



AN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS IN THE ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS COAL REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

December 19, 2019

Robert Hughes, Executive Director  
EPCAMR  
101 S. Main St.  
Ashley, PA 18706

RE: Support for Rare Earth Elements and Critical Minerals Development Pilot Program Proposal  
Submitted by EPCAMR in Partnership with Tetra-Tech

Dear Robert Hughes,

The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) is writing to you to express our support for the Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals Development Pilot Program Proposal submitted by the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) in partnership with Tetra-Tech.

ARIPPA is a non-profit trade association representing the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Our member power plants help address the many issues associated with abandoned mine lands (AML) by combining the production of energy with the removal of coal refuse piles and reclamation of the land for productive purposes.

Our association and members have worked collaboratively over the years with EPCAMR and its parallel affiliation, the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR), on numerous projects. We support their efforts in cleaning up our environment through abandoned mine reclamation, remediation and restoration of Pennsylvania's watersheds and communities impacted by abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and AML. This grant is one way to help achieve their goals.

As part of this grant, samples will be collected from watersheds throughout the Commonwealth. The collection and analysis of REEs and critical minerals in the sludge generated from AMD treatment is valuable data to be gained by those in the reclamation sector. If recovery of these materials is found to be economically feasible, it could bring great benefits to the communities most affected by historical coal mining practices. Also, developing domestic sources of these materials is important on an international level.

Further research into this subject matter is greatly needed. We appreciate your consideration in granting this Pilot Program Proposal. Please contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.

Regards,

Cristy Sweeney  
Director of Finance & Public Affairs  
[csweeney@arippa.org](mailto:csweeney@arippa.org)