



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

January 4, 2001

Wyona Coleman
Tri-State Citizens Mining Network
551 Pittsburgh Road
West Brownsville, PA 15417

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Thank you for your interest in our ongoing investigations into the impacts of longwall mining on streams in Greene and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania.

As you know, the field season of 2000 marked the start of our study to evaluate the effects of longwall mining effects on streams flowing within the boundaries of eight active longwall mines in southwest Pennsylvania. To date, we have evaluated 131 streams within the boundaries of seven of these mines. Twenty-six streams had sections that were subsided, while 38 had reduced, or no flow, in some reaches. In response to your request, attached is a list of the streams investigated to date. Since we have not completed our field work at the Consol Mine 84, we will revise the list when we have finished. Keep in mind that some streams had been affected both by water loss and by subsidence, so they were listed in each category.

If you have any other questions about this information, please contact Jennifer Kagel of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

David Densmore
Supervisor

Enclosure



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August 30, 2000

Mr. William S. Plassio
District Mining Manager
District Mining Operations
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
3913 Washington Road
McMurray, PA 15317

Dear Mr. Plassio:

Since August 1999, the Fish and Wildlife Service has been investigating the impacts of longwall mining on streams in southwest Pennsylvania. Based on preliminary field investigations, it appears that longwall mining has had a substantial adverse effect on aquatic life in streams in this area. We have observed some streams where riffles and runs had been replaced by long, deep pools, and other streams that have dried up completely. Anecdotal information from local residents and agency personnel has generated a list of 81 streams that may have been adversely affected by longwall mining. We intend to evaluate many of these streams in the future.

To assist us in evaluating the effects of longwall mining operations on surface waters, we are requesting that copies of all applications for new permits or permit extensions, for new or existing longwall mines, be sent to this office for review and comment. At a minimum, we are requesting the same resource information that is provided to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission for their review. This should include the following: 1) detailed maps showing the location of longwall panels in relation to surface features; 2) stream and wetland resources located above mine panels; 3) habitats of unusually high value for fish and wildlife; 4) the operator's plan predicting the probable hydrologic consequences of the proposed underground mining activities upon the quantity and quality of ground and surface waters within the permit and adjacent areas, under seasonal flow conditions; 5) the technology the operator intends to use to minimize adverse impacts on the fish, wildlife, and related environmental values; and 6) any plans to compensate for adverse impacts to streams, wetlands, and related environmental values.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you or your staff would like to discuss this request, or the Service's work on longwall mining, please contact Edward Perry or Jennifer Kagel of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

David Densmore
Supervisor

**Study Streams Evaluated in 2000
Within Permit Boundaries of Longwall Mines**

Enlow Fork Mine

Templeton Run

T1 - unnamed trib to Templeton Run

T2 - unnamed trib to Templeton Run

T3 - unnamed trib to Templeton Run

Robinson Fork

R1 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

R2 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

R3 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

R4 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

R5 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

R6 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

R7 - unnamed trib to Robinson Run

Rocky Run

Blockhouse Run

Beham Run

B1 - unnamed trib to Beham Run

B2 - unnamed trib to Beham Run

Boothe Run

Rush Run

Long Run

Short Creek

Crafts Creek

Brown's Creek

10 Mile Creek

Buffalo Creek

Sawhill Run

Bailey Mine

Dunkard - North Fork

Dunkard - South Fork

Dunkard Fork

Robinson Fork

R8 - unnamed trib to Robinson Fork

R9 - unnamed trib to Robinson Fork

Enlow Fork

E1 - unnamed trib to Enlow Fork

E2 - unnamed trib to Enlow Fork

E3 - unnamed trib to Enlow Fork

E4 - unnamed trib to Enlow Fork
E5 - unnamed trib to Enlow Fork
Beham Run
Owens Run
O1 - unnamed trib to Owens Run
Crabapple Run
Stone Coal Run
Fletcher Run
Wharton Run
Spottedtail Run
Chaney Run

