



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ABANDONED MINE LAND PROGRAMS

August 23, 2004

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The Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty
Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg PA 17105-2063

Dear Secretary McGinty:

I have reviewed the draft report prepared by your department entitled "Coal Ash Beneficial Use in Mine Reclamation and Mine Drainage Remediation in Pennsylvania". This report is a very thorough analysis concerning the beneficial reuse of coal combustion by-products in mine reclamation.

Many of the States and Indian Tribes that are members of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs (NAAML) will find the information and technology presented in the report useful in their mine reclamation efforts. Most notable to our members are the portions of the report that detail the use of coal ash for reclamation fill and acid mine drainage abatement.

Almost all NAAML member states are struggling with shrinking AML budgets. The use of coal ash in abandoned mine reclamation may help to lessen the cost of AML reclamation projects and simultaneously dispose of a waste product in a beneficial way.

The NAAML is happy to endorse the report and its findings. We hope that the report sparks expanded interest in the beneficial reuse of coal combustion by-products so that use of these products is common in the near future.

Sincerely,

Steve Hohmann, President
National Association of Abandoned Mine
Land Programs