

Dear Members of the Citizens Advisory Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the 4th Act 54 Report. My name is Lisa Scherer. I am a wife, mother, and artist. I am also a nature enthusiast who spends a lot of time outdoors. I love, want, and expect, clean and healthy watersheds. But then, shouldn't we all?

The Act 54 report found that longwall mining resulted in the harm or destruction of more than "39 miles" of streams. Wow. And streams over longwall mining have been witnessed to have elevated conductivity and alkalinity levels. This news is scary, because streams such as the ones along Ryerson Station State Park are within a new longwall mine permit expansion and could very well be the next streams that are destroyed. Is this situation a wait and see kind of thing? Let's see who cares enough to have it stopped. I hope not. We know full well what can happen in nature when we go against the facts, or rather what is natural.

It is disgraceful, sad, and disturbing that we allowed the destruction of these streams, and may still allow harm to others streams and water sources even after the facts are in. To alleviate the impact of longwall mining the CAC must request that full extraction mining be prohibited underneath streams, including streams that do not flow year-round.

According to Act 54, the ability to repair damage to streams that have been undermined remains largely unknown. Why is that? With this info, the DEP should set up a workgroup to study the success of streams restoration activities to determine whether or not it's even possible to restore a stream once it's been impaired by underground coal mining. This has yet to be done. Streams over longwall mining have also been observed to have elevated conductivity and alkalinity levels. Do we keep on keeping on with practices that harm our environment, or will today be the day that we make positive changes for our future?

I enjoy seeing wildlife and aquatic life flourish in -and by- these places. I trust that you will make the right decision for all of us-including the frogs, bats, fish, and insects for whom I am also here to give a voice.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my comments. I'd like to end with a quote I have painted on a plaque in my art room: "Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." - Native American, Chief Seattle:

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