Maple Creek Mine

Dry Run
Sugar Run
Mingo Creek
M1 - unnamed trib to Mingo Creek
M2 - unnamed trib to Mingo Creek
M3 - unnamed trib to Mingo Creek
M4 - unnamed trib to Mingo Creek
M5 - unnamed trib to Mingo Creek
M6 - unnamed trib to Mingo Creek
North Branch Pigeon Creek
NP1 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
NP2 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
NP3 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
NP4 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
NP5 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
NP6 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
NP7 - trib to N.B. Pigeon Creek
Pigeon Creek
P1 - trib to Pigeon Creek
P2 - trib to Pigeon Creek
Sawmill Creek
S1 - trib to Sawmill Creek
S2 - trib to Sawmill Creek

Cumberland Mine

Whitley Creek
W1 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek
W2 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek
W3 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek
W4 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek

W5 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek
W6 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek

W7 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek
W8 - unnamed trib to Whitley Creek

Patterson Run

Unnamed trib to Patterson Run

Haynes Run

Shannon Run

S1 - unnamed trib to Shannon Run

S2 - unnamed trib to Shannon Run

Mt. Phoebe Run

Dyers Fork

Dutch Run

Blacksville #2 Mine

Rush Run

Roberts Run

Sheppards Run

Wrights Run

Morris Run

Hoovers Run

Eddy Run

Bulldog Run

Bell's Run

Tustin Run

Tom's Run

Emerald Mine

Smith Creek

S1 - unnamed trib to Smith Creek

S2 - unnamed trib to Smith Creek

S3 - unnamed trib to Smith Creek

Laurel Run

L1 - unnamed trib to Laurel Run

L2 - unnamed trib to Laurel Run

L3 - unnamed trib to Laurel Run

Pursley Creek

P1 - unnamed trib to Pursley Creek

P2 - unnamed trib to Pursley Creek

P3 - unnamed trib to Pursley Creek

P4 - unnamed trib to Pursley Creek

Sugar Run
Stewart Run
Maple Run
Woods Run
Dark Hollow Road Run
Coal Lick Run
Mt. Phoebe Run
Patterson run
Dyers Fork

Dilworth Mine

Muddy Creek
 M1 - Unnamed trib to Muddy Creek
 M2 - Unnamed trib to Muddy Creek
Eaton Run
Unnamed tribs to Hegidis Ponds
Pumpkin Run
Unnamed trib (parallels SR 1011)
Unnamed trib to S. Fork Ten Mile
Coal Run
Unnamed trib (Kovalchek Rd.)
Unnamed trib (TR 656)
Unnamed trib (TR 660 - Fox Rd.)

Streams Suspected of Having Impaired Flow

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS * Designation	SCS * Designation	Date Observed and Comment																				
Cumberland	W1 trib to Whitely Creek	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	08/03/00, rained w/in 7 days; sm amt of water in streambed																				
	W2 trib to Whitely Creek	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	08/03/00, New mining activity in sect. #3																				
	W4 trib to Whitely Creek	I	I	08/03/00, intermittent showers, sect #3 dry; new mining																				
	Unnamed trib to Patterson Run	I	I	08/03/00, rained w/in 7 days; prooperty owner said stream dry due to mining																				
	S1 trib to Shannon Run	I	I	08/09/00, rained w/in 7 days; evidence of flooding conditions (directed vegetation)																				
Emerald #1	Laurel Run	P	P	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>sect #1</th> <th>sect #2</th> <th>sect #3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>07/20/00</td> <td>wet</td> <td>dry</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>08/10/00</td> <td></td> <td>wet (subsidied)</td> <td>wet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08/14/00</td> <td></td> <td>dry + pools (~500 ft.)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>02/09/01</td> <td></td> <td>pooled (runoff?)</td> <td>pooled (runoff?)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	sect #1	sect #2	sect #3	07/20/00	wet	dry		08/10/00		wet (subsidied)	wet	08/14/00		dry + pools (~500 ft.)		02/09/01		pooled (runoff?)	pooled (runoff?)
	Date	sect #1	sect #2	sect #3																				
	07/20/00	wet	dry																					
	08/10/00		wet (subsidied)	wet																				
08/14/00		dry + pools (~500 ft.)																						
02/09/01		pooled (runoff?)	pooled (runoff?)																					
L1 trib to Laurel Run	Not on map	I	I	08/10/00, rained w/in 7 days																				
L2 trib to Laurel Run	I	I	I	08/10/00, rained w/in 7 days																				
S1 trib to Smith Creek	I	I	I	08/15/00, not raining; no weather report																				
P1 trib to Pursley Creek	I	I	I	08/15/00, not raining;																				
P2 trib to Pursley Creek	I	I	I	08/15/00, not raining;																				
Dark Hollow Road Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	P(mouth)/I (HW)	P(mouth)/I (HW)	08/16/00, not raining; new mining																				

