



NEWS RELEASE

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ARIPPA Applauds Coal Refuse Reclamation to Energy Industry Environmental Stewardship

CAMP HILL, PA – Article I, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution guarantees citizens have “the right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.” Many industries have been hard at work to make that promise a reality, including the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry. In honor of Earth Day today, the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) would like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of this vital industry in helping to reclaim and restore abandoned mine lands (AML) throughout the Appalachian region.

ARIPPA represents coal refuse reclamation facilities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that play an important role in cleaning up coal refuse piles scattered throughout these states by using the material as a fuel to produce electricity and returning the beneficial use ash to the original site for reclamation purposes. Not only do these facilities remove coal refuse piles, but they also eliminate the associated air and water pollution derived from AML sites.

Over the last 35 years, the ARIPPA plants in Pennsylvania alone have removed over 260 million tons of coal refuse, improved water quality in over 1,200 miles of impaired streams, and restored more than 8,000 acres of AML throughout the state. In Virginia, one such facility has undertaken numerous reclamation projects, amounting to over 4 million tons of coal refuse reclaimed since the plant began operations in 2012. Furthermore, the single remaining facility in West Virginia remediates 530,000 tons of coal refuse annually and reclaims roughly 30 acres of land per year.

By removing polluting coal refuse piles, the ARIPPA plants are assisting in ensuring the right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment not just in Pennsylvania, but throughout the Appalachian region. Together, these facilities and their many partners are continuing to address the many remaining AML challenges these three specific states face.

Visit www.arippa.org to learn more about ARIPPA and 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.

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