources  
9th Floor, Fulton Bldg.  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

In reply refer to  
RM-R

Draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

September 25, 1980

Fred Fox, Legislative Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Resources

D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water  
Resources Management  
Department of Environmental Resources

Attached is a copy of a letter dated September 25, 1980 which is being sent to a number of organizations for information purposes concerning the availability of the Draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. We are also publishing an Official Notice in newspapers in the 45 coal counties.

We are sending a different letter to Larry Schweiger, Executive Secretary of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. With that letter we are enclosing three (3) copies of the Draft Plan to be available to members of the Senate and House for review at the Committee office.

It is requested that you provide appropriate notification to members of the Senate and House of the publication of the Draft Plan and its availability for review and comment.

If additional information is needed, please contact me at 3-8525.

Enclosure

JKH/fmm

PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION  
TO BE MADE AT THE PUBLIC MEETINGS  
FOR THE STATE RECLAMATION PLAN

Good Afternoon. My name is Joe Hoffman. I am the Assistant Director of the Bureau of Resources Programming within the Office of Resources Management of the Department of Environmental Resources.

I would like to open this public meeting with a note of thanks to our hosts here in \_\_\_\_\_ area. We appreciate the use of the \_\_\_\_\_ and appreciate the help received from \_\_\_\_\_ in scheduling our meeting today. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Dave Hogeman who is with me for this meeting. Dave is the Chief of the Office of Surface Mining Management Section within our Division of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and will be responsible for carrying out the program we will be discussing.

The purpose of this public meeting is to provide an overview of Pennsylvania's Draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan and to explain our concept of the abandoned mine reclamation program which we will conduct through funds to be provided by the Federal Office of Surface Mining. We will also receive your comments on the Draft State Reclamation Plan which we have prepared.

I would like to touch on a few administrative items first. This is an informal public meeting. It will be used to help us make any modifications or changes to our Draft State Reclamation Plan prior to submission of the final plan to the Office of Surface Mining in Charleston, West Virginia. We will record the public comments which are presented today, although we will not prepare a formal transcript of the meeting. The recording is primarily to jog our memories when we get back into Harrisburg and start trying to make revisions to the Plan to give us a quick recall of input from you. We will also be making notes of comments that are made by you. We will consider your comments as we finalize the Plan. We will consider them from both the overall plan development aspects as well as our program execution once our Plan is approved. I would like to defer questions until the comment period which will follow this presentation. If you do have questions, please feel free to ask them during this comment period. We will be in a position to respond to you then.

To open this meeting, I would like first to provide you with an overall concept of the program associated with the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This law is P.L. 95-87 which was signed by the President on August 3, 1977. It basically is a law which will, on a nationwide basis, control and regulate surface mining. The main thrust of the law is contained in Title V which governs active mining and the delegation of authority for regulating active mining to the states. This is known as primacy and Pennsylvania is in the process of trying to obtain this. The law provides for a somewhat limited research and demonstration program effort in Title III to be conducted by the Office of Surface Mining through the Mines and Mineral Institutes of the various states. In our case, this is the Pennsylvania State University. They will be conducting research and demonstration efforts primarily oriented towards the active mining of coal. Lastly, there are provisions in the law under Title IV to take care of the abandoned mine problems that have been left from past mining; this is the essence of this meeting today.

Title IV of the law is the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program portion of the Federal law. This portion of the program enables the United States Secretary of

Interior to collect 35 cents per ton for every ton of coal that is strip mined and 15 cents per ton for every ton of coal that is mined by deep mining. This fee is collected by the Federal Government and put into a trust fund similar to the highway trust fund. Of this fee, 50% must come back to the states under an approved reclamation plan to be used for abandoned mine reclamation purposes in the State. These will be state selected projects. Up to 20% can be given to the Secretary of Agriculture for the Rural Abandoned Mines Program (RAMP). This is used primarily in rural areas. An additional 10% of the fund can be used for OSM to assist small operators to meet the permit requirements of the Law under a Small Operators Assistance Program. The remaining 20% of the fee collection fund will be available to the Secretary of Interior to do Federal discretionary projects. If a state fails to achieve primacy, then its 50% share can be spent in that state by the Federal government or some of it may be allocated to other states.

Prior to being able to obtain this money, the State must first have primacy, and second have an approved Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan which is the document being discussed as a draft. The law and Federal Regulations establish certain objectives and priorities for work. These are spelled out in the Plan. I will touch on a couple of these at this time. The first priority is for emergency projects: these will be conducted out of the fund that is retained by the Secretary of Interior (Federal Funds) which is equivalent to 20% of the fees collected. The state will not have any emergency responsibilities under the Federal program. The first designated priority is to alleviate past coal mining problems that are causing an extreme danger to persons, property and the environment. The second priority is to alleviate the adverse effects of past coal mining that are causing impact to persons, property and the environment which is not of an extreme danger category. The third priority is in essence environmental degradation. This would normally fall into lines of acid mine drainage and other associated problems. In some cases, some of these mine drainage problems or strip mines may fall into higher priorities. These priorities are established by law and must be followed.

Pennsylvania's coal mining history goes back into the mid 1700's and it has left scars on the land and water, some of which have been addressed in the past by our Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act of 1968 which was landmark legislation in this nation. This Act, known as Operation Scarlift, which we have been working on addressed four specific categories of work: 1) abatement of acid mine drainage, 2) extinguishment of burning refuse banks, 3) extinguishment control of deep mine fires, and 4) the control of surface subsidence. We still have some of this money left and intend to mesh our two programs together.

To give you an indication of what our abandoned coal problems are right now, I will mention some figures from the Plan:

We have an estimated 225,000 acres of abandoned strip mine lands. We have 150,000 acres of area which have a potential for subsidence in urban areas. We have numerous shafts, drifts, highwalls and other health and safety problems. We have a number of burning refuse banks. We have some 45 burning deep mine fires. Some 2,200 miles of stream in Pennsylvania are polluted by acid mine drainage.

Based on the first several years of fee collection, we anticipate that anywhere from \$6 to \$8 million per year will be returned to the State from the fees collected in Pennsylvania and we also hope to be able to get some additional Federal money from the Secretary of Interior's Discretionary Fund which he maintains

to conduct Federal projects. We would look to having a program which would be in force for a 15-year period of time and during this period of time, we hope that we are fortunate enough to collect or have made available to us some \$150 million which we can utilize to address the abandoned mine problems in Pennsylvania.

Let us turn our attention to the contents of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. As I said earlier, in order to be eligible to receive funds from our 50% share of money which the Federal government is collecting, we must have primacy and we must have an approved Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. The Draft Plan which has been made available for review was developed by our staff in Harrisburg and is intended to be a masterplan which is not project oriented but will serve as a management implementation document for carrying out the provisions of the abandoned mine lands program the Office of Surface Mining will fund. In our Plan, as specified by Federal regulations, we have addressed the background and status of abandoned mine problems in Pennsylvania. We have established the basic program elements which pinpoint the timing, the administration and management framework under which we will be operating, and the policies and procedures which we will utilize in conducting provisions of the Plan. We have given a general description of how we will operate. We have tried to give a general overview of what the problems are that we will be addressing and some of the solutions that we anticipate utilizing. We have addressed land use information and tried to provide a problem quantification and a three-year program proposal which we intend to utilize. The final area that we have addressed is the general social, economic and environmental conditions that exist throughout the coal regions of Pennsylvania. In essence this is a general plan of operations within the Federal requirements, plus an initial three (3) year categorical type program.

One of the key points that I need to provide about primacy and approval of our State Reclamation Plan is that we will have a State program in Pennsylvania and not one run by the Federal government.

As we envision the abandoned mine reclamation program that will be conducted, we do not plan much of a change in our operational procedures, other than administratively, from the way we operate now. Normally, when we have knowledge of an abandoned mine reclamation problem we take a look at it through our Harrisburg staff or our district office staff in Ebensburg and Wilkes-Barre who are basically our eyes and ears. We receive requests to investigate abandoned mine problems from state legislators, Federal Congressman and Senators, from citizens such as yourselves, from county government, from local government, from watershed associations and from different public interest groups where they know of an abandoned mine problem. These requests originate in writing or by telephone to our district offices and our Harrisburg Office or thru the Governor's Action Center. We look at the problems and try to come up with a method or methods of taking care of the situation. There are many problems that we have not been able to address due to the fact that some problems with abandoned mines could not be undertaken with monies which we had available through our Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act. These include things like abandoned mine shafts, hazardous mine entries, and mine drainage problems that would not result in stream improvements if we did a project. We have authority to do these but have had to fund projects using the Department's General Funds in the past. The General Fund budget for these items has been virtually nonexistent over the last several years. We do have the authority under many different laws of the Commonwealth to be able to address the abandoned mines problem and will not have any problems being able to do this with Federal money. We will be tying these problem solutions into our existing program, following the required Federal priorities.



We will continue to respond to local or individual requests for consideration of projects to handle problems throughout the coal fields.

With this limited overview of the Plan and our program, I will conclude this presentation with plans to submit this plan to OSM. We are conducting four (4) of these public meetings and will receive written comments from anyone interested in providing comments until the 21st of October. At that time, we will consolidate the comments we have received and make modifications to the Plan where necessary, based on the comments received from the public. We will then submit the Plan to the Office of Surface Mining by November 3, 1980. This date is critical in that it is 60 days prior to January 3, 1981. January 3 is the date when all of the states that intend to have primacy must have their active mining programs approved by the Federal Government. We would like to be on the same time schedule with the Abandoned program although we are not required by law to do so. We want to hit that date so that the day our regulatory program is approved, we will be in position to have our abandoned mine lands program approved. The approval of our Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan will then make us eligible to receive funds from the Office of Surface Mining.

This will be done on an annual grant basis and we will submit our grant application through the A-95 process to have it reviewed for content and proposed projects by State agencies and the local development districts under the uniform planning regional concept. This will provide local input to our annual program and will be a means of keeping you informed of those specific problems we will be pursuing. Again, I will remind you that we will continue to respond to local requests for projects.

I would now like to open the floor for any comments or questions which you may have and we will continue with these as long as there are people who would like to speak.

If you do ask us questions or provide us with comments, we will ask that you provide your name, your address and any organization which you may represent so that we may have that information for the record. We may ask you questions in return to attempt to clarify any comments that you make. I would like to try to keep it informal but we would ask that if anybody does have comments to make, that you do complete one of the forms available at the entrance so we do hear from everybody who wishes to speak. These forms were made available during the sign-in period.



PUBLIC MEETING  
DRAFT PENNSYLVANIA ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
GREENSBURG, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 14, 1980

John Surmacz, Westmoreland County Planning Department - Has there been a preliminary list of priority projects by County?

DER - No.

Surmacz - Or priority 2 projects, or 3 or whatever?

DER - Let me go into that a little bit. One of the first steps in developing a list of projects is to know what the problems are and we have just been given some funds by the Feds to undertake an inventory of abandoned mine lands throughout Pennsylvania. This will help us to establish where the problems are and give us a good overview of the total concept of the abandoned mines problem here in Pennsylvania.

Surmacz - Is that parallel to the RAMP program or is that different?

DER - It is different than the RAMP program. It will incorporate hopefully the information that RAMP has gathered. I do not know how far along you are in relationship to what we will be needing, what we will have our people contact you about. I really do not know that and I have talked to SCS people in Harrisburg about that, how far down the road they are. But once we get that then we will be in a position I think to lay out a "stepping-stone" type program. We do not have all of the problems in Pennsylvania depicted on a map or anything else. We have gotten some input from counties and so forth over the last couple of years but it is by no means total concepts of it. We do have a shopping list if you want to call it that of the projects that have been started, not been able to be funded through State funds as well as the stuff that we have gotten through inquiries we have gone out to investigate. So we do have a good handle on a number of projects but as far as a total breakdown by county, we do not have it yet.

Surmacz - The Operation Scarlift projects, would be classified, I think, as priority 3. Do I understand that right?

DER - Environmental degradation.

DER - The majority of them tend to the environmental degradation aspects, they will in some cases develop into a priority 1 or priority 2 project. We were talking before you came in about a mine fire that was being investigated to do a Operation Scarlift project on it but it got worse and we speeded it up because of shortage of funds through the Scarlift Program and have got some Federal funding to do that. So, they can move into the priority higher than 3. There can be certain situations where you have a hazardous highwall that is adjacent let's say, to a public park or something like this, this may and in some cases does increase the priority up to a 1 or even a 2.

PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

Surmacz - Will all the priority 1 projects, after there has been a designation of what they are, be corrected before any of the other ones in the State?

DER - We would like to be able to but it is almost impossible for abandoned mines in order to do it that way. Priority one's are those things which somewhat tend to develop overnight, a mine fire which gets worse, a breach in a mine next to someone's house, or a subsidence problem next to someone's house, these would tend to become priority 1, when a hole opens up underneath a kid's swing set or something like that. That moves it from a non-existent problem basically or an unknown problem up to a priority 1 or a priority 2.

Surmacz - Then it is conceivable that once this program gets underway that you will have many projects all the way from priority 1 down to 3, 4, 5 going on at the same time in different parts of the State?

DER - It is conceivable, I do not know if it will fall that way. I would think that there may very possibly be a number of priority 1's and a number of priority 2's and even possibly some priority 3's being done at the same time. These will shake out. I do not know if you have gotten into the plan that much, John, but there is a breakdown in there of how we intend to rate the projects. So that the rating system puts the higher rating for a higher priority type project. So that with the rating system we should be able to justify any projects that are selected.

Surmacz - Somewhere in the Plan it mentioned local support. I cannot remember where, I did not reference page.

DER - It is probably under Rating System.

Surmacz - It has in compliance with P.L. 95-87 feasibility and local support. When you say support, do you mean local financial support?

DER - Not necessarily. What I am talking about is different. If you as the county planner say "Hey, we do not want that done, it conflicts with what we are planning to do with that tract of land or that area or whatever, and we have to give that a serious thought as to whether we do it or not." Also, if someone would want to come in here and restrip an area, it may not fall into the lines of a project that we undertake because of the fact that there would not be a whole lot of support if someone wanted to come in and restrip it. There would be taxes going to the County, there would be income to the County and things along these lines. So it would basically boil down to do the locals and the county planning commissions or do the locals and the townships want the project or are they opposed to it. If they are opposed to it, we can go and spend the money somewhere else.

Surmacz - There is no financial obligation?

DER - There is no financial obligation. It is 100% Federal funds.

PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

Wes Gordon, Soil Conservation Service - I would like to pursue the first question John had and go a little bit further and that was on locating the projects which you did cover in your presentation to some degree. As I understand it, it is Federally mandated that an inventory would occur and then you said that you had funds available to begin doing that. Up until the time in which you get that done which could be state-wide, very lengthy process, you are simply going to respond according to any of those methods that you learned about in order to find the projects more or less. For example, you know you have 45 burning fires now, in other words, are you going to advertise and say, we have this program open now, anybody who has problems let us know?

DER - That is one of the purposes in the public meeting here today is to let the people know. We are not going to advertise it as the SCS did. We have got a crystal ball estimate of abandoned mine problems in Pennsylvania of about 10, 12 to 15 billion dollars worth of problems to take care of. We have got a known shopping list of acid mine drainage problems totaling about \$115 million right now that we can address. We have got another 10 or 12 million dollars worth of subsidence control problems that we can address right now. These are things in a built up area that are going to cause problems for people, cause problems for an industry. We are working on several of these ourselves. We have the Bureau of Mines involved in several of these. One of them that comes to mind is combination of a residential area, a business area, in Scranton that affects some 500 homes. These places are just starting to drop one by one or two by two or whatever. The houses and businesses are starting to crack up and things like that. So we want to try to do some subsidence control work on these.

Gordon - In other words, what you are saying is that you're not going to go looking for projects, you already know of enough.

DER - We have got enough in our files right now that we can spend OSM's money for the next several years. Although we will keep our eyes and ears open for new problems that people do submit to us.

DER - We get on the order of about 500 inquiries from the public each year about a specific problem. Each one of them is investigated and a number of them turn into projects.

Gordon - Of the 45 burning fires you have, assuming they are all priority 1, do you have a mechanism in the Draft whereby you decide which of those you would do first?

DER - There is a rating scheme. I do not know whether or not you got involved with the rating scheme which SCS developed.

Gordon - I am aware of it.

DER - OSM also has the rating scheme and we have developed a third one which fits basically our needs and it has utilized some of the information out of each of the other two. Plus some things we wanted input for consideration projects. So this will basically give us a point value and give us a means of spreading out a series of 20 projects or a series of 50 projects or 500 projects and throw them into piles that can be addressed.

PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

Gordon - Are there any requirements as far as land use as there are in the RAMP program after a project has been completed or since you are dealing primarily with fires, acid discharges and so forth, is that any problem?

DER - Land use in Pennsylvania is a problem. There is no real well-defined land use plan for a good many areas. Some of the counties have it. We have taken a look at some of these things. The biggest drawback to dictating a land use plan for an individual is the fact that the majority of land in Pennsylvania is owned by private individuals. It is not county land, township land or anything else. It is private individuals. A few corporations here and there that do get involved with our program and we would like to be able to consider the landowners wants, his needs, his desires on the land but at the same time we want to take care of the problem that exists and that is the biggest concern that we have. Land use becomes somewhat secondary in that it is the individuals right to do with his land what he wants. We do not want to get into restrictions. We do not want to become a land use control organization. With the fact that we have lien provisions which can come into play on reclamation projects. That is a pretty good land use control to some extent if you want to call it that.

Gordon - In many instances I've seen around the county, there are abandoned coal lands which under current technology a little bit of coal can be extracted from it. Now probably not enough to go in for a special reclamation permit, but in the process of reclamation under your program if a small amount of coal that is encountered, what are the provisions there?

DER - We do not have any established ground rules because of the fact that we get into crossing mineral rights, surface rights and everything else. I think the biggest thing is if someone has an interest in mining it, they are going to apply for a permit on the thing. We do find out about those, we do have a pretty good coordination with the active permitting people in Pennsylvania. The fact that there may be some recoverable coal if it can be obtained and needs to be obtained as an integral part of the project it is taken out and we worry about the coal royalties and things along these lines in our construction contracts. If it does not have to be taken out, it may be left in and there have been cases where we have done a reclamation project under our State program and someone has decided that they want to come back in and take an extra cut or something like that, they can do that. It may add a few bucks to what it cost them to get it out but they can do it. Normally we find out whether or not there is a reclamation effort or desire to recover some coal during design or anything like this. We do try to touch base with the landowners. We are looking right now at daylighting type projects and a possible solution to some problems we will be encountering to gain and completely strip out an abandoned mine as part of your reclamation project or as a big part of your reclamation project. This is something that may be tried sometime down the road. We have had a number of inquiries along these lines. The problem is in these things we cannot subsidize an active operator. We have to publicly bid our project, so we do run into some problems there.

Gordon - All the jobs will be available for the contractors to bid on?