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS * Designation	SCS * Designation	Date Observed and Comment
Maple Creek	M1 trib to M2 trib of Mingo	P	I	08/24/00, rained w/in 7 days: sect #1
	NP3 trib to NP2 of North Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/21/00, no rain; sects #2 & 3
Enlow Fork	R3 trib to Robinson Fork	I	P(mouth)/I (HW)	09/20/00, w/in mine boundaries; no water
	T1 trib to Templeton Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	10/03/00, no rain; sect #1 only access
	Beham Run	P	I	09/20/00, 10/19 & 31/00, sect #2 totally dry
	B1 trib to Beham Run	I	I	09/20/00, no rain; undermined on 09/20/00
	B2 trib to Beham Run	Not on map	I	10/31/00, sects # 2 & 3
Bailey	E1 trib to Enlow Fork	I	I	09/12/00, rained on 09/11/00; sects # 2 & 3
	E2 trib to Enlow Fork	I	I	09/12/00, rained on 09/11/00; sects # 1 & 3
	E3 trib to Enlow Fork	I	I	09/12/00, rained on 09/11/00; sects # 2 & 3
	E4 trib to Enlow Fork	I	I	09/12/00, rained on 09/11/00; sects # 1 & 2
	Owens Run	P	P	09/13/00, rained on 09/12/00; sects # 2 & 3
	O1 trib to Owens Run	I	I	09/13/00, rained on 09/12/00; sect # 2
	Crabapple Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	P(mouth)/I (HW)	10/31/00, no rain; sect # 2
Blacksville #2	Wrights Run	P	I	06/20/00, sects # 2 & 3
	Bulldog Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	07/20/00, rained, sect # 2

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS * Designation	SCS * Designation	Date Observed and Comment
Dilworth	Unnamed trib to Muddy Creek	I	I	07/20/00, rained on 07/19/00; dry sect # 2, may sub in sect # 1
	Eaton Run	I	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sects # 1, 2, & 3
	Pumpkin Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sect # 3
	Stream paralleling SR 1011	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sect # 3
	Unnamed trib to S. Fork Tennile Creek (Wash Rd. X)	I	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sect # 2
	Coal Run	I	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sect # 3
	Stream paralleling SR1017 (Kovalcheck Rd.)	I	Not on map	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sect # 3
	TR 656 (Intermittant St??)	I	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sect # 3
	TR 660 (Fox Rd.)	I	I	08/01/00, rained 7/31/00; sects # 2 & 3

*
P= Perennial
I = Intermittent

Streams Suspected of Having Subsidized Reaches

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS* Designation	SCS* Designation	Date Observed and Comment			
Cumberland Mine	Whitely Creek	P	P	08/09&10/00, rained w/in 7 days;			
	Patterson Run	P	I	08/02/00, rained w/in 7 days;			
	Shannon Run	P	I	08/08/00, rained w/in 7 days;			
Emerald Mine	Laurel Run	P	P	Date	sect #1	sect #2	sect #3
				07/20/00	wet	dry	
				08/10/00		wet (subsidied)	wet
				08/14/00		dry + pools (~500 ft.)	
				02/09/01		pooled (runoff?)	pooled (runoff?)
	Smith Creek	P	P	8/14 & 15/00, one panel only			
	S3 trib to Smith Creek (Henderson)	P	P	08/15/00, no rain, two panels			
	Pursley Creek	P	P	08/15 & 16 /00, no rain, eight panels			
Maple Creek	M1 trib to M2 trib to Mingo	P	I	08/24/00, rained w/in 7 days; sect #3			
	M2 trib to Mingo	P	I	08/24/00, rained w/in 7 days; sects #1 & 2, 3?			
	NP 1 trib to N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/21/00, no rain; sect #2, one panel			
	NP 3 trib to NP2 of N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/21/00, no rain; sects #2 & 3, four panels			
	NP 5 trib to NP4 of N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/19/00, no rain; sect #2			
	NP 6 trib to N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/19/00, no rain; sects #2 & 3, three panels?			

