

Izaak Walton League of America
Harry Enstrom Chapter of Greene County



Ken Dufalla
Harry Enstrom Chapter President

46 Middle St.
(724) 377-0901
Clarksville, Pennsylvania 15322

March 27, 2015

My name is Ken W Dufalla; I am the president of the Harry Enstrom Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America Greene County Chapter (IWLA). I have a Master's of Science Degree in Aquatic Biology with an undergraduate degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, I taught school for 26 years, a member of the PA Fish and Boat Commission in Greene County for 21 years, park Ranger 1 and 2 for 25 summers 18 of those were at Ryerson Station State Park. I also played a major role in the development of the Citizen's Water Monitoring system (CWM) developed for the IWLA. I have seen first hand what long wall mining has done to the streams in Greene County. No matter how the effects of long wall mining are presented, long wall mining is devastating to the streams that are under mined. Although I am aware that at present we need coal to produce energy, the long range ramifications of long wall mining are too damaging to the environment to be allowed to proceed as status quo. When the overburden drops, due to long wall mining, to fill the void left by the full extraction of coal, the affects on springs, streams and the topography is forever changed. The surface water that has been present for generations is now lost to all and the associated habitat dependent on the surface water is either forced to change or dies. Stream dwelling inhabitants will no longer be able to exist. Mammals that depended on the water will be forced to relocate. Streams and springs that were will no longer be, and the water that filters into the porous layers after subsidence will contain many unwanted chemicals. The water may never be fit for human consumption again. Even in Germany where long wall mining originated, the government has banded the practice. Being that the unwanted products of full extraction were placed back into the mined area to minimize the affects to the surface, Germany still banned the practice of full extraction. Yet, here in our area will still use the full extraction method and the consequences are seen throughout the area. At

present full extraction has been permitted by the DEP under several of the streams in Ryerson Station State Park, this is a very dangerous practice. With the water tables of that area lowering every year, long wall mining will only add to the already lowering of the water table. With this in mind, Act 54 must be changed in order to fit the changing stress being placed on our aquifers and in order to protect valuable drinking water for future generations. The right to **pure** water and clean air is guaranteed to each citizen of the Commonwealth by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under Article 1 section 27. The action of long wall mining is actually a violation of the civil rights of every citizen in Pennsylvania. Act 54 must be amended in order to protect valuable water supplies and the civil rights of the people under the state's Constitution.

It is time to look to the future and protect our most valuable resource-water. Better consideration must be investigated as to protect our water and our way of life.

Thank you


Ken w Dufalla