DER - Yes. Very definitely. We will normally advertise, depending on the size of the project and estimated construction cost, in local newspapers of the town or township we are in or whatever. If it is a larger project, we will go statewide,

PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

on advertising. The more people that see it, the more people that bid on it and the better the prices come in.

Surmacz - Assuming you have achieved primacy on that magic date of January 3. when will you get your first check, \$6-8 million?

DER - That is a good question. The way we operate and the way OSM tends to operate is that after we get primacy and so forth we will be submitting a budget estimate about almost 2 years ahead of time of what we are going to spend two years in the future and then our grant application, say funding starting the 1st of October, 1981, our grant application would have to be into the Feds by the 1st of July, 1981, 3 months in advance. As it stands right now, we would be in position once we obtain primacy to have an abandoned mine reclamation plan sitting on the Director of the Office of Interior's desk and a grant application sitting right beside it so that the day he approves the abandoned mine plan he can sign the grant also. It could happen that quickly.

Surmacz - So then you are talking in 1981 sometime?

DER - We would anticipate getting at least some initial funding for our first year in probably January or February or March time frame. It depends on how long it takes administratively to run it through. We are not real sure about that. We talked about that on the way out today trying to start thinking about putting that together. What we are going to put into it and everything else.

DER - We would have the request in for fiscal 82 by June of next year so that by October 1st we would have funds for that fiscal year.

DER - Right now we are working with a little over \$10 million worth of Federal money for projects that we got right now for some 32 projects.

DER - These are under the interim Federal program.

DER - This comes out of the Federal discretionary funds that are available. So we have got a little over \$10 million in that. Just had about \$6.6 million approved in the last two to three weeks.

Surmacz - You mentioned earlier something about the A-95 review process, Do you want to back up on that again, will you be going through this A-95 review process periodically?

DER - Everytime we submit a grant application, we have to send it to the State Clearinghouse which gets it cleared through State agencies, we also have to send it to the affected planning region, like the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission or the Southern Allegheny Regional Planning Commission. We would send it to them, they would review it, they would send it out to their county planning commissions or their points of contact and get any comments they may have. The same thing that if Westmoreland County would apply for funds for a Federal project, they would have to come up the chain so that it is reviewed by State agencies as well as other agencies within that district. We figure that takes about 90 days to go through that review process, so if we have to have an application into the Federal government by the first of July, we have to back off 90 days in order to get it timed right.

PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

Gordon - I was just looking at your score sheets how you would prioritize an abandoned coal priority 1?

DER - If a project comes up with enough points on the rating system and we have a priority 2 which scores more points than priority 1, I think we would be inclined to go with that. Particularly if we are talking diversification of project types rather than doing all the same project types, all subsidence control or all mine fires, we would be inclined to be able to shift.

Gordon - That is different from our RAMP program I believe we are obligated to state-wide do all the priority 1's that we have applications for before we can do the priority 2's anyway.

DER - That may be the case. I am not quite sure how the Feds are going to control that because the priority 1's, the way we have been looking at them, are those things which come up all of a sudden, they are not a clear-cut priority 1. We look at quite a few of them and there are things that develop all of a sudden. In some cases there are things that have been there and get worse and in order to keep them from getting worse you will take one now. These are the types of things we will be looking at. That is why in priority 1's, 2's and in some cases even priority 3's, you are splitting hairs to get the difference between them, because it can get worse and it may not be a priority 1 now causing an extreme danger but if it gets worse, it will develop into a priority 1 or even an emergency. It may be cheaper to address it now than it is 6 months from now or 1 year from now or 2 years from now.

Surmacz - With all of this activity going on, are you going to have to set up field offices, around the state, or how are you going to handle it?

DER - We have got two district offices that we work with. One in Ebensburg which handles the bituminous field and one in Wilkes-Barre which handles the anthracite field. These would be, as I said during the formal portion of the meeting, our eyes and ears. They do the investigations, they do the contact with the public to find out where problems are and things along these lines. They are the ones who normally get the first call if we have a problem. If we have a mine blow-out or something like that they are usually the ones to get the first call. We continue to operate with them and their staff. They are also construction inspectors. They have our construction inspectors and handle that function and role for us. So when we do a construction project out in Westmoreland County, it would be someone from the Ebensburg District Office who would come down to do the inspection on it.

Gordon - This is not our comment when you are involved in doing the abandoned mine plan inventory, I think some counties have an inventory of some type I am sure it will not be everything that you will be needing but, for example, Westmoreland County - the conservation district using RCA monies is currently doing abandoned mines inventory.

DER - We will be tapping on those things also trying to pull together all of the little bits and pieces. We have got about three to four file drawers full of problems that have not been addressed. We do know that SCS has done inventories throughout the years. We do know that the county planning commissions to some extent have done some. Some information available in county offices is better than others depending on how big your planning standards are. You get



PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

into Allegheny County with a number of people on the county planning body and you get a bulk of information. When you get into a county like Crawford or one of the other smaller county areas we do not get that information. I do not know how good Westmoreland's is. Do you have any kind of inventory, John?

Surmacz - There is some inventory but most of our people are tied up in the community development program.

DER - We had gone to the counties back in May of 1978 and requested that they submit basically their list of potential abandoned mines projects.

Surmacz - When was this, 1968?

DER - May of 1978. We did get some information in from Westmoreland County. I do not know what it says right now. But we did get some information in.

Gordon - There are several things available, Loyalhanna Watershed Association has studied about 1/3 of this county with Appalachian money back in the 1960's and that is a good record of, particularly, acid discharges.

DER - We have got it also; John is familiar with it, studies of 70% of the abandoned mine watersheds throughout, mostly bituminous coal fields, and some up in the anthracite area also, which address the acid mine drainage problem. They are not a complete solution to all of the problems but they do give us a picture of what the problem is in an area like Loyalhanna Creek or like Sewickley Creek or many of the other study areas that we did look at.

DER - These were done under the Scarlift program.

DER - So we know they only really address the acid mine drainage problems. You pick up on them, mine entries, you pick up strip mine locations, you pick up refuse pile locations. If they encountered a mine fire, they will have pointed that out to us. If they encountered a refuse bank burning, they would have pointed that out to us. So we do have quite a bit of good information available that we can go back to and start tying it all back to one base. That base is the entire state. We just do not have it for the entire state.

Gordon - The soil survey for each county would indicate mine dumps and land affected by certain problems.

DER - Quite a bit of stuff has been put together for some counties, other counties it is quite lacking. So we have talked with a number of different people in trying to figure out what is available, where it is available and what we have to do to get a hold of it.

Gordon - I think that pretty much answers the questions I had.

Surmacz - I will think of a few more probably in a day or two.

DER - Well if you do have comments that you would like to forward to us please feel free to drop us a note. The letter which came out with the plan is the address to utilize. P. O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and we would like to hear from you. Like I said we have heard from three counties so far. I anticipate that by the time we get back in on Monday, that I will have a stack

PUBLIC MEETING-GREENSBURG, cont.

of comments back like that. And it depends upon, Luzerne County had a couple of good points. They wrote to us. Dauphin County wrote to us. Dauphin is right in Harrisburg. They have a few abandoned mines right on mountains outside. Crawford County did not have any specific comments, they did point out one thing on the National Register of Historic Places, so we did hear from them. I hope we do get some additional public input. If you do have any comments the county wishes to submit, please do so. If you have any people who would like to review the report or the Plan, please let them do so and send us back the form on the back of it if anyone does review it. We would like to hear from you.

Gordon - I think I know of more people who might be on the potential bidders list.

DER - We probably have them. We have got a list of probably 300-400 contractors in the State. If you do have a list of those who do get sent an invitation to bid and in addition to that invitation going out to different zip codes or whatever, there is public advertising on the things. The more people we have interested generally the better our price is going to be.

## SIGN IN REGISTER

PUBLIC MEETING  
FOR

## PENNSYLVANIA'S DRAFT ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN

DATE October 15, 1980

PLACE Court House

Brookville, Jefferson County, PA

NAME (Please print)	ADDRESS (Please print)	ORGANIZATION (Please print)	Do You Wish To Make Comments At This Meeting	Will You Be Submitting Written Comments to DER
Herbert Horner	R. D. #2 Parker, PA	Supervisor, Parker Township, Butler County	Yes	Yes
Lloyd Smith	Box 52 Summerville, PA 15864	Disabled		
Paul Tate	Box 124A Corsica, PA		No	No
Donald J. Masisak	Box 377 Ridgway, PA	North Central Regional Planning and Develop- ment Commission		
Daniel Baughman	Box 218 Brookville, PA	R. P. Baughman Coal Co.		
C. Robert Steele	R. D. 5 Box 237 Punxsutawney, PA	Conservation District Director	No	No
Roby Grose	R. D. #2 Punxsutawney, PA	PA Assoc. of Con. Dists. Jefferson Co. Con. Dist.	Yes	No
Donald R. Beightol	2087 Terry Road S. Charleston, WV 25309	OSM	No	Yes
John R. Caldwell	Courthouse Brookville, PA	Jefferson County	No	No
William L. Smith	R. D. 4 Brookville, PA	DER	No	No
		11-G-1		

PUBLIC MEETING  
DRAFT PENNSYLVANIA ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
BROOKVILLE, JEFFERSON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 15, 1980

Herbert Horner, Parker Township Supervisor, Butler County - I have a complaint that at the end of one of our roads this strip mine company came in, just before I came in as supervisor, stripped out at the end of the road, used our roads. The supervisors before me did not have the knowledge to put a bond on the road. It ruined the road and it left a big hole at the end of the road and that was my main reason for coming today to see what can be done about it.

DER - How long ago was the mining?

Horner - I believe three years ago.

DER - Do you know who the operator was?

Horner - Yates Coal Co. They claimed bankruptcy. They just pulled out.

DER - I will make a note of that and try to take a look at it. Do we have your telephone number?

Horner - (414) 753-2802

DER - We will probably take a look at it next week or so and try to get back with you. As you know we will be on the road for the next several days. So we will try to get back with you sometime next week and give you an idea of what information we can provide you with on this thing.

Horner - There is also another coal company. What gets me is that they claim bankruptcy, they will go in and strip out a place, take all of the coal, and put up a bond which probably is not enough to backfill the amount that they stripped and then claim bankruptcy, pull out and just leave a hole there. I know one guy who has had three different coal companies and starts a new coal company every time. He has gone bankrupt three different times, left three different places, and he has not backfilled any of the three that I know of.

DER - Is this again recent stripping?

Horner - Well, one was just in the last year or two, he went bankrupt. Now he has another coal company started again. I just cannot see how he can claim bankruptcy and a year later or six months later start up another coal company under another name and go back in and strip again and go bankrupt. This just does not make sense. He can do it and not have to backfill.

DER - OK. Both of these problems that you have brought to our attention probably will not be eligible for funding through the Office of Surface Mining, particularly in view of the fact that there have been bonds as a potential forfeiture on the site. They would probably come under either the regulatory program or a bond forfeiture reclamation effort that would utilize the bonds that were forfeited to do reclamation work. The basic criteria for funding under the OSM program would be that it would have been mined prior to 1977, prior to the effective date of the Act. OK, so, we get into a question of eligibility on it but there are other State efforts that can

PUBLIC MEETING, BROOKVILLE, cont.

be taken toward the thing. And, we will take a look and see what we can come up with and probably direct you to another individual to talk with in a little more detail as a township supervisor.

Roby Grose, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts  
Jefferson County Conservation District - I did have a comment but you answered it in relation to the Scarlift program but I do have 2 or 3 questions. No. 1 - Responding to your priority statewide, do you have a formula for funding on a county basis? I know we might get into a problem with the anthracite region competing for money from the people in the western part of the State involved in primarily strip mining problems. I just wondered how you do determine the funding. Do you have a flow chart for the monies and just how you would determine how the monies would go to each county?

DER - There is no requirement for the funding to go back to the counties or anything like that. We do have, and it is included in the Plan, a proposed rating system which would be utilized to select projects. Basically, we would assign a point value to a project and the higher point values would be the ones to be funded, and as we work down and get additional funds in and so forth.

Grose - The 2nd question, funding on the local level, assuming we apply for a project, you mentioned the 15¢ per ton deep mining vs. 35¢ a ton for the strip mining. Is that correct?

DER - That is correct.

Grose - Suppose you had a project involving a stream repair work that involves those deep mining from prior years and presently strip mining operations and you had a lump sum of money to operate with, would you have to prorate the money that you receive as to whether or not it was caused by abandoned deep mine or the strip mining problem you might encounter?

DER - There is no requirement to do that. Basically, we get 6 million dollars a year, and can use it for whatever the problem is. There is no proration necessary on the expenditure of the fund. Basically, the fee is levied on the coal at the time that it first changes hands.

Grose - I know we do have a number of streams that have problems caused by abandoned deep mines and strip mining problems and I wondered if you had to prorate the amount of monies you have to spend.

DER - No, there is no requirement to do that.

Grose - OK. My last question, flow chart, how the monies will be returned to the local people. Would it go through municipalities, county commissioners, conservation districts if you had a local flow system to determine where the money would go on the local level?

DER - The money will not come back to the local level. The State would, on an annual basis, prepare a grant application and this would be to grant the State the money to do the reclamation project. Whether it be a strip mine reclamation project, a deep mine sealing project, backfilling a mine shaft, extinguishing an underground mine fire, it would be a state-run project. We would do the design work; we would do the planning for the project; we would do the construction inspection; we would advertise for bids, publicly advertise; we would supervise construction in the entire range of

PUBLIC MEETING, BROOKVILLE, cont.

activities associated with a specific project. It would not be a grant to a township or a grant to a municipality or anything like this.

Grose - Thank you.

DER - It is a little bit different, I think, than the RAMP program where you do get into that.

DER - Anybody else have any questions? Comments?

C. Robert Steele, Conservation District Director, Punxsutawney. - Whenever the State issues permits that coal strip miners have to put a bond on, is there any set amount of acreage that has to be stripped before they have to backfill? If they strip 50 acres and only put up a bond to backfill 10, then it is cheaper for them to put 10 acres in bond, strip out 50 acres and then get to forfeit the bond to you folks. It is cheaper for them to forfeit the bond than it is to backfill 50 acres.

DER - The bond is put up on an acreage basis.

DER - The bond is by acre.

DER - If you strip 50 acres, you put up 5 times as much bond as if you were stripping 10 acres.

Steele - In that case, why wouldn't the State have enough if the bond was adequate enough to backfill? Why doesn't the State have the money to backfill?

DER - All of the strip mines where bonds were forfeited?

DER - Very basically, the bonding rates that are in effect right now had been established sometime back when construction costs were cheaper. The Department, the legislature, the mining industry are working right now toward establishing a new bonding rate. What it is going to be, I have no idea. This comes under the regulatory side of DER. It will basically upgrade the costs that are envisioned to do the reclamation on the part of the State. The fact is that right now the bonding is generally inadequate to cover the exact costs of reclamation. Fortunately, some of the areas have 20 years worth of growth. These areas will probably be certified as not to be reclaimed. If you've got 20 years worth of growth, it does not make sense to go and disturb this growth and do the bond forfeiture type reclamation on it. But there is a program that we are working on right now to start doing some of the bond forfeiture reclamation jobs and Secretary Jones of the Department has been pushing for this and we are starting to award some contracts under this program. During the Spring, we will probably be getting a few more of these jobs out also. There is not an unlimited amount of money there; and, with the cost of reclamation, we are hoping that we can get a few of the operators in. Some of the operators may not be paying union wages which a lot of the construction contractors do and be able to do it a little bit cheaper. We tried a few of them. Have had a few operators respond to bid notices and things like this. So hopefully, come the first of the year or early Spring, we will be getting a few more of these out. I take it we have a couple of operators in the group. Do we?

DER - Anybody else have comments or questions that we can take from you.

Steele - My question is how are you going to determine by local level which projects are going to be done for a particular year? Is local input going to have any effect

PUBLIC MEETING, BROOKVILLE, cont.

on whether we get it or whether Luzerne County gets it or is it all going to be determined down at your office?

DER - It will be determined in our Office and I guess it is the reality of State government that you do not spend it all in one place.

Steele - Then we have no guarantees it will be divided up?

DER - Well, we would like to try to split it up so that we do get a wide diversification. It is virtually impossible for us to, I think, spend a little bit here and a little bit there with the costs of some of the jobs that we know that we have to do. The costs are going to be very big. We are talking million dollar jobs. There has got to be some diversification spreading the thing out. We cannot concentrate our efforts in one area. We do not have the manpower to handle it in one area and I do not think we have construction contractors sufficient to be able to handle it in one area. In addition to the Federal program which we will be running, we will have a State program going on also, plus bond forfeiture programs. So, through the three programs, there should be a pretty diverse expenditure and a pretty diverse range of expenditures. I think we have done that so far. We have gotten through the OSM interim program where they have been contracting directly with the State, some \$10 million so far. Just had about 6½ approved two weeks ago. And it does reflect a pretty good geographic diversification. It is spread out throughout the State how we will be spending it. I think our State program has showed this in the past also. We do have the, I think, concept of how we have to do it and it is not that difficult with the wide range of problems we do have.

Horner - How come you are not going to backfill a strip mine which has been in existence for 20 or 30 years, because right around my house, about 100 yds. from my house, there is a strip mine that has a 40 ft. highwall there. It has been open for 25 years, as long as I can remember, and there are trees growing but they are all scrubby pines. It is more hazard to people in the area than it is for the presence of material that is growing on it.

DER - That is a good case of one that would be a potential for reclamation and would not really fall into that criteria. The ones I am talking about have 20 to 30 years growth, have big trees on them. It would take more to go in and clear and grub the sites than it would be to reclaim it but with the highwall left, true, that is a hazard. Someone out walking could tumble a 40 ft. highwall and that is no fun. You can get hurt and possibly even have a death or anything like this. You may even end up having water in some of these pits and that again becomes a hazard. These are the things that we would like to be able to take care of.

DER - Previously we have been able to address strip mines if they presented a stream pollution problem. It could be that the strip mine you are talking about, may be one we looked at sometime in the past, but it did not present a pollution problem; and, because of that, we really had no program to deal with that.

DER - But now, in order to pick up the Federal money and pick up the Federal program, we turn our interest at least initially to the extreme danger type projects--those that are potentially causing serious harm to people and it becomes more critical if you get into an area that is used for recreation, motor bike, trail bike, hunting, fishing, hiking or anything along these lines. These do become the areas that are a problem and that are a concern to us. I was using a generalization there that it may not pay to go in after 30 years and do any reclamation, but site specific consideration. That is what I had said earlier that each site is its own site; you have

PUBLIC MEETING, BROOKVILLE, cont.

to look at each one individually.

Donald J. Masisak, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission - In the case of where there is perhaps an approved project within an area, and you will need advertising for bids for contractors to be made within that physical and geographical area, how would you advertise? For example, there would be approved projects. Would the bid for the project be made within the Punxy paper, the DuBois papers so that local contractors have the opportunity to bid on it or do you have a standard listing of State contractors?