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS* Designation	SCS* Designation	Date Observed and Comment
Maple Creek	S1 trib to Sawmill Creek	P	I	08/23/00, sect #2, two panels
	S2 trib to Sawmill Creek	P	I	08/23/00, sect #3, two panels
Enlow Fork	Rocky Run	P	P	09/19/00, sects # 2 & 3; some beaver activity on one panel
	Robinson Fork	P	P	09/20/00, 10/18 & 31/00, rain on 10/18; many panels, some historical and some current beaver activity,
	Templeton Run	P	P	09/13 & 18/00, rained; some beaver activity, many panels
	Beham Run	P	I	10/19/00, sect #2; three pools upstream of dry sects
Bailey	Enlow Fork	P	P	10/4, 5, 6, & 17/00 + other multiple visits, rained; many panels, many pools
	Robinson Fork	P	P	09/20/00, 10/18 & 31/00, rained on 10/18/00; many panels, many pools
Blacksville #2	Roberts Run	P	P	07/19/00, rained; sect # 2
	Bulldog Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	07/20/00, rained; sect #1
	Hoovers Run	P	P	07/19/00, rained; sect #1 & 2
Dilworth	Muddy Creek	P	P	08/01/00, rained w/in 7 days; sect #2

* P= Perennial

I = Intermittent

Streams Suspected of Having Subsidized Reaches

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS Designation	SCS Designation	Date Observed and Comment			
Cumberland Mine	Whitely Creek	P	P	08/09&10/00, rained w/in 7 days;			
	Patterson Run	P	I	08/02/00, rained w/in 7 days;			
	Shannon Run	P	I	08/08/00, rained w/in 7 days;			
Emerald Mine	Laurel Run	P	P	Date	sect #1	sect #2	sect #3
				07/20/00	wet	dry	
				08/10/00		wet (subsidied)	wet
				08/14/00		dry + pools (~500 ft.)	
				02/09/01		pooled (runoff?)	pooled (runoff?)
	Smith Creek	P	P	8/14 & 15/00, one panel only			
	S3 trib to Smith Creek (Henderson)	P	P	08/15/00, no rain, two panels			
	Pursley Creek	P	P	08/15 & 16 /00, no rain, eight panels			
Maple Creek	M1 trib to M2 trib to Mingo	P	I	08/24/00, rained w/in 7 days; sect #3			
	M2 trib to Mingo	P	I	08/24/00, rained w/in 7 days; sects #1 & 2, 3?			
	NP 1 trib to N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/21/00, no rain; sect #2, one panel			
	NP 3 trib to NP2 of N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/21/00, no rain; sects #2 & 3, four panels			
	NP 5 trib to NP4 of N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/19/00, no rain; sect #2			
	NP 6 trib to N. Branch Pigeon	P	I	08/19/00, no rain; sects #2 & 3, three panels?			

Associated Mine	Stream	USGS Designation	SCS Designation	Date Observed and Comment
Maple Creek	S1 trib to Sawmill Creek	P	I	08/23/00, sect #2, two panels
	S2 trib to Sawmill Creek	P	I	08/23/00, sect #3, two panels
Enlow Fork	Rocky Run	P	P	09/19/00, sects # 2 & 3; some beaver activity on one panel
	Robinson Fork	P	P	09/20/00, 10/18 & 31/00, rain on 10/18; many panels, some historical and some current beaver activity,
	Templeton Run	P	P	09/13 & 18/00, rained; some beaver activity, many panels
	Beham Run	P	I	10/19/00, sect #2; three pools upstream of dry sects
Bailey	Enlow Fork	P	P	10/4, 5, 6, & 17/00 + other multiple visits, rained; many panels, many pools
	Robinson Fork	P	P	09/20/00, 10/18 & 31/00, rained on 10/18/00; many panels, many pools
Blacksville #2	Roberts Run	P	P	07/19/00, rained; sect # 2
	Bulldog Run	P(mouth)/I (HW)	I	07/20/00, rained; sect #1
	Hoovers Run	P	P	07/19/00, rained; sect #1 & 2
Dilworth	Muddy Creek	P	P	08/01/00, rained w/in 7 days; sect #2