



## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION

c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
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April 13, 2004

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

Re: Beneficial Use of Coal Ash in Abandoned Mine Restoration

Dear Secretary McGinty:

Due to the devastation caused by abandoned mines to water and land resources, participants of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition have focused on the implementation of environmentally-friendly, and sustainable, restoration methods.

In less than a decade, through the use of alkaline, circulating fluidized-bed coal ash, over 125 acres of essentially barren spoils have been restored to productive farmlands or vital wildlife habitat. In addition, over 200,000 tons of acidic coal refuse have been neutralized.

Coupled with other restoration efforts, coal ash has been instrumental in the remarkable improvement in more than 11 miles of streams in the Slippery Rock Creek headwaters, with fish returning in 6 miles, probably for the first time in over a century.

To date, our comprehensive restoration efforts would not have been possible without the use of coal ash, and, future efforts are dependent on the continued availability of this resource.

The role of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in providing a valued publication relating to the appropriate utilization of coal ash is not only appreciated but also necessary for the continued success in restoring our watersheds.

Very truly yours,

Margaret H. Dunn, PG, President, Stream Restoration Inc.

Copy: J. Scott Roberts, Dep. Sec., Office of Mineral Resources Management, PA DEP