DER - We have a listing of contractors we send invitations to bid. In addition to that, we do advertise through the newspaper and they show up in the official notices section of the newspaper. Normally, the job is advertised in about 6 newspapers in the Counties surrounding the project site. Like, if we were going to advertise one here, we would probably advertise in DuBois, Punxsutawney, Indiana, Brookville, Ridgway. Generally around the project site. We would also probably put one in the state-wide type newspaper, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia. On a larger job, it would receive a more widespread advertising. We might hit twelve newspapers or we might hit three or four state-wide newspapers. But we do advertise it in addition to the invitation to bid.

Masisak - My second question was - Recently, I saw, approximately two months ago, there were 37 or 40 some projects for the abandoned mine reclamation program coming through to review. I believe in our area, North Central area, there were something like 8. Now, is this standard operating procedure for the Department and, should you obtain primacy on January 3rd, everything will remain status quo as far as getting these projects underway or will you have to have a new listing of projects when you obtain primacy?

DER - The listing that you are talking about was basically a wish list and it totalled \$12 million or something like that. This is the list I mentioned that we have gotten some funding out of just recently. They, being OSM, gave us Cooperative Agreements for 15 projects that we had on the list and we were able to get about \$6.6 million out of that. This is done under the interim reclamation program that OSM is conducting and under that, in order to get some money expended in the various states, prior to being able to fund directly through the states, they set up an interim program where they would contract directly with the State to do a specific project. We have a total of 32 of these projects throughout Pennsylvania right now totalling a little over \$10 million.

Masisak - So then once you would get primacy, you would just pick these projects up?

DER - While these projects have already been funded and we are starting design work on them, and some of them we have already started construction on in the first group we have had, the other projects that are on the list will probably be handled through our first year grant along with some other stuff that we will be applying for.

Masisak - An applicant for a project, can it be any individual or organization?

DER - I'd rather do away with the word applicant. We would be the applicants. The State will be the applicant for a specific project or a specific grant. The individual could come to us and say, "I have got a 35 acre strip mine on my property that has been unreclaimed for 5 years or 7 years, whatever. It is causing problems with stream pollution and it is also a hazard because motor bikers go back out there on the lower 40 of my property and run it and we had one go over the highwall two



PUBLIC MEETING, BROOKVILLE, cont.

weeks ago." Basically what would be required is for the individual or the County Planning Commission, the Regional Planning Commission or somebody to notify us of this. It is Harrisburg or our office in Ebensburg for this bituminous area. We will come out and take a look at it, see what it looks like, where it might fit into our program, when we might be able to fund it.

DER - Are there any further questions or comments? I thank you for your attendance at this public meeting today. I thank you for the comments. When we get back into Harrisburg, we will try to see if we will need to make any modifications to the Plan. We will get back to the two individuals that we got names and telephone numbers from as far as the problems that were brought to our attention up in Parker Township and Clover Township. If there will be no further comments, I will adjourn this meeting. Thank you for your participation. Thank you for your attendance.

PUBLIC MEETING  
FOR

DATE      October 16, 1980

PLACE County Court House

Lewisburg, Union County, PA

[illegible]

PUBLIC MEETING  
DRAFT PENNSYLVANIA ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
LEWISBURG, UNION COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 16, 1980

Karl F. Theiss, Buchart Horn - Basically, what you are telling me is, municipalities, counties, or individuals can submit a problem to you and you will come out and review that problem and then assign it a priority based on this particular rating system. Are they eligible for funding immediately or is it going to be a process where they will be included with the following year's annual funding application?

DER - A couple of things are going to come into play. First, the project has to be eligible under the Federal regulations and depending on the severity of the problem we will be addressing the extreme danger projects first. If the problem is not a severe problem, if it is not an extreme danger, it will probably fall down the line some place as far as when it can be funded and how it can be funded. Basically we depend on what type of a project it is, whether we can address it under our State program or whether we can address it under the Federal program. We get somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 inquiries from the local people, whether it be a township supervisor or an individual landowner, we get about 500 per year that we look at. That is state-wide in the coal fields. So we do have quite a bit of local input. We have quite a few of these backlogged as I indicated earlier.

DER - We are trying to sell to OSM the idea of a contingency amount of money. In our annual request we will have projects X, Y, Z, etc. for so many dollars. We want to put in a contingency of maybe \$300,000-\$400,000 to handle something that comes up quickly that we do not have to go through another A-95 which takes a lot of time and go to OSM and get the authority and so forth and in the meantime, the ship is sinking. If we can sell them on that idea for these relatively small, fast-action type, then we will be in good shape.

DER - Normally we know specifically what kind of a problem we do have at an individual location and it is basically a site specific consideration. I do not know how much you have been involved with abandoned mines in the past but everyone is a little different and it does get into a little difference here and a little difference there, it is the priority of the thing. It depends solely upon what the individual site considerations are.

Michael B. Comerford, 946 Columbia Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania - My question is of a more personal nature of ownership, etc. I tried to obtain information relative to this 95-87. I wound up in the courthouse library yesterday getting this. It seems that the county solicitor did not have the information and sent me to the library and some librarian gave me this book. Naturally I could not read it all in an hour, I got the gist of it. I see that it is a Federal law applying to all states trying to encompass all conditions and I am sure that Pennsylvania's response is going to be that what they are talking about in the west is not going to apply to the east. I did notice that there is not too much concern over ownership or it is a question of operators. It is a question of the Federal government itself as not an operator but as a landowner.

PUBLIC MEETING-LEWISBURG, cont.

You cannot find anything in there involving individual landowners and rights, etc. I did not find it and that is what I was primarily interested in terms of individual ownership. For instance, in my own house I do not own mineral rights and as specifically stated these can be utilized. For years I kept contact with the people who ran the various coal companies and they were in the process of liquidation. They never did really liquidate the coal holdings. If there is coal under there, they can take it out. I am not so sure that this is going to be a big problem but it could be developing into a big problem, is there an active owner of these properties? For instance, these are, for all practical purposes, dead corporations. But I think, one specific thing comes to my mind, the City of Carbondale and the ownership up in there. Wherever it may be and that is a bag of worms, I agree with you. But any programs that I identify with reclamation, you have to take into consideration whose coal are they taking away.

DER - Let me see if I can address that.

Comerford - Do you follow my point? It is not a complaint, it is a question.

DER - It can be broken down into basically two different areas. One is the active mining, if there is going to be new mining in an area that has been mined in the past or if there is going to be new mining in an area that has not been mined before. The ownership basically does come into play and this is where the individual coal companies that are going to do this mining must get that squared away in order to get their permits. Turning back a little bit to the abandoned mine type side of the situation, Pennsylvania has 29 million acres of land, some 4 to 5 million acres is publicly owned, the remainder of it I think is generally individual landowners, possibly a few corporations in there. We have dealt with corporations in abandoned mines before. We get a right-of-entry from the landowner to do reclamation work on the surface. In the event that we are affecting a mineral asset by flushing for subsidence control or deep mine sealing, we also go to the mineral owners and receive their permission through a right-of-entry from the landowners, to give us the right to come on and do the reclamation project and so we do give consideration to individual land rights. Because the strip mine is there, we just do not come in and start reclaiming the area, we do get a right-of-entry. It sometimes takes us time, we meet situations where we need to work with the landowner in some cases, so we do try to keep their concerns in mind when we do reclamation also. Does that answer the question?

Comerford - Yes. I was just pointing out that in reviewing this, I just noticed too much recognition. That is not a reflection, do not misunderstand me because I am not aware of all the mechanics of the situation. But it left me a little bit hanging as to, I am not saying about the State, the State has been very cautious and handled it very well, but I wonder sometimes, the Federal, if we are not getting mixed up in that great vast western coal field; and applying laws that may or may not, and that does not have anything to do with you people implementing your policy.

DER - I think they basically are leaving it to the States and their individual programs. The law itself, you are correct, does not get into it. In addition to law, on the active side of the program, the active mining side, there is a set of regulations about that thick that were in the Federal Register that apply. And they get into everything. They get into rights-of-entry or rights to mine, what kind of agreements or leases, or whatever have to be obtained by

PUBLIC MEETING-LEWISBURG, cont.

the mining companies, prior to being able to do any mining on individual projects.

Theiss - I have one more question. Is your funding going to be in addition to the RAMP funds when available? Or will it be a combination of both?

DER - It will be in addition to RAMP. RAMP will be carried out as a separate provision of the law and basically DER will try to serve as the coordinator so that we know where everything is going on and there are different provisions in the two programs that will be run separately.

DER - Paul, you missed the overview presentation but if you have questions, I see you have a copy of the Plan, I will be glad to entertain some questions if you have any or if I can give clarification on any of your review.

Paul Shaw, SEDA-COG - All I have done so far is a real brief review. We intend to send written comments down. It seems that in here they rule out the use of dredging as a means of reclamation. Is that correct? Because there is a particular area that we are very much concerned about where dredging could be a real important consideration.

DER - I am not going to go into specifics on projects.

DER - Do you mean the meeting on Philipsburg?

Shaw - I was not aware of the meeting.

DER - There will be next week.

DER - The thing the Federal law rules out is channelization. Now we have been discussing this for a definition. I would say it would be awfully hard to justify dredging as a means of abandoned mine reclamation. We may have to consider it on an initial basis or on an emergency basis but from the Corps' and from our own experience dredging is a first hand solution unless you are willing to fund maintenance dredging every 2, 3, 4 years or how ever often you have to do it. And then of course you are getting a big price tag. They did not address dredging per se, just the channelization business which is excluded.

DER - Channelization can probably be defined as going in and trying to straighten out or realigning streams, which we know is specifically precluded from being funded but we are not completely sure of about what they will permit us to do.

Shaw - The State is pursuing the concept of dredging with the Feds?

DER - I do not know if you want to call it pursuing the concept of it, it is not one of the things that we have looked at in the past and done as a matter of course through our current abandoned mines program and I do not envision it being done very often in this program.

DER - I think that type of work would be so far down on the priority list, we are not concerned about it right now.

PUBLIC MEETING-LEWISBURG, cont.

DER - Particularly the OSM priority list. There are priorities established in the law. There are priorities established in the regulations. We have to comply with those and that gets into I do not know what priority it would be considered to be. Stretching it might come in four or five or so. With the problems we know we have in Pennsylvania it is going to be awhile before we get to some of these lower priorities. We have got crystal balling, the problem we have got we have about a \$10 to \$12-15 billion problem. We are looking at about \$150 million over 15 years coming back. It is going to be awhile before we can take care of everything.

DER - If we had all the money that we needed, it would take 400 years.

Comerford - The 35¢, it is now in effect?

DER - Yes. They began collecting that the first of October of 1977.

Comerford - Are there any other, does the State collect too?

DER - There is no "severance" tax in Pennsylvania.

Comerford - There are severance taxes in other States in addition to the 35¢.

DER - Now there is a bill pending that will limit that at the Federal level. I think the highest is somewhere in the neighborhood of 22%, and some states levee like a 12%-12½% or something along these lines. I do not know how many states are covered by that. I do not think it is a whole lot.

Comerford - Is there anything in the law prohibiting currently that you know of? Prohibiting municipalities from collecting a, I consider it a royalty, same difference.

DER - I think you have to look at it in two different ways. One, a royalty would be, commonly I guess, if an individual or possibly a corporation or possibly even a municipality owned mineral rights, we would look at a royalty as something a miner would pay to that mineral rights owner for the right to mine it. I am not sure whether or not the State Constitution and the Municipalities Code would enable Lewisburg or any other town to levee a tonnage fee or anything like that. That is something I do not really know whether it is permitted by State law or not. There are limitations to what can be taxed in the State Constitution.

DER - Do we have any further questions?

Shaw - I do not know what the time constraints were on conducting these public hearings but it seemed to me there really was not very much time between when this was first released and the news releases were sent out and the hearings were actually scheduled about the first news release a month in advance and have these out for comment for a longer period of time, I think more people would have provided comments on it.

DER - Good comment. I mentioned in the last part of the formal presentation that our timetable is somewhat predicated upon the magic date of January 3, 1981. That being the date that all the states that are going to get primacy should have primacy. We are trying to submit our Plan to OSM by November 3,

PUBLIC MEETING-LEWISBURG, cont.

1980. There is a mandatory 60-day review period for the abandoned reclamation plans, and we want to have ours approved in such time that the day the Secretary of Interior says, "Pennsylvania you have primacy", that the same day or the very next day they can at the same time approve our State Reclamation Plan and the day or the day after they can come down with our first annual grant, to give us funds to get started on a program.

Comerford - Are there other copies of that book available?

DER - Very, very limited. They have been forwarded to each of the county clerks, chief clerk of the county, and have been made available to the counties for open viewing if you want to call it that. Some counties we have heard from already, people who have reviewed and we anticipate that by next week we should have heard from all 45 counties. We did send it to 45 counties. We sent it to the 8 regional planning commissions and several other copies to other interested parties also. So if you have time to go to the County Court House, you can probably go through it in very short order. Our District Offices in Ebensburg and Wilkes-Barre have copies. Also a copy is available in Harrisburg. The final plan we will reproduce and send the required number of copies to OSM by November 3, 1980 and then we will be getting comments back from them on any shortcomings we may have and may have to make a few modifications when they do a formal review and then we will probably have a lot more copies available to the counties so that they can get a little wider dispersion on it.

Comerford - You have very little time to make any changes.

DER - You are right there. We are operating under a severe time constraint.

Shaw - On page 29, there is a sentence that says, "A summary for Pennsylvania land use planning relative to abandoned coal mine reclamation is generally impractical and an unnecessary parameter to consider." I take issue with that statement and it is partly because of some of the conditions that we have here in our own region. For example over in Northumberland County, where the county actually owns considerable amount of both mineral and surface rights in the coal lands and I think that land use planning should play a very important part in reclaiming certain parts of their own lands in terms of returning some of these lands to productive land uses that would meet the needs of the surrounding communities and I am sure, while there may not be other examples quite like Northumberland County, I think that there is a lot that can be said for land use planning in general. The Planning Director over in Centre County called me up and he saw that as kind of a red flag also, that there should be some kind of direct tie in between reclamation programs and land use planning.

DER - I do not think we intend to discount it at all. Most of the land in Pennsylvania is privately owned and I think a lot of that statement is developed out of the aspect that we do not want to dictate land use. If an individual, a corporation owns a tract of land, we do not want to say that after we do the reclamation that has to be turned back to a recreation use or has to be turned back to an industrial use. We want to leave it up to the individuals to the extent possible. This then gets back to what does that county land use plan, if it is available, say that land is going to be used for. The guy cannot

PUBLIC MEETING-LEWISBURG, cont.

violate county ordinance. It basically leaves it to the individuals and does not make us come in and dictate to an individual.

Shaw - Maybe the way this statement was written is, you are talking about state land use planning as opposed to local land use planning because like you said a lot of local municipalities have exercised their right to zone, so there would be a definite role for local land use planning, you are coordinating these efforts for local land use planning may be you ought to make a distinction in the plan between state and local planning efforts.

DER - Let us take a look and see if we can come up with better wording. Maybe the wording reaches the wrong conclusion. So let us take a look at it and see how we can revise it because I do not think we want to get into the point of telling Northumberland County or Centre County how to use their land. We do have available a very rough land use planning map for Pennsylvania that is not in any real detail. We do have available from several of the counties, I will not say all of them, a copy of their land use map or their land use plan where they have got it zoned or whatever. These things do come into play on a project by project basis. I do not think on a program basis they are of that much concern to us but on a project by project basis we will touch base with the landowners. If it is brought to our attention by the landowner about what he has got planned for that tract of land. If he has anything specific planned we can try to work a reclamation plan around that. So it is not completely shutting the door to land use planning and we will take a look at page 29 and see what we can come up with on a reword, maybe quiet that down a little bit. Take that red flag out anyway.

DER - The other thing that comes into play on that subject in some respects is the permission to file liens on privately owned land when there is an appreciable increase in the market value of that land we are required to file a lien on it. Now if publicly owned, then we work with the county and township and say, "Hey, how do you intend to use it, as a park or sanitary landfill or what?", and then work with them on the public use of the land.

DER - As I said, we will receive written comments until the 21st of October and we would be interested in hearing from anyone who does have comments they would like to make. I appreciate the attendance here at this public meeting and if you do need to get in touch with us, you can do so through the Office of Resources Management, DER, P.O. Box 1467, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120. If there will be no further comments, I will adjourn this public meeting. Thank you.



