



20 April 2004

Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
400 Market Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Re: “Coal Ash Beneficial Use in Mine Reclamation and Mine Drainage  
Remediation in Pennsylvania”

Dear Secretary McGinty:

We recently had the opportunity to review a draft of the book prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection entitled “Coal Ash Beneficial Use in Mine Reclamation and Mine Drainage Remediation in Pennsylvania.” This topic has been an important one for some time, of course, but recently has received focused attention in the Lehigh River watershed – the area of Pennsylvania served by Wildlands Conservancy – as well as in other parts of the state.

As a non-profit conservation organization, Wildlands’ mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the land, water, biological, and recreational resources of the Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh River watershed, and to ensure a “quality of place” through education, land preservation, watershed planning, environmental restoration, and recreational-trail and greenway development. In carrying out our mission, we frequently deal with abandoned-mine-drainage issues in the Southern and Eastern Anthracite coal fields, and are nearing the completion of several mine drainage-abatement projects.

We feel this book should be useful for watershed associations and others interested in abandoned mine reclamation and abatement. We applaud the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania State University for their continued commitment to exploring potential ways to minimize the impact of mine drainage across the commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Kerr  
President

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