



NEWS RELEASE

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Coal Refuse Reclamation to Energy Industry Applauded for Helping Address States' Abandoned Mine Land Issues

CAMP HILL, PA – Each year on April 22nd, the world demonstrates support for environmental protection through its celebration of Earth Day. In honor of this special day, the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) would like to recognize the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry for their efforts in helping clean up abandoned mine lands (AML) and the associated air and water pollutants throughout the Appalachian region.

ARIPPA plants in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia are important contributors to this vital work. To date, the Pennsylvania facilities alone have remediated more than 230 million tons of coal refuse, improved or restored more than 1,200 miles of streams, and reclaimed more than 7,200 acres of abandoned mine lands in the state. In Virginia, one facility has completed ten reclamation projects, amounting to over 4 million tons of coal refuse reclaimed since the plant began operations in 2012. While the facility itself does not actually perform the reclamation, it still plays a crucial role in the process by consuming the coal refuse to generate electricity. Furthermore, the last remaining facility in West Virginia remediates 530,000 tons of coal refuse annually and reclaims roughly 30 acres of land per year.

These three states, among others, are slated to receive an unprecedented amount of federal AML funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law over the next 15 years. ARIPPA plant member facilities remain committed and look forward to partnering with the states and watershed groups to help address the many AML problems the states face as they prepare to utilize this funding.

Visit www.arippa.org to learn more about the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry. Examples of the positive environmental impacts of the many reclamation projects undertaken by these facilities is also available on our website.

Organized in 1989, ARIPPA is a non-profit trade association comprised of independent electric power producers, environmental remediators, and service providers located in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that use coal refuse as a fuel to generate electricity. Utilizing circulating fluidized bed boiler technology to convert both anthracite and bituminous coal refuse into electricity, ARIPPA plants also provide unique multimedia environmental benefits by combining the production of energy with the removal of coal refuse piles and reclamation of the land for productive purposes.

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