PUBLIC MEETING  
FOR

PENNSYLVANIA'S DRAFT ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN

DATE October 17, 1980

PLACE EDC-NEP

Avoca, PA

NAME (Please print)	ADDRESS (Please print)	ORGANIZATION (Please print)	Do You Wish To Make Comments At This Meeting	Will You Be Submitting Written Comments to DER
David S. Gellert	P. O. Box 500, 300 S. Centre St., Pottsville, PA	Frumkin and Manto Law Offices		
William J. Parulis	P. O. Box 594, 1935 W. Market St., Pottsville, PA	GMP Land Co., Inc.	Yes	Yes
Dr. G. Mason Cadwell, Jr.	Sunnybanks Delchester Rd., Newtown Square, PA	Consultant	Yes	Yes
Leonard Zilkowski	Deputy Director, Economic Development Council of N.E. PA	Host	No	Yes
Steve Phillips	915 Wyoming Avenue Forty Fort, PA	Cahn Engineers	No	No
Bob Quinn	Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania	Host	No	No
		11-I-1		

PUBLIC MEETING  
DRAFT PENNSYLVANIA ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLANS  
AVOCA, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 17, 1980

Dr. G. Mason Cadwell, Jr., GMP Land Company, Inc. - I am here today wearing three separate hats. My first hat is as Professor at Drexel University where I teach management and engineering. A very interesting part of this is my point of view of technology and management in society in which we have been lucky enough to have some of your colleagues and the legal department of DER come down and talk with us about the management of these environmental problems that we are talking about, that is my first hat. My second hat is that I am a consultant in energy and environment and I have consulted specifically for the GMP Land Company which is also represented here. Thirdly, to much more extent than I wish it were, I am a taxpayer. I looked over your Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan Draft and I am really pleased. I think it is an outstanding effort and I turned to the back in your Exhibit 7 and I was chagrined that there are an awful lot of zeros on your assignment of dollars over the next three (3) years to possible programs. The thrust of my comments is really to say first of all that an area which you touched on, which if we touch on further, we can find a way to get some leverage to get some costsharing, to get some benefits out of your program that may be possible without the direct application of tax monies or Federal cost-sharing monies to get the job done. Specifically, on page 5, you refer to proposed tax incentives for remining. In my knowledge of any State's activities and the Federal Government's activities, this is the first, and I think it is profound, reference to the concept of remining and it is specifically important here in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania because we have got this landscape that really looks like Vietnam once over; and, you know, as well as I do, we bring in picture after picture to show you what it looks like. But, there are resources that are still underneath this bombed out landscape, and my thesis is that if we make it possible to go after those resources that are under there that the by-product to the mining operation itself we can achieve reclamation. Now if there are a lot of resources underneath the ground, it is easy to do; a private entrepreneur will arrange his business so that he can go after the resources and pay for the reclamation. If it is a marginal operation or borderline, then it is not going to happen. Our first request is for some consideration whether it is in the tax benefits as you suggested, tax relief, perhaps maybe tax credits, which could be applied to a situation where mining might be taking place but there are not enough resources available to really pay for that mine. Let me make a parenthetical statement here. If you reclaim the property on the surface as you have done before, the rule of thumb from some of your engineers is, cut off 1/3 of the acid mine drainage in some cases and you close up access to the old workings from surface water. If you go through a concept which is known as daylighting but which nobody has ever really defined, which means you dig down there and take out old pillars, close up the old tunnels, it is thought and I say it is thought because it has not been proved yet, to my knowledge, anywhere and I have been trying to find out anywhere in the anthracite or bituminous regions where this might have taken place. It is thought that you are going to double the impact in acid mine drainage, that you are going to take out at least two-thirds and maybe a whole lot more because you won't have the old workings, you won't have the old coal pillars, you won't have the elemental sulphur still down there for the water to run through. Basically, I would like to ask for some consideration for inclusion of techniques of leverage or costsharing to make it possible to remine. Now we have got some specifics. There is a particular situation that GMP is faced with that I have been involved with, which includes abandoned mines that are currently yielding so many thousands of pounds of acid and iron to the local creek. That is an ongoing proposition. This is not something that is a by-product of current

mining. If GMP goes in there and mines, anywhere between 30 to 80 or possibly even more percent of this acid mine drainage is going to be cured. Now GMP went to DER and said, look, we have a situation here and when we start pumping these mine pools, you have got this Rausch Creek treatment plant and we would like to pay you for treating the water which would be cheaper for us and easier than putting in our own plant and DER came back to GMP and said, no I am sorry you cannot do that once you put a shovel in the ground, the whole thing is yours, all that previous mine drainage, the average flow that is going on now, as well as anything new. So right now, the Chief Counsel of DER has said, you know, we are trying to apply the Barnes and Tucker case and it may not be directly applicable and we are going to have to handle this one in court so that we just do not have an administrative decision. That is an issue that is ongoing. But, my point here is that for the future, there ought to be some technique, some administrative technique, which DER has got, which brings together the current surface mining people and the abandoned mine reclamation people and takes into consideration the fact that bending the rules now, such as allowing for only the new water and not the old water, might achieve a greater gain which would be almost total abatement of all that acid mine drainage. Now there is some other things that GMP was looking for also which may or may not come out of it but which ought to be part of DER's administrative procedures. For instance, this is a complex situation where there are two separate mine pools and it would be convenient for the mine operator to lower one mine pool by discharging through the other mine pool and then out, instead of building all sorts of pumping stations and pipeways and sluice ways and all that kind of stuff. The lawyers are not sure about this. There are legal ramifications which I as an engineer really do not understand, but what I am looking for is a process within your Department that recognizes the fact that allowing an operator to do something which is somewhat unusual and does not degrade the environment, because it won't, as the water is coming anyway and allows the operator to proceed in what might be a marginal situation, would produce benefits to the Commonwealth. In this particular situation, if you start looking at the cost of a treatment plant which is going on forever, and relieving 20, 30, 40 percent of the use of that treatment plant, you can get on a cost benefit analysis maybe \$300,000 worth of cost to the Commonwealth over 15 years, and \$15 million of present value of benefit to the Commonwealth. I say present value because some of these things that go on for infinity you really cannot measure. In an informal nutshell, that is what we are asking you to add to your plan, which is to build on the statement you have in the beginning relative to re-mining, to consider the hole we have got between current mining and abandoned mining and the administrative procedures which are often run by lawyers, not technicians and I understand they have to be even though I find it frustrating as an engineer. That the processes be set out so that some kind of a cost benefit, worthwhile way, the Commonwealth can benefit greatly from working with the coal operators, because it is clear to me that the job is going to get done a lot faster if we can leverage your funds to make it possible for private enterprises to solve an awful lot of problems.

DER - The statements in the plan basically are out of the Environmental Master Plan for the Commonwealth. The situation with abandoned mines, to be reclaimed under the OSM program, is that we have got to 1) stick with the priorities that are established by the law and, therefore, without going into specifics of the GMP situation, which I am not familiar with, we have got to stick with the priorities. The second thing is we cannot subsidize an active operator to do active mining. There are cases under consideration where an active operator is interested in "daylight" type operations. I tend to agree, I do not know what a complete definition of daylighting would be either. There have been cases where it has been done. I think you are familiar with a couple out in the western part of the state. They are very small, isolated type of situations. The tax incentive, tax relief, tax credits, I think that is something

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

that is not really a complete part of the abandoned mine reclamation plan. It does get touched on. It is things, I do not think today, tomorrow or even Sunday, for which we are going to have a complete answer. I think it is something that is going to take us some time to completely feel out, flush out, and see what can be done and what can't be done. You are right, we are working with attorneys. I will turn to Mr. Fowler of DER and let him make a couple of comments. I think he is a little more familiar with GMP than I am.

DER - I have been at all of the GMP discussions, so I am very familiar with it. Your points are very well taken and also as engineers we do sometimes get frustrated. But, as you said, you have to live with the law and we are just as subject to it, and a lot of people do not realize this. As GMP or C & K or anybody else and, maybe rightly so, our enforcement folks like to wrap our knuckles before anybody else's get wrapped because that is setting a bad example if we do something wrong. But it was the exact point that you made why we put some of those pretty words in the plan and that was not eyewash. We are very serious and we have been looking at so-called daylighting or some kind of, getting with the industry, tax incentives, what have you, for about 3 or 4 years. That was before the GMP case ever came up. There are several other cases that have triggered this; and, actually, just from the engineering point of view of the state of the art of abating mine drainage, we think this is probably the answer in the future. You say it has not been proven really. But we kind of run out of options. We have tried a lot of things and we have found that they are marginally successful in the field. All kinds of research, and bench testing and demonstration that make a lot of them look great but you get, for example, mine sealing. We have had some that were quite successful and we have had some that we wish we never sealed. Treatment plants are an albatross forever and surface reclamation is about the best so far. We have not had too many problems as a result of that, but again, your return is not as great as some of the other techniques if they work. So we have been looking at daylighting and realizing that 1) we are not in the mining business and we do not intend to get in the mining business, in no way, which means working with the industry on some of these marginal borderline cases that you mentioned. Now obviously if it is not a borderline case and it is worth mining economically, industry will do it. That is what they are in business for. It is some of these sticky wickets that we think that there is a place where we need the reclamation whether it is from mine drainage or some other degradation, that is if we can get with the lawyers and it looks now, as you mentioned, Blazey and Frunkin have been in dialogue. We have had a consultant looking at the plant on the pipeline bit and so forth for which they submitted their draft report which we did not like and bounced it, and I think they are supposed to come in with the revised report the 1st of November on the economics of piping and so forth. It looks as if we are going to have to get some state laws changed and that is one reason, among others, that you see zeros on some of the categories of work for the next three years. Joe mentioned priority-wise for Pennsylvania, it is not of importance for three years because we have got so many extreme dangers and public health and safety problems, OSM would never approve them. But we do have our state program and money. So we can do it, if we get around to it, under the state and by then we will have knocked off a lot of these OSM high priorities and we certainly hope and trust that we will be able to use them in the future with OSM for mine drainage abatement. So I think we are really on the same frequency. Maybe amplifying or reinforcing some of the wording that is in there would be most worthwhile.

Cadwell - I know that DER operators are on that same wave length. Because of the relationship with the university, along with teaching, I have been able to, independent of any GMP problems, sit down with DER personnel off the record and work through some of these issues. In addition to just changing the laws, there are areas for what the lawyers call prosecutorial discretion, and such a thing as GMP asks for which is the

privilege of not paying for the water which is already flowing, and DER lawyer says well that is a Barnes and Tucker decision, you cannot do it. Another DER lawyer as well as this gentleman here, Mr. Fowler mentioned, Mr. Frunkin has said look, it is not a parallel, I mean you got room to decide otherwise within here. What I am looking for is an ability within DER to set up an administrative process to decide otherwise or come back with a reason, other than just law, that says why they cannot decide otherwise that there is room for renewal. I would like to find a way so that those responsible for one part of DER can work the decision through, with your office in a way to benefit everybody. That is what I am after. I think changing the law is going to be too slow. I would like to see that too. There has got to be some way of setting up the new procedures.

Leonard Zilkowski, Deputy Director, Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania - This discussion is very close to what we are going to put in our testimony. But there are ways right now. I think we discussed these once upon a time before when we were making our testimony for the Department of Energy to exempt anthracite from the SO<sub>2</sub> Scrubber requirements. I will refer back to the comments you made earlier in your presentation that to which I think I would like to add further insight or perspective. I am going to reinforce many of the things that Mason said. No. 1, DER now, in addition to operating this program, also operates the Resources Recovery Act Program and has primacy, in fact just got primacy, under it. Out of the RECRO legislation, what things are eligible for accelerated depreciation in tax credits. Is the reclamation of mine waste? As you know, in northeastern Pennsylvania, we have many culm banks. When you reclaim those mine banks, you are reclaiming coal. In fact, 80% of the coal now mined in northeastern Pennsylvania is coming from the culm banks. So those people that are processing the culm banks should get a tax credit. I also feel that those people that are reclaiming a natural resource, i.e. land, should also get a tax credit relative to mine waste being considered a recoverable waste under the RECRO legislation which is Federal legislation. So I would ask you people to explore how the RECRO program can be tied into this program to provide tax incentives and also the tax credit vis "a" vis these things. The second thing I would like to bring to your attention is the major problems relative to some of your priority items, especially mine subsidence, etc., taking place in the urban cities up here in northeastern Pennsylvania, especially in the northern field in our major cities; but, yet apparently, I do not know whether or not you people had sent your rural plan, your abandoned mine plan, to the offices of Community Development whereby these people are now planning major renovations to central business districts within our region. Yet, it is necessary for them to have this information on potential subsidence areas in which you would hope to utilize this program to backfill the mine voids either by reclaiming the culm banks and/or by some other method. The third thing is relative to redirecting and interconnecting the water pools. I think there is some great benefits in doing that, both in the northern field and to a large extent in the western middle fields. My understanding is that the U. S. Department of the Interior has just finished a new study on the mine water tables in the western middle fields and I believe that, in some cases, by redirecting these boreholes and these overflows, that are now current, let us say either in south Wilkes-Barre or at Buttonwood or down in the Nanticoke area, by putting two or three of those pools together, you can secure a significant amount of water that can be tied into remining some of these strip mine areas, mining new areas, and reclaiming culm banks all at the same time, not only to sell the coal but also to create a synthetic fuels industry by converting the anthracite coal either to methanol or to methane gas and then into methanol in which you can get several by-products. Not only the coal but also the alumina and also the sulphur will be used and through the by-process of going from coal to methanol, you have carbon dioxide and various other gases that also can be used to revitalize the anthracite industry. I do feel that whenever a private agency is doing something to stimulate

jobs in the depressed area where we have transfer payments, that there should be these public/private partnerships established that are outlined in the Choices for Pennsylvania Document which the Governor will be releasing within the next month or two, where there will be a concerted effort of both public and private agencies working together towards common public goals that are economic in nature and also environmentally sound. These are some of the ideas that I would like to see advanced and would be more than happy to help DER to get involved in these things, because we are now involved in the solid waste management plan; we are involved in the hazardous waste inventory plan; we are involved in the COWAMP water quality plans; we are involved in this and I see the interconnection and I think it is the disincentive to the private sector to go back and revitalize this industry if they cannot view the state government as a partner rather than an adversary.

DER - I do not think that is a problem. I do not know how it can be worked into a management implementation plan like we have but let us take a look at your comments when we get back.

Zilkowski - I will show you how it can be worked together in so far as we have already done a recreational use of anthracite mine waste land study where we showed basically how this can be pulled together. What I am saying is that we would like DER and your sister Federal agencies to work through the regional/local development districts, such as the Council, who have already established close working relationships not only with your Bureau of Mines but also with solid waste and with your water quality division and also your air pollution control division so that we can help synthesize all these programs together with you in order to spread that public money further as a partnership again. Look what has been done up in McDade Park, and several other places, and what you have done at Moraine State Park in Butler County. These are the kinds of things that we would like to see done. But, we are excited about it and I am really disappointed to see that some of the people that I would have hoped would have been here today did not come because I think the Chief Clerks in the counties gave this report to the county planning commissions. I hope that the county planning commissions alerted, let's say, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Council, like Pat Krouding and other people that are involved in these environmental issues. I know that we made this available and we have had it here but the only people that called us is Mr. Gellert here. This is an educational program that is constantly necessary.

DER - I think this is what I meant when I said that we do intend to continue working with the locals, with the development councils. We will be dealing with basically 8 of the 10. We will be working with the local governments as we have done in the past. That is not going to change. I do not think it can change; I do not think we want it to change. We have taken a look at that book; I have seen that one.

Bob Quinn, Economic Dev. Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Housing Area - The first priority in the Act is emergency. And you mentioned before about the fact that there is mine subsidence or mine caves, where people are affected by mine subsidence and they have to repair their homes and or rehabilitate their homes or whatever. I know from past experience that local governments just will not assist a lot of people who have mine cave problems because they are afraid of setting priorities and set up a chain reaction, for instance, that it is going to eat up a lot of their money that comes into the community like community development program funds. So they ignore these problems and people are suffering continuously. You just have to go up the road here 5 miles in the Minooka section or into the Parsons section of Wilkes-Barre and you will see where people are just trying to tie the structures together and there is no help there. There is help in some areas where there are target areas for community development or the redevelopment area but they try to stay away from helping people with

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

these types of problems. Now what I am saying is that it is a major problem in these communities and a lot of these people have been ignored and scared and it is going to be there as long as there are pillars being robbed and as long as there is mine subsidence in this area, and I would just like to bring some type of approach or some type of comment or recommendation or suggestion, if I could, in regard to the possibility of your agency looking into incorporating some type of Eminent Domain law into this Plan, or Federal Uniform Relocation Acquisition Act or some type of rehabilitation program--some type of a thing that will be amicable for the people who are affected in these areas. I do not know if you people have actually coordinated anything or plan to coordinate anything in the Planning Act with local government, but I do see the need. I have been working in Housing for fifteen years and I do see the need. I see people suffering on a day to day basis and continue to suffer because there are no cares, no financial help available and I am just hoping that when you bring it back and try to discuss this, that you will discuss it with the local government and try to incorporate something in the Plan. Thank you.

Zilkowski - I would like to make one more comment relative to linkage and leveraging here. We do have this act, we have the Rural Abandoned Mine Act Program which is really another section of this Act. It is handled by Soil Conservation Service and they have their own set of criteria and priorities but close to 57 of these 60 some counties in Pennsylvania are eligible under the Appalachian Regional Commission Act. Under that Act there is a Section 205 program that relates to mine and mining related activities of which subsidence and mine fires and things of this nature are eligible and a lot of times that money can be used as local neuter money to provide local share or to match other programs. There is also the Section 214 money that is available under that and there is also a provision under Section 207 whereby you can help to provide architectural plans and also assistance to housing that may be affected by subsidence. I think that what Bob has stated and in that you have stated relative to the reuse once you go in, which there was very little talk within the Plan and with the discussions thus far today, that once you do go into mining and once you do create this national resource that is now in need, energy, i.e. not only for us but the whole atlantic seaboard and part of the other economy of the region, that we utilize these funds in very innovative ways and I think they can be done and we again would like to assist in that effort.

DER - I am glad you mentioned Section 205 Glenn, because it is still in the law but, defacto, it is kaput. ARC notified us the day the President signed PL 95-87 that, in effect, now you guys have your own source of coal reclamation money, do not bug us for 205 money.

Zilkowski - Is that true? We have not heard that up here.

DER - Yes, Sir, it is. I do not think it was published very well. We have been fighting for ARC money.

Quinn - We would be more than happy to go to bat with you to help you get that back into law.

DER - We had an underrun on the Hill II Subsidence Control Project in Scranton and, incidentally, we have come under fire for putting so much money underground in Scranton. Nevertheless, we had an underrun for about \$1,000,000. We said OK, now we want to use that \$1,000,000 to help fund the second Pittston subsidence job and we've got a small overrun on a new bid that came out to \$81,000. We just got it back. No way. Out of a million dollars underrun, they would not let us have \$81,000 for that slight overrun.

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

Zilkowski - What I would like to suggest to you then, going back to the RECRO legislation, I know that under the RECRO legislation Pennsylvania and EPA have designated that the highest priority is hazardous waste. I think that is probably true from a national and state point of view, but just as that is a high priority in this region relative to hazardous waste which we all know about, I believe this mine subsidence thing is just as directly tied into our hazardous waste problem up here, i.e. filling in the mine voids with liquid cyanide and all of this other stuff that is being dumped into it.

DER - Well that does not affect us.

Quinn - Right, but I think that as we reclaim the culm banks, the waste that is now being injected into these holes would have a good bit to do to strengthen the subsidence level and I think that we should push forward that RECRO program, being utilized in close harmony with this in the urbanized areas where you have a high priority for subsidence control so that those people that are reclaiming the culm banks then might be able to get that tax incentive too, relative to stabilizing subsurface conditions.

DER - I am sure you are aware of the subsidence insurance program the Department has. That is the main financial help that the State provides to the owner for his surface structure. We are restricted to doing the actual mine backfilling and the engineering part of the underground.

Quinn - The problem with that is replacement of a home. The additional costs or what you can get from your insurance and to replace that home on the market is sometimes \$20,000.00 and the person is left out in the cold. You might have so much money here but where is he going to go with it over here. That is the problem with that insurance.

DER - If it's a real bad one like Cedar Avenue Mine Fire, they were able to buy out the whole section of the fire area.

Zilkowski - He brings up a point and I am going to go back to not necessarily our region; I think this problem is in Northumberland County or Columbia County. I am talking about Centralia, i.e. public-private partnerships. Why could not DER contract with a private developer to go in there, strip all of that out, both in a mine fire plus also any coal that might be there and even turn it into an in situ gasification plant right there. I do not know what the volumes are there, I do not know the gas being generated, but I am just talking out loud here to see if it might be feasible.

DER - Number 1, it is a Federal project so we are not involved. Number 2, at the cheapest, the solution there we think is buying out 3/4 of the town and relocating.

Zilkowski - Why? That is what they do in Germany, Poland and everywhere else.

DER - You try to sell that to the people you are buying out. Someone mentioned eminent domain; well, that gets pretty sticky.

Quinn - Well I think it can be done especially in the event that the money that you get by mining the coal, i.e. a certain percentage of that, might be able to pay for some of the costs for relocating the people.

