



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **ARIPPA and PFBC Spotlight Water Quality Improvements in Western Pennsylvania**

**CAMP HILL, PA** – The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) is coordinating with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) to highlight the significant water quality improvements achieved in the North Branch of Blacklick Creek in Cambria County. Today, the PFBC will be joined by ARIPPA staff and members of the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry to perform a trout stocking and recognize ARIPPA plant member facilities for their efforts in helping clean up abandoned mine lands (AML) and the associated water pollutants in the local community. They will also be joined by the Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR), as well as officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

ARIPPA plants are important contributors in the cleanup of AML sites and associated issues throughout the anthracite and bituminous coal regions in Pennsylvania. 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.

Two such reclamation projects undertaken by the nearby coal refuse reclamation to energy plant, Colver Green Energy LLC, have led to significant water quality improvements in the North Branch of Blacklick Creek. Reclamation of the Red Mill Refuse Site directly on the North Branch of the creek helped improve the overall health of the stream. This project was completed in 2021. Other completed and ongoing activities to reclaim the Colver Refuse Pile directly on Elk Creek, a tributary to the North Branch of Blacklick Creek adjacent to today's PFBC stocking site, also improve local water quality. By removing the coal refuse and utilizing it as fuel to generate electricity, Colver Green Energy LLC has eliminated a major source of acid mine drainage negatively impacting the stream health and aquatic life.

The reclamation of a 4 million ton coal refuse pile in Revloc also successfully restored local water quality and brought aquatic life back to the South Branch of Blacklick Creek. The southern fork of the creek, which ran through the pile, has been stocked with trout by a private sportsman group and can now be enjoyed for fishing and recreation. The cleanup of the Revloc coal refuse pile was accomplished by the nearby Ebensburg Power Company, which removed 3 million tons of coal refuse to use as fuel and returned approximately the same amount of beneficial use ash to remediate and reclaim the land. The process reclaimed 56 acres of land and restored aquatic life to 6 miles of the South Branch of Blacklick Creek.

Pennsylvania, among other states, is 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 state agencies, WPCAMR, and local watershed groups to help address the many AML problems the state faces as they prepare to utilize this funding.

Organized in 1989, ARIPPA is a non-profit trade association comprised of independent electric power producers and environmental remediators located in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that reclaim coal refuse piles from historic mining sites to be beneficially re-used as fuel to generate electricity. Utilizing state-of-the-art circulating fluidized bed boiler technology to reclaim anthracite and bituminous

coal refuse from mining-affected lands, ARIPPA plants provide unique multimedia environmental benefits by combining the production of electricity with the removal of polluting coal refuse piles and reclamation of the land for productive purposes. Visit [www.arippa.org](http://www.arippa.org) to learn more.

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