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ACT 54
CITIZEN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

March 27, 2015

My name is Charles Evans Hunnell I reside at 2248 Oak Forest Road, Waynesburg, PA 15370, Pursley Creek Valley. My 136 acres were LONGWALLED in the late 1980's. I stand her today with personal experience of what the current report speaks.

My property has a long valley with the remains of a small stream that I used to play in as a child. This stream used to be filled with aquatic life of various species and the stream would run spring fed throughout the year. The gentle sounds of water cascading over rocks was pleasant to hear. A person could go to virtually any spot on the property, dig a hole and water would appear. There was actually a swamp on the hill to the south of my house. A neighbor who grazed cattle on the property backhoed a large hole on the hill to water cattle; it was large enough that you could swim in the hole. Today, the small stream is grassed over and serves only for run off from the surrounding hill sides after rains. It is virtually devoid of any aquatic life. The hillside swamp is dry as a bone. This is the byproduct of LONGWALL MINING.

My drinking water, spring water, was lost to LONGWALL MINING. How many families have lost their source of water?

One summer day during the 1970's, after a massive summer rain storm, an elderly neighbor from down the road drove to my driveway and got out of his car all excited. "I've never seen anything like this my entire life!" For the first time during his 80 some years he actually saw Pursley Creek out of banks and flooding the wide valley in front of my house. Since the 1980's, after Emerald Mine LONGWALLED the Pursley Valley, we all have to face a different reality. "This Road is Prone to Flooding" The citizens of Pursley Creek Valley realize that after any rain storm the Oak Forest Road may be covered with water. It is sometimes necessary to find an alternative route to get to where you want to go. This is the byproduct of LONGWALL MINING.

My property and my life has been adversely affected by the results of LONGWALL MINING. Yet, I'm only one of thousands of Pennsylvania Citizens who have had their dreams and their children's dreams for ever destroyed.

As presented in the Report, LONGWALL MINING has a massive adverse effect on Structures, Water Supplies, Groundwater, and Streams. LONGWALL MINING caused the destruction of Duke Lake, Ryerson's Station State Park. The park and especially the lake had been a focal point for the recreation industry in southwestern Pennsylvania. The interests of the LONGWALL MINING INDUSTRY obviously are more important than the Recreation industry, Agriculture, and essentially anything else or, for that

matter, the Citizens of Pennsylvania. Granted there is an agreement where the LONGWALL MINING company will replace the dam at Duke Lake and is, at this moment, dredging the lake bed. Currently though, we are told that the mine will LONGWALL under the feeder streams for Duke Lake. The DEP has given Consol permission for the Polen Run expansion. Consol will now LONGWALL MINE under a major feeder stream for Duke Lake, Ryerson's Station State Park. Destroy the feeder streams and you eliminate the constant source of water for Duke Lake. Why don't we build a new dam, dredge the lake bed, and destroy the sources of constant water feed. WHO'S KIDDING WHO? If this whole issue of LONGWALL MINING AND DUKE LAKE wasn't so critical to the continued redevelopment of the Recreation industry in southwest Pennsylvania these facts would be no more than a sick joke, once again, on the Citizens of Pennsylvania.

My background is U.S. History and Economics. I am a retired teacher Upper St Clair High School. Since the 1800's the MINING INDUSTRY in our state has been under regulated and exerted massive influence on the state legislature. As a result of Pennsylvania's control by the industry; we see no severance tax to protect communities, we see the environmental problems left to the tax payers, and we see the continued use of one of the most environmentally devastating methods of mining LONGWALL MINING. We need a change in Pennsylvania.

When will the leadership of Pennsylvania start to represent the interests of the Citizens of this state instead of being the "rubber stamp" for the extraction industries? I've been to far too many DEP hearings involving the LONGWALL MINING industry; the citizen have to come during the afternoon when it is virtually impossible for a working person to be present. More significantly, the DEP representatives at these "hearings" are far too "buddy, buddy" with the LONGWALL MINING representatives. All appearances of impartiality and neutrality are lost! I wonder how many of you serving on this committee are actually here because of your service at some time in the LONGWALL MINING INDUSTRY and how many of you are here because of the adverse effects you have suffered through as you were LONGWALLED? Is this committee balanced?

Why are we even talking about LONGWALL MINING? Everyone in this room today knows of the devastating nature of LONGWALL MINING. This method was developed in Europe and has been banned in Europe. I found it interesting that Rag a German company bought Emerald Mine (the mine that LONGWALLED my property). Rag could not LONGWALL in their own country but could come to Pennsylvania and devastate streams, water supplies, homes, and lives. A backfill process was actually used in Europe to minimize the effect of subsidence. Not so in Pennsylvania.....it might cost the company too much to try to prevent the losses suffered by the citizens of Pennsylvania. People are concerned with the shrinking jobs in the mining industry; I wonder how many new jobs would be available if LONGWALL MINING was banned?

Every one of us here today knows how devastating this process is on people and the environment. We all realize that to protect people, property, water, wildlife, the environment and jobs this LONGWALL MINING PROCESS NEEDS TO BE BANNED in the State of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for the time to speak to you.