DER - What you would get out of there in the way of coal is almost negligible as we know now.



PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

Quinn - If you do go into some of these large scale open pit proposals that are now being considered?

DER - The pitch there is such that all of a sudden you are down 400, 500, 600 feet before you got anything.

Quinn - We are now working with the Allegheny Cooperative and the Governor's Energy Council to look at the possibility of developing a large scale open pit program that will be anywhere from 1/2 mile to 1 mile wide, 1,800 feet deep and close to 5 to 10 miles long. I think if we are willing to look at those kinds of ventures, which we will probably move some people in the process, I think we can do it on a smaller scale in Centralia.

DER - Well there it is economical for the industry to go do it.

Zilkowski - Well that is one reason why I say it because I think really that the day of saying that is a Federal project and that is a State project and that is a private project, the world economy and the economics now dictate that it be a joint public/private partnership because the average guy in the street does not care whether or not it is a Federal or State project or a local project; he sees it as a governmental project. I think we have to react in response to that kind of mentality or perception of the problem.

Steve Philips, Used to be with Columbia County Community Development - I am familiar with the Centralia problem and now am with a private consultant. But it is interesting to follow what Don said because at Centralia, as opposed to a lot of other areas, and I have been born and raised in Luzerne County, where the property owners never own the subsurface rights, Centralia Borough Council owns the subsurface rights, that has been a bone of contention for many, many years as to what would happen with the coal reserves when and if the Borough were ever acquired and the people were relocated. Now I have been working with the people for the last three months wearing a private sector hat and several years before that as a public sector hat and I think, Don, they would be amenable to the idea of relocation because I talk to them at least on a weekly basis, if they can be conclusively shown that in this case and point, Centralia Borough Council is diametrically opposed to the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. They do not want the Commissioners to get that coal. If we could prove to them that the coal reserves would be utilized as a local share or as a major portion of designing New Centralia, they would be very amenable to it, I think. I have gone to the public hearings that OSM has conducted, and naturally a lot of the old people do not want to leave the area because there is a sense of community that we all have that were born and raised in the coal regions. Where I agree wholeheartedly with Lenny is that we can say it is an OSM project, they are Federal, we are DER, and we are State. Because if this does ever come to fruition, it is going to require a concentrated effort on the part of all entities of government. We all have a responsibility. We all should have a commitment to effectuate whatever has to be done, because there is a need. There may be 1,100 people. In some cases they are going to have to go down 500 ft. I think it is really 24 million tons I think the Bureau of Mines estimated in the report they prepared for OSM. I do not think it is 24 thousand tons. I think it is 24 million and you figure a value of that at maybe \$20.00 a ton, maybe less in some cases because of what would be involved in reclaiming the coal. It is ironic, because yesterday one of my old former redevelopment authority members, a Centralia native called me up just to chit chat. He is working for Pagnotti building an airport in the Virgin Islands. He feels it is hard because there is several hundred million dollars worth of coal under the Borough because of the Button vein and the Mammoth vein. No one could ever say conclusively how much coal. We do not know

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

how much of it has been robbed. There is no way I think that we can relocate a portion of the Borough because one thing that would make it more palatable is if we can maintain the integrity of the Borough. Many of the people have to be given the option to relocate wherever they desire but many others want to still have the Centralia identification. I have a call in to the area State legislator today. He is supposed to get someone back to me from the Legislative Reference Bureau to see what I can do in terms of annexation. I realize that both Conyngham Township which surrounds the Borough and the Borough would have to vote in the affirmative but I want to make sure that if it ever comes to that, I want to have my homework done and we have a method already lined up as to where we are going to put the Borough.

Zilkowski - Now some of these things occurred in other sections of the Commonwealth and in the Country. When I was County Planning Director in Monroe County, there was a great deal of talk about really relocating the Village of Wishkeel to provide the reservoir for the Tocks Island Dam and Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Army Corps of Engineers has a record of really moving people whenever they are planning these national reservoirs, especially in the western portion of our Country. This is not unusual, and I think again, with this sense of pride, this sense of institution, this sense of values and some of the historical buildings in these communities, I think they can be moved and restored. Look what Egypt did whenever they raised the Aswan Dam, relative to the Nile River where they moved all those Egyptian temples and the massive amount of money that cost to do that. I think this is something like it on a smaller scale, and I am not saying that it is very compatible. What I am saying is look at it from a point of view of conceptualizing it but at a different scale and for a different purpose. I think we can learn from these examples of what other people are doing.

DER - I did not want to get into detail on Centralia at this time. When I said the Federal, we try to emphasize that because number 1, the Feds have the authority to relocate and if they want to, they have the money.

Zilkowski - All I think I am saying here is if you people are looking for ammunition, we are willing to join the parade and provide you the ammunition you need to shoot at the Feds.

Philips - OSM does not anticipate having all the money because they are talking to me about helping them line up the dollars even working with the Federal Regional Council. \$84 million was their projection for the whole area.

Zilkowski - That does not bother me. I see the United States putting out \$16 billion between now and 1993 on a new synthetic fuel industry and what I see is the possibility of the anthracite being used in either the 80 power plants that have been ordered to convert from oil to gas to coal along the Atlantic seaboard to meet the air pollution requirements, and/or could be converted either to methane gas and/or methanol and then be used in these utilities along the Atlantic seaboard as a peaking fuel. Then, I think we should move ahead in these directions because the national interest, the State interest, and the local interest are all compatible with each other.

DER - Do we have further comments or questions regarding the abandoned mine reclamation plan?

Cadwell - Would you give me the courtesy of sending me a final copy of your submission? You have the address.

DER - OK. What we are going to do, we are going to send copies to OSM and once they

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

approve, and we anticipate that is going to occur sometime after or about the first of the year, we will then make a reproduction of any changes which they want in our final.

Cadwell - Where will your submission be for review?

DER - Charleston, West Virginia.

Cadwell - Would you have a copy at Harrisburg that we could look at?

DER - Yes, we will have a copy.

DER - But we were not going to make any distribution of Final Draft until it got approved in case OSM says change a page or pages. Once they approve it then we are going to run a couple hundred copies of it.

Cadwell - Would you be available after November 3 for a call so I can come see what you submitted?

DER - Sure.

Cadwell - Is there anything else we can do to achieve some of the public participation that Leonard wishes we had today and the people would not come. We do not know whether they were notified or what.

DER - That, I think is somewhat of a serious subject for me, it is statewide. I do not know what the cause of it is.

Philips - I would not say causes, there just was not any information about this. You know how I tried to find out something about this meeting and I did not find anything until two days ago. A lot of people that I called, I may not have called everyone, but a lot of people I got in touch with in DER itself did not know any more than what was read in the paper. Now I obviously did not get in touch with you people. You would have known. But, I did not know any more than what I read in the paper myself and it seems to me that it was not publicized as well as it could have been.

DER - It may be a point.

DER - How many newspapers did it appear in?

DER - 45 newspapers plus each of the counties, in particular Schuylkill, had their own press release put out in addition to a Department release. I really do not know what to say about it. We did find people coming to us at the other meetings and saying, "Hey, I saw this in the paper and thought I would come by and see what it was".

DER - We also had a number of phone calls from people who read it and called into ask a question or make a comment.

DER - I do not know what we are going to find next week when we get the comments in. What kind of participation we will have there. I hope it is pretty widespread.

DER - We were hoping that the development districts in the counties would help spread the word.

Quinn - Now let me address that. Because the first conversation I believe I had with

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

Mr. Hoffman, I asked whether or not, in fact, they wanted us to send it out to the 2,000 people we have on our mailing list that earlier received this publication over here that lists the projects you were proposing. I also offered at that time to put out our own news release and to have the three TV stations and radio stations and major newspaper here today to cover and at that point in time he said he would get back in touch with me because the draft was still being worked on and if they wanted us to do any personal publicity on this in addition to what the Department was going to do out of Harrisburg, he would let me know.

DER - I never got back to you.

Quinn - That is correct Sir. I figured you did not want any help.

DER - We felt we did have it pretty well covered with the 45 newspapers and that is one newspaper in one coal county and we picked out the one with the biggest circulation out of the Pennsylvania Manual, I guess it is, to try to get as big a widespread publicity on the thing as we could. In addition to paying for ads in the papers, we did have a statewide press release request. I do not know how widespread it is because we have had some projects that we had just then got approved by the Feds and I just saw in last night's paper that the Secretary of Interior announced today, which would be yesterday, that they were approved and we have known about it for about two weeks.

Zilkowski - I just do not think the people really look at it when they see it. Our staff man, Bob Quinn, came up to me, and asked why are we holding this public meeting today? I said it is on the program and plan. You have to understand sometimes that the wheels of Government move slowly. I think you have really, and we are not here to criticize, please believe me my comments are not intended, because I know that everyone has worked 10, 14, 15 hours a day to get out the work and do an admirable and a responsible job, but whenever you went over who you contacted, the Chief Clerks, I think at the County level, I would of said that would probably be the appropriate people for their rural abandoned mine program but since the U. S. Department of Interior under this program is mainly dealing with the urban portion as I understand it of the Act.

DER - To a large extent statewide.

Zilkowski - I think at least again the mayor or at least the Office of Community Development that are in the construction business that do not know which portions of their City are undermined or where there may be potential to utilize this program in conjunction with the community development programs, they could have benefitted by attendance at this meeting today.

DER - That stage we'll get to, number 1, in our inventory which is coming up where they will be getting with the actual construction.

Quinn - We have also been involved with DER under a similar program through the Appalachian Regional Commission where we have looked at the mine subsidence within the northern field and with several consultants through the Appalachian Regional Commission on a grid and that has caused an awful lot of grief. Mainly, because the grid is too big and the percentage of the sample that is used to make the determinations of either high risk potential subsidence versus marginal subsidence versus no subsidence compared to what the mining engineers say about a specific area, there is a considerable amount of disagreement. In fact, most of the private sector of people, i.e., the Chamber of Commerce and the I.D. types which are trying to attract industry do not want that information to get out. But DER needs to get it out relative to the mine subsidence

PUBLIC MEETING, AVOCA, cont.

insurance program so that you can get people to take out this subsidence insurance. We are confronted with the idea, the problem here as a regional organization, that when these projects come in here for massive urban renewal efforts in the central cities, we have to alert them and their consultants that this generalized information is available and that they should look at it, they should be aware of it, and that they should hire mining engineers to do the core drilling before they move ahead. That is a big responsibility on our part because sooner or later we are going to miss one of those like they did at Allied Services and you are going to have a problem.

DER - If they are talking about a site for specific redevelopment or something, the easiest way to check on the old mining or so forth is to go to the Bureau of Mines Office or to Steve's (DER District Engineer) office where they got their mine maps.

Quinn - I agree with you and Steve is always cooperative. What I am saying is often times these people come from out of State, consultants, or people come from Philadelphia where they are not as knowledgeable as you, and do not really know some of the problems and often time in their haste to meet the clients' desires, some of these things are not looked at as thoroughly as what they should be or as comprehensively as what they should be and I am just trying to help the process rather than to really raise any undue concern here.

Cadwell - I want to thank you for coming out and listening.

DER - I would like to thank you for coming in to listening to me and offering your comments to us. We will, as I said, take a look at these comments and try to see where we need to make modifications. There is no pride authorship. Thanks for your comments and your questions to us and your ideas and so forth.

Written comments received from GMP Land Company, 4 pages, dated October 17, 1980.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

ARMSTRONG  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Planning Department (Place)

in Kittanning, PA, Armstrong County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 9/17/80 to 10/17/80  
(Date) (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-1

*Barbara C. Marshall*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Planning Dept. Market St. Kittanning	412-543- 2500	See attached Letter signed by Bd of Commissioners

WILLIAM H. KERR

HARRY M. FOX  
Chairman

GROVER H. MYERS



"powerful good country"

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF ARMSTRONG

October 22, 1980

Mr. D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water  
Resources Management  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P. O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Fowler:

Armstrong County has reviewed the Pennsylvania Abandoned  
Mine Reclamation Plan and offers the following comments.

The Department of Environmental Resources is still utilizing the Alternative Environmental Futures population projections. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission now has available the Cycle III population projections which are more recent.

The only method cited for public comment is the A-95 review process, which we feel does not adequately provide for public input.

Since this Plan does not specify particular projects, it is difficult for us to provide much useful commentary. In the future, please refer any specific project proposals for Armstrong County to the following agencies:

1. Armstrong County Department of Economic and Community Development  
402 East Market Street  
Kittanning, PA 16201
2. Soil Conservation Service  
RD #6  
Kittanning, PA 16201

### ARMSTRONG COUNTY

Response to Board of Commissioners letter:

Comment No. 1 - The use of the population projections as included in the Plan was selected because of its common base and single source availability.

Comment No. 2 - We feel that our existing public input mechanisms and as presented at the public meetings is adequate.

Comment No. 3 - Specific project proposals and annual grant applications will be processed through the A-95 agencies and local agencies as necessary. Coordination with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) will be primarily with the SCS State Office in Harrisburg who will work with their districts.

Comment No. 4 - No comment required.

4 We are encouraged by the large amounts of funding proposed for acid mine drainage abatement in the Allegheny and Kiskiminetas River Watersheds. This is Armstrong County's most severe environmental problem and new occurrences are constantly arising.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*William H. Kier*  
*Donna Meyer*

/mdw



REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

Beaver  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Beaver County Planning Commission Office  
(Place)

in Beaver, Pennsylvania 15009, Beaver County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

(Date) (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

**Chief Clerk**  
**Signature**

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
SCS P O Box 40 Beaver, PA 15009	775-6231	This Draft seems to be speaking to the <u>Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program</u> very clearly. It looks like the methods of reclaiming strip land have been developed with careful planning.
Beaver County Planning Commission Courthouse Beaver, PA 15009	728-5700 Ext. 312	Evaluate, prioritize, and include Raccoon Creek as a specific project. Evaluate effect of acid mine drainage on North Fork of Little Beaver Creek.

X	Weston	Earley
	Thompson	Thorpe
	Baker	Wright
	McArthur	Labor
	Mitchell	Ramsey
	Ferrigno	
	Schooler	
	Farey	

**BEAVER COUNTY**

Comment No. 1 - No response.

Comment No. 2 - In response to the comment of the Beaver County Planning Commission directed towards the tabular listing of proposed mine drainage abatement expenditures shown on page 29 of the draft report, the projected expenditures are listed for major river basins and are not meant to reflect that the work would be done only on those rivers. During our acid mine drainage abatement program conducted under Operation Scarlift, we have looked at many of the tributary streams and it would become a rather lengthy list and possibly somewhat meaningless listing to go into specific streams, creeks, or tributary streams, to some or all of these major river basins. Pennsylvania has 20 major river basin groupings and the listing on page 29 of the draft report is meant to indicate the current cost estimate of work that is known to be required within each of the listed basins. It is not an exclusive list and is not intended to preclude any work on streams such as Raccoon Creek, or North Fork of Little Beaver Creek. Some work has in fact been done through the Operation Scarlift program in Raccoon Creek.

Comment No. 3 - No specific response to the Chief Clerk or the Beaver County Commissioners is necessary.

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Daniel Donatella Chief Clerk Court House Beaver, Pa. 15009	(412) 728-5700	The Board of Beaver County Commissioners concur with the comments made by the Beaver County Planning Commission.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

BLAIR  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Blair County Commissioners Office (Place)

in Hollidaysburg, Blair County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from October 1, 1980 to October 17, 1980 (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

*Edith H. Long*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

Western	Eastern
Adams	Allegheny
Armstrong	Butte
Beaver	Cameron
Berks	Clarke
Bucks	Columbia
Butte	Delaware
Cameron	Franklin
Clarke	Harris
Columbia	Indiana
Delaware	Jefferson
Franklin	Lancaster
Harris	Lebanon
Indiana	Lehigh
Jefferson	Monroe
Lancaster	Northampton
Lebanon	Philadelphia
Lehigh	Pike
Monroe	Schuylkill
Northampton	Somerset
Philadelphia	St. Clair
Pike	Tioga
Schuylkill	Union
Somerset	Washington
St. Clair	York
Tioga	
Union	
Washington	
York	

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Frank J. Burggraf Planner II Blair Co. Planning Commission	695-5541 Ext. 61	Comments Attached.
Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc.	943-5214	This engineering firm is still to review the plan and at this time they have no comments.



## BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

HIGHLAND HALL ANNEX  
COURT HOUSE  
HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA 16648

RICHARD T. HAINES, AICP  
PLANNING DIRECTOR



TELEPHONE  
814-695-5941

October 16, 1980

Mr. Ralph T. Mangus  
Blair County Courthouse  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

RE: Review of Pennsylvania's  
Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Plan

Dear Sir:

After thorough review of the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan, I have found this management tool for DER to be based on sound planning principles. In no case should this staff review be viewed as a recommendation by the nine (9) member Blair County Planning Commission.

A small point (refer to page 9-A-1), Blair County's National Register Properties are not listed, i.e., Blair County Courthouse, Highland Hall Annex, and the Royer Mansion.

If the Blair County Planning Commission can review each proposed project, through the A-95 program and this requirement is included in the plan, I find no problem recommending this plan.

The USDA, SCS of Blair County has been notified of this plan and comments have been requested.

Sincerely,

*Frank J. Burggraf*  
Frank J. Burggraf, Planner  
Blair County Planning Commission  
Courthouse, Highland Hall Annex  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

FJR/nrm  
Copies: 24-Member Government Advisory Committee  
Blair County Planning Commission  
USDA, SCS

## BLAIR COUNTY

Letter from the Blair County Planning Commission:

Comment No. 1 - The listing of national register of historic properties has been modified.

Comment No. 2 - The A-95 process is intended to provide significant opportunities for local involvement by such agencies as the planning commissions within each individual county. The utilization of the uniform planning regions or local development districts, as the case may be, is seen as an ideal point of contact by the Department.

Comment No. 3 - No comments have been received by DER from the U. S. DA SCS of Blair County.

Gwin Dobson and Foreman, Inc. (Engineering Firm) did not provide written comments.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

BUTLER COUNTY

No response required.

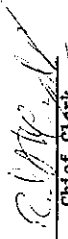
BUTLER  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Butler County Planning Commission (Place)

in Butler, Pa., Butler County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 30 September to 20 October, 1980.  
(Date)

11-1-80 The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
County Planning Commission staff, Lafayette Building Butler, Pa. 16001	412-2854731	None

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

**CAMBRIA COUNTY**

**Response to Clare J. Dumm:**

Comment No. 1 - The Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service role during the abandoned mine reclamation program will be as an assisting and participating agency for coordination purposes. Their input will be requested on different projects. The individual conservation districts are welcome to provide any input they have available.

No Comments required for No. 2 or No. 3.

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at \_\_\_\_\_ Courthouse \_\_\_\_\_  
(Place)

in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Town/City) (County Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cambridge County.

