



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 22, 2026

Coal Refuse Reclamation to Energy Industry Environmental Stewardship Recognized

CAMP HILL, PA – As the world celebrates Earth Day today, the Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) would like to highlight the ongoing efforts of the coal refuse reclamation to energy industry in helping to reclaim and restore abandoned mine lands (AML) throughout the Appalachian region.

ARIPPA is a nonprofit trade association comprised of coal refuse reclamation facilities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia that play an important role in cleaning up polluting coal refuse piles scattered throughout these states. The industry uses this waste material as fuel to produce reliable baseload electricity and returns the resulting beneficial use ash to AML sites for reclamation purposes. Not only do these facilities remove coal refuse piles, but they also eliminate the air and water pollution from AML sites that impact downstream and downwind communities.

In October 2025, ARIPPA released an updated report prepared by Econsult Solutions, Inc. analyzing the economic and environmental benefits of Pennsylvania's coal refuse reclamation to energy industry. This report builds off the 2016 and 2019 reports and incorporates recent research on the net air improvements from the industry's AML reclamation operations.

According to the latest report, the plants that currently make up Pennsylvania's coal refuse reclamation to energy industry have removed and used as fuel more than 257 million tons of coal refuse, improved or restored more than 1,210 miles of polluted streams, and reclaimed more than 8,070 acres of AML through the use of beneficial ash. The industry also contributes \$697 million per year to the Pennsylvania economy, supports at least 2,200 jobs, and provides \$62 million in annual environmental and public benefits on top of the up to \$281 million in annual avoided costs to the Commonwealth from the remediation performed by the industry.

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 numerous reclamation projects undertaken by these facilities is also available on our website. ARIPPA is grateful for their commitment to restoring the environment and hopes to see them continue to operate for many years to come.

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