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 9/29/80  
(Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

*Thomas J. Hughes*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Clair J. Dumm Cambria Conserva- tion District	814-472-5440 Ext. 217	This draft review of the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan clearly indicates the need for reclamation and should be initiated as soon as possible. Conservation Districts should play a major role in site selection and priority rating.
Robin L. Moyer District Conserva- tionist Soil Conservation Service	814-472-5500	
Bradford G. Beigay Executive Director Cambria County Planning Commission	814-472-5440 Ext. 226	No comments on this plan review. No comments on this plan review.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

COLUMBIA  
COUNTY

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Response to Mr. Robert N. Hansten:

The Plan is not intended to be project specific. It is to be a management implementation document.

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation


Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at COURT HOUSE (Place)

in BLOOMSBURG, PA., COLUMBIA County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from October 6, 1980  
to October 17, 1980 (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to  
review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-10

  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan  
(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Robert N. Hansten Conservation Commission Seneca Box 319 Bloomberg, Pa.	717-784- 6660	Not very specific

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P. L. 95-87

Crawford  
COUNTY

CRAWFORD COUNTY

The listing of sites on a National Register of Historic Sites for  
Crawford County has been modified.

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Planning Office, County Courthouse  
(Place)

in Meadville, Crawford County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 10/1/80  
to 10/17/80 (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to  
review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-3-11

*Hubert E. Logan*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan  
(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
E. P. Edinger	814/ 336-1151 ext. 61	The listing of sites on the National Register for Crawford County is incomplete. There are 11 sites on the Register - not 2 as listed.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Oakley M. Lamb  
Ivan G. Rose  
Richard J. Ruhlman



Crawford

County

CHIEF CLERK  
Hubert E. Vogan  
SOLICITOR  
Robert B. Derrhaller

Commissioners' Office

COURTHOUSE  
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA  
16335

Weston	Foray
Pratt	Wib
Smith	Kyle
Green	Raplo
McMullen	Fisher
Farley	Romeo
Sokolow	
Foray	

October 2, 1980

Mr. D. E. Fowler  
PennDER  
P. O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

11-J-12

SUBJECT: Review Of Pennsylvania's  
Abandoned Mine Reclama-  
tion Plan

Dear Mr. Fowler:

Enclosed is the review document you provided our county.  
Please know that should any more persons review the  
subject plan we shall inform you of this in a subsequent  
letter.

Sincerely,

*Hubert E. Vogan*  
Hubert E. Vogan  
Chief Clerk

ljm

Enc:

*Check this out*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

Dauphin  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Dauphin County Court House Commissioners Office (Place)

in Harrisburg, PA, Dauphin County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 10-14-80 to 10-20-80.  
(Date) (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

*[Signature]*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

11-J-13

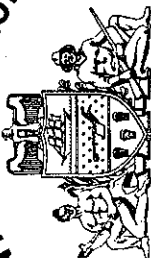
The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Mr. E. P. ... ... ...	717- 690-2258	Quarant...

COMMISSIONERS  
JOHN E. MINNICK, CHAIRMAN  
STANLEY R. REED  
CHIEF CLERK  
SONEY A. REESE  
MAILING ADDRESS  
P.O. BOX 295  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120  
PHONE 325-2741

OFFICE OF

# COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



DAUPHIN COUNTY  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Logged

SOLICITOR  
HERBERT A. SCHAFFNER  
ASSISTANT SOLICITOR  
ROBERT L. KRUPP  
SPECIAL COUNSEL  
LEONARD BRINER  
MEETING DAY  
MONDAY  
8:00 AM

Western	Esley
Dauphin	Thiropa
York	Kyle
Lebanon	Kipko
Richland	Fabor
Perrygo	Romeo
Scotow	
Fordy	

October 3, 1980

Mr. D. E. Fowler  
Special Assistant for Land and Water  
Resources Management  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P. O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: RM-AL

Dear Mr. Fowler:

We are in receipt as of September 30, your letter of September 25 and the draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. While as of this moment I have not yet reviewed the Plan, I have reviewed your cover letter very carefully and am quite distressed by the requests contained therein.

I know that saying that County Commissioners are busy people in and of itself is not a defense in raising any questions concerning an issue such as abandoned mines. However, I must state for the record that I am troubled and distressed by the thought that all one has to do is prepare a document, regardless of size, and assume the Commissioners are sitting around just waiting to review and comment on that document. Further, I am disturbed that the assumption is apparently made that County Commissioners either have A) the knowledge to deal with a document of this type strictly on their own, or B) have staff handy, willing, and available to do a review on their behalf. These assumptions are totally incorrect and I want to be on record as stating so.

## DAUPHIN COUNTY

Letter received from Commissioner John E. Minnick. The letter from John E. Minnick, Commissioner of Dauphin County was received and a telephone call was made to Mr. Minnick. This telephone call was intended to clarify the apparent misconception that surfaced in the letter. The Department explained that the plan was not technically oriented but was rather a management implementation document prepared in accordance with Federal regulations. We did not expect any technical expertise to be available at the individual county level to coordinate a review or to provide any technical evaluation of the plan. We recognize that the greatest amount of abandoned mine land problems in Dauphin County are on State Game Lands north of the City of Harrisburg. The main concern expressed by Mr. Minnick was that DER was looking for an inventory or inventory data from the county. This was clarified when we advised him that we would be doing a complete inventory of the abandoned mine lands of Pennsylvania. No further response to Mr. Minnick's letter is considered necessary.

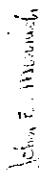
Further, to think that only one plan has been made available for review by County, local officials and general public in 17 short days is really stretching the time of other busy public officials. I don't mean to imply that non-public officials are not busy, but certainly in this County it would be literally impossible for local officials to review this proposed plan. I recognize that not every local official has an abandoned mine within the confines of their municipality. But being aware of the regulatory process, I would certainly think that each municipality should have some input, if they desire, into the plan review.

I wish to go on record that while we recognize that Dauphin County does in fact have abandoned mines within its boundaries, we, the County Commissioners, do not have the expertise nor the ability to identify the location of those mines. I also protest the lack of sufficient time to review a document of such major importance and the assumption that we have the expertise to make an adequate review of this document.

Perhaps you could get in touch with me and we could discuss my concerns without becoming embroiled in a letter-writing campaign that may eventually find its way into the eyes of the news media. If you desire, you may call at 255-2715 for discussion of my letter.

On behalf of my fellow Commissioners, I am

Sincerely yours,



John E. Minnich  
Chairman,

Dauphin County Board of Commissioners

JEM:rnc

cc: Commissioner Norman P. Hetrick  
Commissioner Stephen R. Reed

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

GREENE COUNTY

No response required.

GREENE  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at GREENE COUNTY Conservation District (Place)

in WAYNESBURG, GREENE County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from OCT 1, 1980  
to OCT 21, 1980. (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to  
review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-5-16

21.1.1063  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
KARL NIEDERWARTER DISTRICT CONSERVATIONISTS		NO COMMENTS AT THIS TIME
ROSEANNE SAUDOR SOIL TECHNICIAN		NO COMMENTS AT THIS TIME
JOHN REAGAN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT		NO COMMENTS AT THIS TIME

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

JEFFERSON COUNTY

No response required.

Jefferson  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Commissioner's Office  
(Place)

in Brookville, Jefferson County,  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 10-1-80  
(Date)

to 10-15-80  
(Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to  
review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-17

Hatchem H. Gumbel  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan  
(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Richard H. Gumbel 1138-7938	814 842-7938	
Brookville, Pa. 10-1-80	814 842-7938	
Brookville, Pa. 10-1-80	814 842-7938	
Brookville, Pa. 10-1-80	814 842-7938	

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

Lebanon  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Room 206 Municipal Building (Place)

in Lebanon, Lebanon County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from September 29, to October 17, 1980. (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-18

*Donna H. Gerbrich*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

LEBANON COUNTY

Comment No. 1 - The special emphasis requested by Mr. Behr of the Cooperative Extension is recognized as a valid comment from Lebanon County which does not have a significant amount of abandoned coal mine problems. The emphasis requested by PL 95-87 and the regulations, mandate that the priorities be followed in the established priority order.

Comment No. 2 - In regard to the comment from Mr. Karl Helenick of the SCS, we would agree with not building on top of old mines, but this becomes a very strict land use control and we are not the enforcement agency for such an action. Anyone who does build over abandoned coal mines should obtain subsidence insurance. The second portion of this comment provided can only be concurred with although we do not feel that it would be beneficial to include this as a major objective; it should rather be left for individual project planning and evaluation. The basic intent is to address source correction and recover significant stream mileage to the extent possible through acid mine drainage abatement or other water quality improvements.

Comment No. 3 - Response Clare H. Gerbrich of the Conservation District. The mandated priorities for work will, in all likelihood, preclude utilization of funds for priorities 7 and 8 until sometime in the distant future.

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
<i>Mr. Behr Cooperative Extension Room 110 Municipal Bldg Lebanon, Pa.</i>	<i>272-3377</i>	<i>Good estimate of costs as historical! Suggest special emphasis on Priority number 1, 3 and 7 (Page 7 of plan book).</i>
<i>Karl Helenick Room 110 Municipal Bldg Lebanon, Pa.</i>	<i>272-4618</i>	<i>As we repair the damage, let's prevent new problem over. By not doing the same as the past. (Built on top of old mines) Reclaim small upland areas to restore water quality in each county. Cont. development.</i>
<i>Clare H. Gerbrich Conservation District Room 110 Municipal Bldg Lebanon</i>	<i>717 272-3377</i>	<i>For Lebanon County Priority 7-8 should be considered.</i>

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

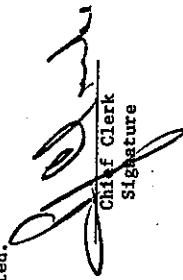
Luzerne  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at Luzerne County Court House (Place)

in Wellington, Pa. (Town/City), Luzerne County.

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from Oct 1, 1980 (Date) to October 17, 1980 (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

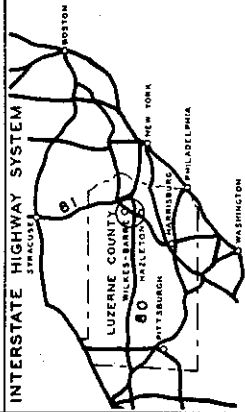
The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Edward H. Kellough, Jr. Luzerne County Pkg. Comm. New Grand House Annex Wellington, Pa. 18707	717-825-1567	Letter to S.E. Fowler of DE R sub 10.1-80, a copy of which is attached herewith.



# LUZERNE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

**Logged**



NOEL B. CAVERLY  
CHAIRMAN  
JOHN L. McDONALD, ESQ.  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
STEVE PAULOVICH  
SECRETARY  
DONALD P. BARKASY  
ROBERT BETZLER  
JOHN DUBINSKI  
STANLEY LESKIE  
ALAN S. MAJOR  
CARLO J. SAVORITO

EDWARD HEISELBERG  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING  
DONALD J. SHYMANSKI  
ZONING OFFICER

NEW COURT HOUSE ANNEX  
WILKES-BARRIE, PA. 18711  
PLANNING COMMISSION (717) 852-1880  
ZONING OFFICE: (717) 852-1586

September 30, 1980

Western	Enley
Barre	Thapa
Washburn	Wile
Perchella	Rafael
Perrevo	Taber
Socolew	Romeo
Forrey	

D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant for  
Land and Water Resources Management  
Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Fowler:

These are my comments on The Draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan:

- 1 Page 18 - Should include improvement of recreation areas under number 4.  
e, f
- 2 Page 20 - Should include county planning commissions under Other Agencies  
With Which Coordination Should Be Affected.  
? Then Regional Comm?
- 3 Page 28 - When will the final report of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan be available, particularly the County data in the Appendix? The counties might wish to comment on this.  
X
- 4 Page 31 - Is Volume 2 of the State Reclamation Plan available yet? If so, please send Luzerne County a copy.
- 5 Page 40 - Most mines in the Wyoming Valley of Luzerne County are flooded, and would be very expensive to dewater, and keep the water out of them. X
- 6 Appendix - Should include Federal water and recreation areas, such as the Francis E. Walter Dam and Picnic Area.

## LUZERNE COUNTY

The following is the DER response to the September 30, 1980 letter from Mr. Edward Heiselberg, Director of Planning, Luzerne County Planning Commission:  
Comment No. 1 - Page 18 - This item is addressed in items 3(a), 4(e), 4(f), 4(k), and 4(l). Recreational would normally tend to be rated at the higher point value.

Comment No. 2 - Page 20 - The County Planning Commissioners are frequently contacted by the Department or they frequently contact the Department. Our coordination is through them but the primary point of coordination with the local interest group will be the 8 Uniform Regional Planning Commissions. They would be the agency we should contact and deal with county planning commissions.

Comment No. 3 - Page 28 - The final version of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan will be submitted to the Office of Surface Mining on or about November 3, 1980. We will not make wide distribution of the final plan until such time as OSM approves this plan. It may be necessary for the Department to prepare a supplemental or additional information to include the Plan. This will be done prior to making a wide distribution of the Plan. The county data for Luzerne County is still not available and may not be available until the final publication.

Comment No. 4 - Page 31 - Volume 2 of the State Reclamation Plan is in the process of being reproduced. The Luzerne County data is being printed by the Commerce Department and will be available around the 25th of October. We will send a copy to Luzerne County at that time.

Comment No. 5 - Page 40 - We recognize that fact that dewatering of deep mines is expensive. The opportunity to do so would be available to active mining industry. They would be responsible for the cost involved in these should they wish to mine an area.

Comment No. 6 - Appendix - We did not address Federal areas due to the fact that these would be available to the Federal government.

Comment No. 7 - We agree with the general comment that exposed coal seams should be covered to prevent catching fire. While this should be done statewide, we do not feel that this would be a priority project classification to cover exposed coal seams throughout the State.

Comment No. 8 - Copies of the preliminary Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan are not available to send to the libraries. There was a major cost item involved in reproduction of the draft and we sent it to the County Clerks to have available for review.

Page 2....  
Mr. D. E. Fowler  
September 30, 1980

7 General - Exposed coal seams should be covered, as people tend to dump refuse in them, and they catch fire, and may be very expensive to extinguish, as well as creating air pollution and health problems. *Done*

8 It would be desirable to have copies of the preliminary Abandoned Reclamation Plan at the libraries available for review, and principally regional libraries, such as the Osterhaut Library in Wilkes-Barre, PA. *No*

Yours truly,

*Edward Heiselberg*  
Edward Heiselberg, Director of Planning  
Luzerne County Planning Commission

EH/rb

P.S. Please send me a copy of the notice to the local newspaper.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

MERCER COUNTY

No response required.

MERCER  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE (Place)

in MERCER, PA, MERCER County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from SEPTEMBER 29, 1980 to OCTOBER 29, 1980, between the hours of 8:30 a.m., to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.  
(Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-22

*W. J. Leblond*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

No response required.

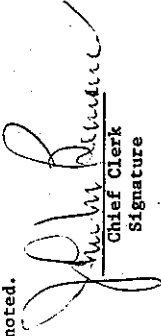
Northumberland  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at North'd Co. Engineer's Office (Place).

in Sunbury, Pennsylvania, Northumberland County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 9/30/80 to 10/17/80.  
(Date) (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

No response required.

SCHUYLKILL  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at SCHUYLKILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE (Place)

in POTTSVILLE, PENNA., SCHUYLKILL County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from SEPT. 29 to OCT. 17, 1980  
(Date) (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-24

*Maryanne Redington*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

SOMERSET  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at County Commissioners' Office  
(Place)

in Somerset, Somerset County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from October 1  
to October 17.  
(Date) (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

Walter S. Heist  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Donna Landis, Planner Somerset Co. Planning Commission Box 4 Somerset, PA 15501	(814) 443-1431	The planning Commission is interested in mine reclamation work in Somerset County, and requests a copy of the final plan when it becomes available.
Walter S. Heist Somerset Co. Commissioner (Ret.) P.O. Box 30 Somerset, PA 15501	(814) 415-1141	Very well put together.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Comment No. 1: Don L. Landis - A copy of the final plan will be distributed with more widespread distribution after we receive Office of Surface Mining approval of the plan. This is expected to be made available sometime in the January to February 1981 time frame.

Walter S. Heist Somerset County Commissioners no response required.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

Weston	Early
Porter	Thorp
Daugherty	Shannon
Pachella	Miller
Perigo	Romeo
Soclow	Ferry

Tioga  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at 118 Main Street (Place)

in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, Tioga County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from October 6, 1980 to October 17, 1980. (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

*Donald W. Blackwell*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Tioga County Board of Commissioners	724-1906	Page 10-B-3 The Timber Rattlesnake ( <i>Crotalus harridus</i> ) is not threatened or uncommon to rare in the North Central Section of Pennsylvania. In fact, numbers may be increasing.
Tioga County Planning Commission	724-1906	Page 8-B-2 The population figures for Tioga County for 1990 and 2000 are incorrect. Tioga County projects population to be 43,000 in 1990 and 45,000 in 2000 if current trends continue to occur.

TIOGA COUNTY

Comment No. 1 - Tioga County Board of Commissioners. The timber rattlesnake is listed by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission as "status indeterminate" as noted on page 10-B-2. We feel that although numbers may be increasing in some areas of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that the listing should be maintained.

Comment No. 2 - Tioga County Planning Commission. The population figures included in the plan are those figures that are utilized by the Department of Environmental Resources for official population projections in their planning efforts. These figures were published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, Volume 10, Number 33 on August 16, 1980. We recognize that they may not agree with individual county projections but feel for uniformity that a one source projection is essential.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

WARREN COUNTY

D. K. Rice comment is accepted. We are not aware of any significant abandoned mine problems in Warren County but there is known coal in the county and we do want to include the county within our planning effort. During the State's efforts of data gathering under the national abandoned lands inventory a determination can be made as to the extent of any problems that do exist.

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at County Courthouse Lobby

in Warren (Town/City), Warren (County Name) County.

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 9-30-80 to 10-17-80 (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-27

*[Signature]*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
D.K. Rice Court House Warren Pa 1636	814- 733-7550	I think this is a step in the right direction - However we in Warren Co. have no known abandoned mines that have any openings.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

Weston	Ensign
Lawrence	Porter
Deane	Wick
Lebanon	Clark
Union	Wright
York	Myer

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Planning Commission letter is addressed in next statement - no comment required at this time.

WASHINGTON  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at the County Commissioners Office (Place)

in Washington, Washington County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 9-30-80 to 10-17-80.  
(Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

*Christine S. Wallatone*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan (Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Floyd Laubham Washington Co. Planning Commission	412 228-6811	Comments not yet finalized.

W. ERNEST WATSON, CHAIRMAN  
DAVID MILLER  
R. L. ADAMSON

CHARLES MURRAY  
WILLIAM PORTER

JOAN JESSEN  
A. B. KENNEY

JOHN HEPLER  
WILLIAM FINLEY

## WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: WILLIAM F. SEMBER

COURTHOUSE SQUARE 100 WEST BEAU STREET WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 15301

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

FRANK R. MASCARA  
DAVID L. GILMORE  
EDWARD M. PALUSO

(412) 228-6611  
(412) 343-9820

October 20, 1980

Mr. D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water Resources Management  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P. O. Box 1487  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Fowler:

I have reviewed the draft copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan and my comments are as follows:

1. The draft plan does not indicate that counties such as Washington which has done a very substantial amount of research concerning abandoned coal mine problems will have any input in Pennsylvania's abandoned mine reclamation projection → *nothing to do w/ Pennsylvania*
2. Although the draft plan indicates that Pennsylvania will receive an estimated 9 million dollar annual funding for abandoned mine reclamation projects, it does not present a mine reclamation spending formula for the State's coal producing counties. *not by county*
3. Under major objectives to correct past coal mining abuses, the very serious problem of stream channels choked with sediment from abandoned unreclaimed strip mines and coal refuse piles is not addressed. *added*

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft copy of the plan. Hopefully the above comments will be adequately addressed in the final plan.

Sincerely,

*Floyd A. Laubham*

Floyd A. Laubham  
Analysis Planner

FAL/jds

## WASHINGTON COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION LETTER

Comment No. 1 - The abandoned mine reclamation plan as proposed does not have any specific relationship to research. The input from county and local levels will be obtained during and through the A-95 process as well as through development of individual specific projects which originate as inquiries to DER from local citizens, township supervisors, county commissioners, county planning commissions, regional planning commissions, and other interested agencies. The project ranking and selection process will be done by Pennsylvania DER during individual project selection on an annual basis. The rating, ranking and selection method established in the plan will be utilized and is not proposed to be on an individual county basis, but will be a statewide comparison.

Comment No. 2 - The mine reclamation expenditures will be for a statewide program. It will not be broken out into an individual spending formula by coal producing counties. There is no requirement to do this and with the somewhat limited (estimated 9 million dollar) annual funding and the projection that the Commonwealth will be involved with extreme danger projects for the next several years, it would be almost unworkable to have a breakdown by county. The costs involved with abandoned mine reclamation on an individual project basis are in many cases extremely large and breaking into an individual county spending formula as suggested would be counterproductive to program objectives.

Comment No. 3 - The major objectives have had a sediment and erosion consideration statement added. This was because of our coordination with the Soil Conservation Service and county concerns. Many of these problems would not become a high priority project for the State reclamation efforts on their own, but with the added consideration and the potential for incorporation of the benefits with acid mine drainage abatement and the reduction of extremely hazardous conditions they have been added. We would anticipate that through our coordination efforts with the Soil Conservation Service that many of these type problems could be handled through the Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP).

Western	Early
Adams	Flora
Allegheny	Greene
Armstrong	Butte
Beaver	Calhoun
Berks	Chatham
Bethel	Clinton
Bethesda	Columbia
Bethlehem	Franklin
Bloomington	Hamilton
Brown	Hancock
Butte	Harrison
Calhoun	Howard
Chatham	Jefferson
Clinton	Johnson
Columbia	Kane
Franklin	Kearney
Hamilton	Lawrence
Hancock	Lehigh
Harrison	Luzerne
Howard	Maryland
Jefferson	Monroe
Johnson	Montgomery
Kane	Norfolk
Kearney	Onondaga
Lawrence	Orleans
Lehigh	Oswego
Luzerne	Saratoga
Maryland	Schenectady
Monroe	Schoharie
Montgomery	Schoy
Norfolk	Schoy
Onondaga	Schoy
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

Westmoreland  
COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at County Planning Department  
(Place)

in 601 Court House Square, Westmoreland County.  
Greensburg/CityPA 15601 (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from October 1, 1980  
(Date)  
to January, 1981.  
(Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to  
review the plan and made the comments noted.

*Chas. D. [Signature]*  
Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
Westmoreland County Planning Dept.		See Attached
Soil Conservation Service		" "

Logge - 11

# WESTMORELAND COUNTY

## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

LARRY J. LARESE  
Director

Mr. D.E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land & Water Resources Management  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Pennsylvania's Abandoned  
Mine Reclamation Plan

Dear Mr. Fowler:

We wish to report that we have reviewed the above-captioned document along with the SCS office here, and find it satisfactory as a management implementation guide. We have also participated at the public hearing held in this area October 14, 1980. The draft copy is on display in our office and will continue to be so until Primacy is achieved.

11-7-31

In addition to the above, we feel we would be remiss if we did not express our suggestions regarding abandoned mine areas in Westmoreland County. Currently, the Westmoreland Conservation District in concert with SCS has surveyed the abandoned mine area in the county to date. We would like to share with you those areas that we feel are critical and should be addressed as soon as possible after the grant application is approved.

Some may be classified as Priority I or II depending upon severity. A brief description follows:

Hempfield Township: *Westmoreland Co*

- mine fire of mine dump area, very rough topography
- USGS Quad. - Irwin
- area (approx.) 25 acres, adjacent to wooded area
- field pH soil < 5.0
- erosion present
- location off of Township Road 118
- SCS identification number - 63-2

601 COURTHOUSE SQUARE, GREENSBURG, PA 15601

(412) 834-2191

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY

No comments on the form are required; the Westmoreland County Department of Planning and Development suggestions regarding abandoned mine areas in Westmoreland County which may be classified as a priority I or priority II are appreciated. A separate letter will be forwarded to Westmoreland County to advise of the status on these projects if we know of a specific project area that is being described. The specific projects or problem descriptions will be investigated and will be eventually incorporated into the Pennsylvania portion of the national abandoned mine lands inventory and other planning records.

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100. Jones	Irwin

Commissioners

October 20, 1980

TED SIMON  
JOHN W. REGOLI  
ROBERT H. MILLER

Mr. D.E. Fowler  
Oct. 20, 1980  
Page 2

Derry Township: *approved OSM Proj (Sep 1980)*

- a. mine fire, evidence of smoking condition visible, sulphur odor present
- b. USGS Quad. - Derry
- c. area (approx.) 21 acres adjacent to Agr. area
- d. Field pH - ?
- e. no noticeable off-site damage
- f. location off of Township Route 936
- g. SCS identification number 44-3

North Huntingdon Township: *USGS Quad G*

- a. possible mine fire site, odor present, evidence of red dog
- b. USGS Quad. - Irwin
- c. Area (approx.) - 24 acres
- d. Field pH (soil) < 5.0
- e. evidence of erosion
- f. location - State Route 993
- g. SCS identification number 51-8

E. Huntingdon Township:

X

- a. Approx. 2000' of coke ovens, needs backfilling; very dangerous condition exists when children are at plan
- b. USGS Quad. - Mt. Pleasant
- c. Area (approx.) - 77 acres
- d. Field pH soil < 5.0
- e. erosion present 64228
- f. location off of LR 64288 near Village of Tarrs
- g. SCS identification number 110-1

Sewickley Township & South Huntingdon Township:

X

- a. very large amount of mine waste material, 60% boney pile slope
- b. USGS Quad. - Smithton
- c. Area (approx.) - 19 acres
- d. Field pH (soil) < 5.0
- e. erosion present
- f. location LR64180
- g. SCS identification number 85-2

RAMP?

Mr. D.E. Fowler  
Oct 20, 1980  
Page 3

Sewickley Township:

*Armistie Shaft? - NO*

- a. Deep mine, ventilation shaft exposed near road
- b. USGS Quad. - Smithton
- c. area (approx.) - 40 acres
- d. field pH - ?
- e. erosion not noticeable
- f. location off of Route 530
- g. SCS identification number 85-3

Our office and SCS will be happy to assist where necessary in order to provide you the cooperation necessary to meet the objectives of the plan.

Sincerely,

*John Surmacz*  
John Surmacz,  
Environmental Planner

JS/mlb

cc: Elaine Oravets, County Chief Clerk  
Larry J. Larese, County Planning Director  
Wes Gordon, SCS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

COUNTY

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at SEORA-COG (Place)

in LEWISBURG, UNION County.

(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from 9-29 (Date)

to 10-17 (Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-34

Chief Clerk  
Signature

The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan

(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS
PAUL SHAW (SEORA-COG)	717-524- 4491	See accompanying letter.

# SEDA - COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

TIMBERHAVEN RD 1 • LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17837 • 717 524-4491

October 20, 1980

Logged

Weston	Embry
Lebanon	Thompson
Union	Wright
McClintock	Wright
Frederick	Wright
Perrygo	Wright
Sodoway	Wright
Forney	Wright

Mr. D. E. Fowler  
Special Assistant for Land and Water  
Resources Management  
Pa. Department of Environmental Resources  
P.O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The staff of SEDA-Council of Governments has reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan and offers the following comments:

1. On page 7, the plan states that the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act established priorities for work on abandoned mining lands. Priority 3 is restoration of eligible land and water resources by various means excluding channelization. Does SWCRA's definition of channelization exclude dredging? You are undoubtedly aware of the threat to the public health and safety in the area of Phillipsburg in Centre County caused by excessive sedimentation in the Moshannon Creek. Dredging has been suggested as a means of correcting this serious problem. The Centre County Planning Commission has also inquired about this point.
2. Similarly, on page 28 under the section Problems and Proposed Solutions, the category identified as "Other Public Health and Safety Problems" should identify dredging as a possible technique.
3. On pages 28 and 29, the role and value of land use planning is downplayed. The plan states "... land use planning relative to abandoned mine reclamation is generally an impractical and unnecessary parameter to consider." Restoration of abandoned lands to useful purposes can be very beneficial in meeting land use needs of local municipalities if restoration is done in accordance with local land use plans. The state plan further minimizes the value of land use planning by stating that over 90 percent of mining lands are under private ownership. However, local municipalities can guide land use in private lands through zoning and subdivision powers.

## SEDA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Comment No. 1 - A clear definition of channelization is, as stated during the public meeting at Lewisburg on October 16, 1980, not available at the present time. It would in all likelihood include dredging, per se, but would probably exclude channel relocation. The specific situation presented by SEDA-COG and Phillipsburg has been brought to the attention of the Department and we do not want to go into a specific project within the plan. This project does not appear at this time to be eligible as it is not a direct consequence of past coal mining practices and may, therefore, not meet the eligibility requirements.

Comment No. 2 - Since we are not clear that channelization precludes dredging, this is one area that we do not consider to be a major technique for alleviating the adverse effects of past coal mining practices. Sometime in the future it may be incorporated.

Comment No. 3 - Comment No. 3 was presented by SEDA-COG at the public meeting in Lewisburg. The comment is recognized and accepted and that portion of the plan has been modified.

Comment No. 4 - The absence of specific mention of counties is not intended to be an elimination of them during the planning process. We prefer to coordinate the reclamation efforts through the local development districts (uniform planning regions such as SEDA-COG). The statements made at the public meeting regarding the nature of the input that we normally receive from counties and local governments and individual citizens is intended to be a major consideration in our reclamation activities.

Comment No. 5 - Again we would like to utilize the local development districts (uniform planning regions) as the principle point of contact and for them to work with and through county and local planning commissions.

Comment No. 6 - The method of distribution of the plans was that the uniform planning regions were each sent one copy of the plan for review and each County Clerk was sent one copy of the plan for review at the county level as well as for availability for review by other interested parties. Copies of the plan were sent to each county with a letter similar to that which was sent to the uniform planning regions, including Centre County. The Centre County Planning Commission apparently had an opportunity to review the plan as noted in SEDA-COG Comment No. 1.

Comment No. 7 - The Rural Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP) is a portion of Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (PL 95-87). The funds that are provided to the Secretary of Agriculture and the SCS originate from those funds obtained by the Secretary of Interior through the fee collection on active mining. The programs operate in a slightly different manner and with slight differences in program emphasis. The primary objective under both programs is the alleviation of the adverse effects of past coal mining practices. The RAMP program generally operates by direct coordination



Mr. D. E. Fowler

October 20, 1980

4 On page 20, a list is presented of agencies through which  
reclamation efforts will be coordinated. The absence of local  
government on this list is a glaring omission. Reclamation efforts  
must be coordinated with county government.

5 On page 25, agencies are identified that are habitually notified  
of meetings and which are regularly sent information on the  
reclamation program. County planning commissions are interested  
in this program and should be included on the list.

6 On page 23, the plan states that the draft state reclamation plan  
was distributed to counties and their subordinate political sub-  
divisions through the Uniform Planning Regions. SEDACOG received  
only one copy of the plan and was not given any other copies for  
forwarding to the counties. We have received a complaint from  
one party that Centre County had no plan for review in the Court-  
house. Were copies of the plan and display instructions sent to  
all counties with abandoned mine lands?

7 On page 19, coordination with the Rural Abandoned Mine Program  
(RAMP) is discussed in very general terms. It would be useful to  
specifically address the differences between the state's abandoned  
mine reclamation program and RAMP, and how these two programs will  
be coordinated.

8 We feel that the period for review of the proposed state plan was  
inadequate. For example, a news item announcing the public meeting  
held in Lewisburg appeared in the local papers only three days prior  
to the public meeting. This explains the poor attendance at the  
Lewisburg meeting.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on Pennsylvania's Abandoned  
Mine Reclamation Plan and hope you will give our comments your fullest  
consideration.

Sincerely,

*Paul E. Shaw*

Paul E. Shaw  
Sr. Program Analyst, Energy

PES/nth

with individual landowners and the development of a specific reclamation plan on  
their tract of land. We do anticipate significant coordination efforts with RAMP  
and feel that the program that is established for this coordination, while somewhat  
informal, is one of the better coordination efforts that exists in a program  
between a State agency and a Federal agency. We, as the State reclamation agency,  
participate in the RAMP coordinating committee which is established at the State  
level, and in addition to this formal participation we are in a very frequent  
telephonic or personal contact with individuals from SCS on specific projects and  
specific project details. We expect that this relationship will continue and will  
produce benefits for Pennsylvania.

Comment No. 8 - The news item which announced the public meeting was  
intended to hit the papers shortly before the meeting. An official notice was  
published and appeared in one paper, normally that of greatest circulation, within  
each county at least one week prior to the first public meetings. We were some-  
what disappointed in the attendance at all of the public meetings but do feel  
that those who attended were able to benefit from their attendance and were the  
individuals or organizations which had the greatest interest in the plan.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

REVIEW OF  
PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
UNDER P.L. 95-87

North Central Regional Planning Area

Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter

This is to certify that a copy of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Plan (Draft) has been placed on display at North Central PA Reg. Plng. & Dev. Comm.  
(Place)

in Ridgway, Elk County.  
(Town/City) (County Name)

The Draft Plan was available for public review and inspection from October 1, 1980  
to October 17, 1980  
(Date)

The below listed persons indicated that they took the opportunity to  
review the plan and made the comments noted.

11-J-37

NORTH CENTRAL PLANNING AREA, NORTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

No comments required. Mr. Masasack attended the public meeting held  
in Brookville on October 15, 1980.

*Donald J. Masasack*  
Program Director  
Signature

(no reviews)  
The undersigned have reviewed Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan  
(Draft) and made comments as noted:

NAME ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER	COMMENTS

Box 985 Federal Square Station  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17108

October 22, 1980

Mr. D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant  
for Land and Water Resources  
Pennsylvania DER  
P. O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Don:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to review Pennsylvania's draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. I think you and your staff have done an excellent job of developing a plan to reclaim abandoned mine lands in Pennsylvania. We in SCS certainly appreciate the excellent cooperation you and your staff members have provided in coordination between your program and our RAMP program. We look forward to a closely coordinated effort in the future. You can count on our cooperation!

Following are some minor comments we have on the draft plan:

1. Page 2 - You show 225,000 acres of strip mine land needing reclamation: SCS records, attached inventory, indicates 240,000 acres. If you use this figure, the cost to reclaim figure would go up.
2. Page 3, Streams cleaned/improved - You might want to consider rewording this. Environmental groups might be disturbed by this.
3. Page 19 and other places - Use of Soil Conservation Service (SCS) initials. It might be better to spell out Soil Conservation Service. Whether we like it or not, everyone is not familiar with SCS. Nongovernmental people will probably review this document.
4. Pages 27 and 28 - You might want to include in list of problems, erosion, sedimentation, landlides, aesthetic disamenities and reduced land use potentials.
5. Page 28 - We suggest that the land use section be rewritten. The landowners postreclamation land use is an important consideration in planning the site. Even though our program intent is to simply reclaim, we can do certain incidental things to aid the landowner with his land use objective; i.e., tree planting, wildlife plantings, choices of vegetation, etc. Land use should be as much as possible compatible with surrounding land uses.

We do not agree that land use is unimportant. ✓

# U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Comment No. 1 - We will leave the acreage as 225,000 acres in the plan. The SCS has a one figure and there are several others which do exist. We feel that until such time as a formal inventory is conducted of abandoned mine lands, the 225,000 acres is as valid as any other figure that can be proposed.

Comment No. 2 - The intent of the statement referred to is stream improvement re water quality, and the improvement is to clean stream standards. A change has been made in the plan.

Comment No. 3 - We will utilize the full spelling of the Soil Conservation Service or other agencies as it appears the first time with parenthetical listing of the initials and then intermix the initials or a full spelling. We feel this is adequate.

Comment No. 4 - We are including erosion and sediment control as one of the specific problems listed. The others are generally implied with the different types of abandoned mine problems that do exist throughout Pennsylvania.

Comment No. 5 - Pages 28 and 29 have been amended to revise the land use planning statements incorporated in the plan.

Comment No. 6 - The estimates which we have provided within the plan are as we intend to address the requirements. Exhibit 7 gives specific dollar values. The Model Reclamation Plan, which is mentioned, is a model and is not law or regulation. We have elected to present our information to meet Pennsylvania's needs.

In the general comments, Comment No. 1, the manner of addressing either the priority hazard only on extreme danger sites, or the total problem to include ancillary work, will be addressed on a case by case basis during each specific reclamation project which is proposed. In some cases it may be more beneficial to address the total site problem while on other jobs, for any number of factors, only the extreme danger condition may be eliminated. Comment No. 2: We have modified the discussion on present and proposed staffing. We do have an existing staff which we feel is adequate and the section has been modified to address this. Comment No. 3: The utilization of a State reclamation committee had been contemplated at one time and we have utilized a committee in the past but it became basically a "you do my project and forget everybody elses" type situation. We feel that our participation on the state RAMP committee and our interagency coordination as proposed in the plan as well as the project ranking and selection procedures will serve to meet the needs specified. We did have individual discussions with the Soil Conservation Service on this matter.

D. E. Fowler, Pa. DER  
October 22, 1980

6. Part C, pages 27-47 - We feel that an excellent job is done in meeting the OSM requirements of this section except for providing estimates of annual accomplishments; i.e., acres reclaimed, hazards removed, miles of stream improved and acres of reservoirs improved. You give dollar figures. OSM calls for this data in the model State plan guidelines prepared by Skelly and Loy.

on  
G. 7

General Comments:

1. Will it be your goal to reclaim the total problem or just remove the priority hazard as OSM has done on extreme danger sites?

Can by  
can

2. We did not notice any discussion on present and needed staffing. Is present staffing adequate to do the job?

add

3. Has any consideration been given to the use of a State reclamation committee to advise the State in reclamation activities; i.e., inter-agency coordination, priority setting, etc.---similar to State RAMP Committee. Possibly, we could have one committee serve both our purposes and needs. A committee might take a lot of heat off DER. I would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail.

no

Thanks again for the review privilege. Please feel free to contact me or Bob Heidecker of my staff regarding any comments. We look forward to the State getting quick approval for the plan so a greater impact can be made in the abandoned mine problem in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

*Mark*  
Graham P. Munkittrick  
State Conservationist

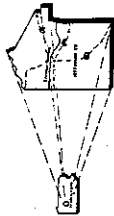
cc: Robert Heidecker, State Resource Conservationist, SCS, Harrisburg, Pa.

Attachment



## Jefferson County Conservation District

ROBY GROSE, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
R.D. 2, Box 188, Pottsville, PA 17667



PHONE 814-427-2671

October 20, 1980

Joseph Hoffman  
Office of Resource Management  
Department of Environmental  
Resources  
P. O. Box 1167  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

On October 15, 1980 members of our Conservation District attended the public hearing in Brookville on the Draft Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan.

After viewing the document and attending the hearing it was generally agreed that the overall plan content was satisfactory and should meet the requirements of O.S.M.

One item of concern that did surface, however, is the manner that funds would be distributed statewide. The review to a certain degree seemed vague as to how the funds would be allocated. Perhaps we missed this during the overall procedures and it is adequately covered.

We do feel that the plan should provide for a review process for funding both statewide and local to insure that it be fair and equitable. If it is possible to do so within the framework of the plan, a review committee of qualified individuals on both levels might satisfy this suggestion.

Thank you for your consideration. I'm sure this question has been raised during the hearings, but we would like to add our concern.

Sincerely yours,

*Roby Grose*  
Roby Grose  
Executive Assistant

c.c.: Sec. Clifford Jones  
Robert Steele  
George Miller

### DISTRICT DIRECTORS:

GEORGE MILLER, Chairman, R.D. 1, Brockway, PA 15824 ... PA. 265-0435  
JILLIAM SMITH, R.D. 1, Falls Creek, PA 15840 ... 371-2469  
EDWARD JERKELEK, R.D. 3, Pottsville, PA 17667 ... 938-3014  
BERNARD SHUCK, Singl Star Route, Brookville, PA 15825 ... 753-2532

GLENN CAYLOR, R.D. 4, Pottsville, PA 17667 ... 365-2323  
PAUL KENNIS, Snyville, PA 15865 ... 804-2268  
ANDREW LASKA, Court House, Brookville, PA 15825 ... 849-2671

### JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Comment No. 1 - The funding under the abandoned mine reclamation program is not intended to be a distribution. It is rather intended to be made available for specific projects that would be conducted statewide by the Department. The funds would not be allocated to a specific region or county or municipality, but would rather be utilized to conduct specific projects that are selected in accordance with the plan.

Comment No. 2 - The individual funding processes will be reviewed at local level and total statewide level during A-95 review process which is a necessity for each annual project grant application which the Department of Environmental Resources will be making. A review committee is not seen as a necessary and expedient method of handling and satisfying project selection. The planned frame work and implementation actions are intended to be the major mechanism for selecting projects through the project ranking and selection process.



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
DOD-314

251

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT' CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**No comments required.**

D.E. FOWLER  
PA DER  
P.O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, Pa 1712

DEF:

RM-AL

11-J-41

[illegible]

# G.M.P. LAND COMPANY, INC.

P. O. BOX 594  
POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17901  
717 622-1871

COMMENTS OF G.M.P. LAND COMPANY  
DRAFT OF PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
SUBMITTED TO OFFICE OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT,  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
HEARING HELD IN AVOCA, PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 17, 1980

G.M.P. heartily supports the objectives of Pennsylvania's abandoned mine reclamation plan (herein "Plan"). It, however, is struck by the fact that Exhibit 7 of the Plan, which indicates the budgetary allocation for all phases of the Plan, makes it clear that no funds will be forthcoming in fiscal years 1981, 1982, 1983 for mine drainage abatement. G.M.P. Land Company, Inc. (herein "G.M.P.") respectfully submits that the State, by making whatever changes might be required in its statutory plan, could accomplish the bulk of its objectives as set forth in the Plan without the further expenditure of state funds for reclamation activities except those specifically allocated for the purpose of protecting the environment in accordance with an amendment to Article 9 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, adopted by the people of the Commonwealth on May 16, 1967.

## GMP LAND COMPANY, INC.

The GMP Land Company, Inc. made an oral statement at the public meeting held in Avoca, Pennsylvania on October 17, 1980. At the conclusion of the public meeting written comments were provided. These comments require some response herein but the largest and most meaningful response to the GMP statements were made during the public meeting. GMP Land Company, Inc. has approached the Department of Environmental Resources with a proposal for active mining in an area which had been mined in the past and have requested some relief from current law to undertake their specific mining proposal. This proposal is currently under evaluation and study by the Department. The specific proposal submitted by GMP is a separate and distinct function and effort from the abandoned mine reclamation plan and the program that will be conducted. There are questions which have been raised regarding the proposed mining methods and mining activities of GMP that do require significant review and input from State Department of Environmental Resources technical, legal and administrative personnel. The statutory changes proposed by GMP are not specifically germane to the existing draft of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. The statutory changes will, if the Department elects to pursue this route, take time for implementation and it is not expected that this could be accomplished during the initial year or years of the plan. The statements raised on page 2 of the GMP comments must, in some respects, wait for specific legal determinations by the State. The continuation of present jobs and creation of new jobs is a goal that not only applies to the anthracite region, but is considered necessary on a statewide basis. The middle paragraph on page 3 is one of concern to the Department. We are working on concepts and proposals relative to "daylighting operations". This is a reasonably new, but very complex approach to the abandoned mine land problems, particularly the abatement of acid mine drainage. It is the type of work that cannot be evaluated overnight. There is an ongoing evaluation process being coordinated by the U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey in Pennsylvania looking into daylighting operations.

Treatment is an option that is available for dealing with the abandoned mine drainage problems. The fact that the treatment alternative requires treatment in perpetuity and expenditure of large sums of money for initial construction costs as well as annual operating costs makes it an alternative that is used in areas where the benefits justify the costs that would be incurred. Currently the Commonwealth has funds available through a Bond Issue that can be utilized for the construction of treatment plants as well as the operation of the facilities constructed. In reality the funds to be made available by the Office of Surface Mining could also be utilized for the construction of treatment facilities but this is an alternative that is not seriously considered at the present time for a number of reasons. The Department is in the process of evaluating the need for treatment plant construction as opposed to permanent source correction measures. Page 4: The plan as drafted and as presented does not intend to impose a disincentive on re-mining. Re-mining must be conducted in accordance with the State laws governing active surface or deep mining in effect at the time that the mining occurs. It is not intended by this plan to encourage re-mining of areas not to discourage it. If, in the long term, re-mining can be shown to have beneficial impacts on the total range of abandoned mine problems that do exist throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a definite plan of action can be developed and a definite and

It must be emphasized that G.M.P. acknowledges and welcomes the requirement for state monitoring and control of all activities which might in any way be detrimental to the environment. On the other hand, it seems clear that the job can be done most economically and realistically by the private sector in pursuit of its own objectives -- the further mining of coal.

We propose that whatever legislation required be adopted to allow private operators to:

1. Use mine drainage pools which are not directly affecting its conduits for the movement of mine water in the course of mining.
2. That there be no charge to an operator affecting a mine drainage pool to the extent that there is already an average base flow from that mine drainage pool.

Further, on the express condition that the mining plan and bonding specifically provide for complete daylighting of the area being de-watered, thereby eliminating FOREVER acid mine drainage, there should be no charge even for the de-watering flow arising from the complete mining of the area affected.

G.M.P. acknowledges the statutory changes obviously being required. In determining the extent and nature of these

positive approach made to undertake such an operation through the existing management frame work of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan. If during the next several years daylighting becomes a viable option, or if any other method becomes technically feasible and justified for the alleviation of the abandoned mine problems throughout the Commonwealth, the existing abandoned mine reclamation plan can be modified. It is emphasized that we do not intend to have this plan create any kind of stumbling blocks or create a negative connotation towards the active mining of coal.



changes, G.M.P. stresses that the test must be the net environmental benefit to be derived from the mining. These benefits are of a magnitude that clearly indicates the positive and favorable effects of mining operations pursuant to the comments that G.M.P. submits herein. They include comprehensive documentation and hard data concerning daylighting, diversion of untreated mine drainage into existing water treatment facilities thereby eliminating the need for construction of additional treatment facilities, reforestation, subsidence control, recreational improvements on site (hiking, etc.) and off-site (fishing, etc.), aesthetics, the release of energy used to pump and treat acid effluent to other purposes, and a continuation of jobs within the anthracite coal industry which is extremely vital to the economic security of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

We would further propose, in furtherance of this objective, that the Department of Environmental Resources support application for the use of federal funds, and, in fact, utilize state funds, including those available for reclamation, to encourage daylighting projects so that they might be monitored and tested with a view to ascertaining the affirmative environmental effects, which appear to be obtainable or are in fact obtainable.

In following the program suggested by G.M.P., the state would be fulfilling its fiduciary obligation to the citizens as more fully set forth in Section 27 of Article 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. At the present time, funds are expended by

the state and by the federal government for a de-watering project that would not be required so long as the coal is recoverable.

The state's current plan imposes a disincentive on re-mining where acid mine drainage might otherwise be eliminated. That disadvantage should be eliminated.

In light of the foregoing, G.M.P. respectfully submits that its comments and proposals discussed herein be included within the objectives of Pennsylvania's Abandoned Mine Reclamation Plan and incorporated within the statutory framework adopted thereto.

cc: The Honorable Richard Thornburgh  
Clifford L. Jones  
Peter S. Duncan



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
Reclamation and Enforcement  
950 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25301

*See*

Western	Early
<del>McDonnell</del>	Thorne
Dalton	Kyle
McDonnell	Wingo
Peckham	Wingo
Ferreiro	Romero
Socolow	
Forney	

Mr. D. E. Fowler, Special Assistant for  
Land and Water Resources Management  
Department of Environmental Resources  
P. O. Box 1467  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Mr. Fowler:

The Region I Branch of State and Indian Reclamation Programs has reviewed your Draft State Reclamation Plan as requested by your letter of September 25, 1980.

Please be advised that our comments and recommendations are informal in nature and will not be incorporated into the official administrative record. You should be made aware that the attached review is by no means all inclusive. You can expect additional comments, recommendations and requests for information upon formal submission and subsequent review by other OSM Divisions and Federal Agencies.

Should you have any questions or desire clarification on any issues raised by our initial review, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

*Marion L. Jurgan*  
*Acting for*  
Earl R. Cunningham  
Assistant Regional Director  
Division of Abandoned Mine Lands

Attachment

PENNSYLVANIA'S ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION  
PLAN

PART A - BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF ABANDONED MINE PROBLEMS IN  
PENNSYLVANIA

Page 1 - According to OSM's Final Environmental Impact Statement for implementing the National AML Program, Pennsylvania has over one-third of all abandoned mine problems in the Nation.

PART B - THE BASIC OSM PROGRAM UNDER P. L. 95-87

I. Program Elements and Timing

Page 6 - As previously discussed, the Attorney General's opinion is in need of considerable expansion to clearly and definitively show that Pennsylvania has "... the ability and necessary State legislation to implement the provisions of this Title ..." (Section 405, P. L. 95-87).

II. Administration and Management

C. Organization: Page 9 - The Office would hope that the National AML Inventory, once complete, will become a primary focal point for project selection decisions.

D. Personnel Staffing Policies: Page 10 - Although not necessary, a general staff list would be useful.

E. Purchasing, Procurement and Contracting: Pages 10 to 12 - While the commitments outlined in this section are useful, the system that will be utilized to manage the procurement function was not described. It is suggested that a typical contract or purchase order be tracked through the procurement cycle to demonstrate how the system operates and how OMB requirements will be satisfied.

F. Accounting: Pages 12 and 13 - Again, the Plan describes several safeguard procedures but does not provide a description of the proposed accounting system. The following elements would be useful additions to this section: procedures for tracking and separating costs for each project; a brief discussion of equipment accountability and disposition; a brief description of how the fund will operate, i.e., how monies are received, coded and disbursed; and any other general accounting procedures.

G. Reporting: Pages 13 and 14 - Be advised that the Action Transmittals for the AML Grants Program that you reviewed earlier this year and proposed rules change to 30 CFR 886.23 (FR Vol. 45, No. 186, Tuesday, September 23, 1980) require quarterly, rather than annual, financial status reports.

OSM, Region I

Part A - Page 1 - No comment or change needed.

Part B -

I - Page 6 - An expanded opinion is to be submitted to OSM.

II - C - Page 9 - We have expanded our narrative concerning National Inventory data inclusion into the program planning efforts.

D - Page 10 - A general staff list has been included.

E - Page 10 to 12 and F, Pages 12 and 13 - A flow chart showing contracting, purchasing, procurement and accounting actions has been prepared and included.

G - Pages 13 and 14 - The required reporting system will be complied with in accordance with OSM regulations. Minor modifications were made in the text.

III - A - Page 16 - See comment on Part C, IV, below.

Page 16, second paragraph - Program differences are recognized quite clearly, but the magnitude of Pennsylvania's AMD problem is such that use of OSM funds for this purpose consistent with the priorities, is essential. Source correction is the preferred method which will be employed. This is pointed out in the Plan as well as in the Public Participation exhibit.

C - Pages 19 and 20 - We have included narrative statements in the Plan text regarding our plans to include the NEPA actions in our planning process.

The Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission has been included in our primary coordination list. Page 9-A-15 has been added to reflect the proposed coordination method.

E - Page 22 - We believe the section is adequate as reflected on pages 24, 25 and 26. Our personnel will conduct an initial appraisal. If there is a potential for a lien, an independent fee appraiser will be utilized.

Page 23 - The licensing parameters are used in the existing State program and when used under the conditions established on pages 24 and 25 should not be restrictive. We have included "whichever is less".

F - Page 26 - The public participation section has been modified to differentiate between the plan participation and the program participation. Exhibit 11 has been included to reflect the plan preparation public input. The A-95 and NEPA processes have been meshed into the program public participation efforts.

### III. Policies and Procedures

#### A. Goals and Objectives: Page 16, first paragraph - Delete reference to a contingency fund.

Page 16, second paragraph - While we concur that AMD abatement should be a high ranking Pennsylvania objective, the programmatic differences between Operation Scarlift and the Abandoned Mine Lands Program must be taken into consideration. For example, OSM's Reclamation Guideline C.1. (Mine Drainage) states a preference for at-source control measures rather than long-term treatment. In addition, Pennsylvania's on-going watershed planning may require revision to reflect the priorities mandated by P. L. 95-87 and other OSM program objectives.

#### C. Coordination with Other Agencies: Pages 19 and 20 - One important mechanism to assure agency coordination with minimal project disruption is through the Environmental Assessment process that is described by Reclamation Guideline B.2. (Jurisdictional Responsibilities). The Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act require consultation with other affected agencies in the development and planning of a proposed project. Accordingly, it is suggested that this section be expanded to include the NEPA process.

Add the State Historic Preservation Officer to the list on page 20.

#### E. Reclamation on Private Lands and Rights of Entry: Page 22 - This section was not clear that an appraisal of the fair market value will be prepared by either a staff or independent professional appraiser.

Page 23 - The step by step lien procedure is not a requirement and may unnecessarily restrict flexibility. In addition, if the criteria are included in the Plan, the statement "whichever is less" should be included to differentiate between items 2 and 3.

#### F. Public Participation: Page 26 - Public participation requirement for annual grant submissions could be improved by simply expanding the A-95 project coordination process by integration of NEPA procedures. Comments derived from Environmental Assessment and A-95 review could then be utilized as a tool in determining the adequacy of public participation. Criteria for determining whether additional public participation should be solicited might include whether there is: (1) substantial environmental controversy, (2) considerable local concern because of public health and safety considerations or, (3) a request for a hearing or additional facts by another agency with jurisdiction by law.

### Part C -

#### I - Page 27 - This section has been expanded as suggested.

III - Pages 28 and 29 - We have modified the land use section based on input received from the public in written comments as well as at our public meetings. We will utilize the Reclamation Guidelines as stated on page 51.

IV - Pages 29 and 30 and Exhibit 7 - Exhibit 7 has been modified to be a projected plan. The problems listed are as we see them today. We in Pennsylvania are fortunate to have a funded State Program which will allow expenditure of funds for projects such as acid mine drainage abatement at least until 1983. The actual first, second and third year planned expenditures will be detailed in grant applications.

The wording in our Plan regarding contingency reserve has been modified to give a clearer indication of what is needed in Pennsylvania. We intend to clear this through the A-95 process so that we can take prompt action directly with OSM when occurrences mandate prompt action that do not fall within the constraints of an emergency project.

V - E - Page 39 - Exhibit 10 has been expanded to include Tabs F and G to provide data needed on the flora of Pennsylvania.

PART C - THE ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROGRAM

- I. General Description: Page 27 - This section should be expanded to provide a more complete narrative description of the location of known or suspected eligible land and water. A feasible approach might be to generally describe AML problems by Uniform Planning Region.
- III. Land Use Information: Page 28 and 29 - The statement ".... land use planning relative to abandoned mine reclamation is generally an impractical and unnecessary parameter to consider." should be deleted. It is not only an unnecessary statement that might provoke adverse reaction from reviewers, it is also inaccurate. For example, the Plan projects over \$18 million in subsidence control projects over the next three years. Will not present land use have an affect on project funding decisions? In addition, will not land use changes and investment likely result due to stabilization and subsequent increase in land values? For additional information on land use considerations, please refer to Reclamation Guideline B.3. (Selection Criteria).
- IV. Problem Quantification and Three Year Proposal: Pages 29 and 30 - The Office is not trying to second-guess Commonwealth planners, but it is noted (Exhibit 7) that no funds are projected for use on mine fire control, refuse bank stabilization, slides or acid mine drainage abatement. In view of your statement on page 8, "What today might be a priority 2 or 3, or even an unknown, could tomorrow become a priority 1", do you intend for the program to be constrained by this chart for the first three years of the program?
- In regard to your proposed contingency reserve, Federal Management Circular 74-4, Attachment B (Cost principles applicable to grants and contracts with State and local governments) states: "Contributions to a contingency reserve or any similar provision for unforeseen events are unallowable."
- V. Social, Economic, and Environmental Conditions:
- E. Flora and Fauna: Page 39 - No description of Pennsylvania's flora was included in the plan, except for the reference to Federally listed endangered and threatened plant species (Page 10-A-1).
- Animals in Pennsylvania: Page 10-C-1 - Delete the tooth formula from this list.