



Muddy Run

Unsuitable for Mining Designation Final Rulemaking (25 Pa Code Chapter 86)

Bureau of Mining and Reclamation
Thomas Callaghan, Director

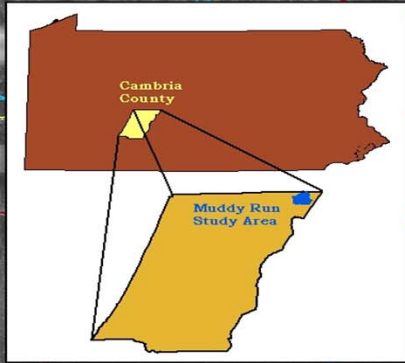
Background

- ◆ Muddy Run is located in NE Cambria County
- ◆ In 1996, the Reade Township Municipal Authority (RTMA) submitted a Petition to DEP to protect their public water supply wells.
- ◆ RTMA alleged that surface mining in the area could adversely impact other local surface and groundwater resources.
- ◆ Rulemaking was put on hold (Machipongo Land and Coal Company v. DEP)
- ◆ EQB approved the proposed rulemaking on March 16, 2010



Muddy Run Watershed Study Area

3,200 Acre Study Area



Clearfield Co.
Cambria Co.

SR253

Technical Study Area

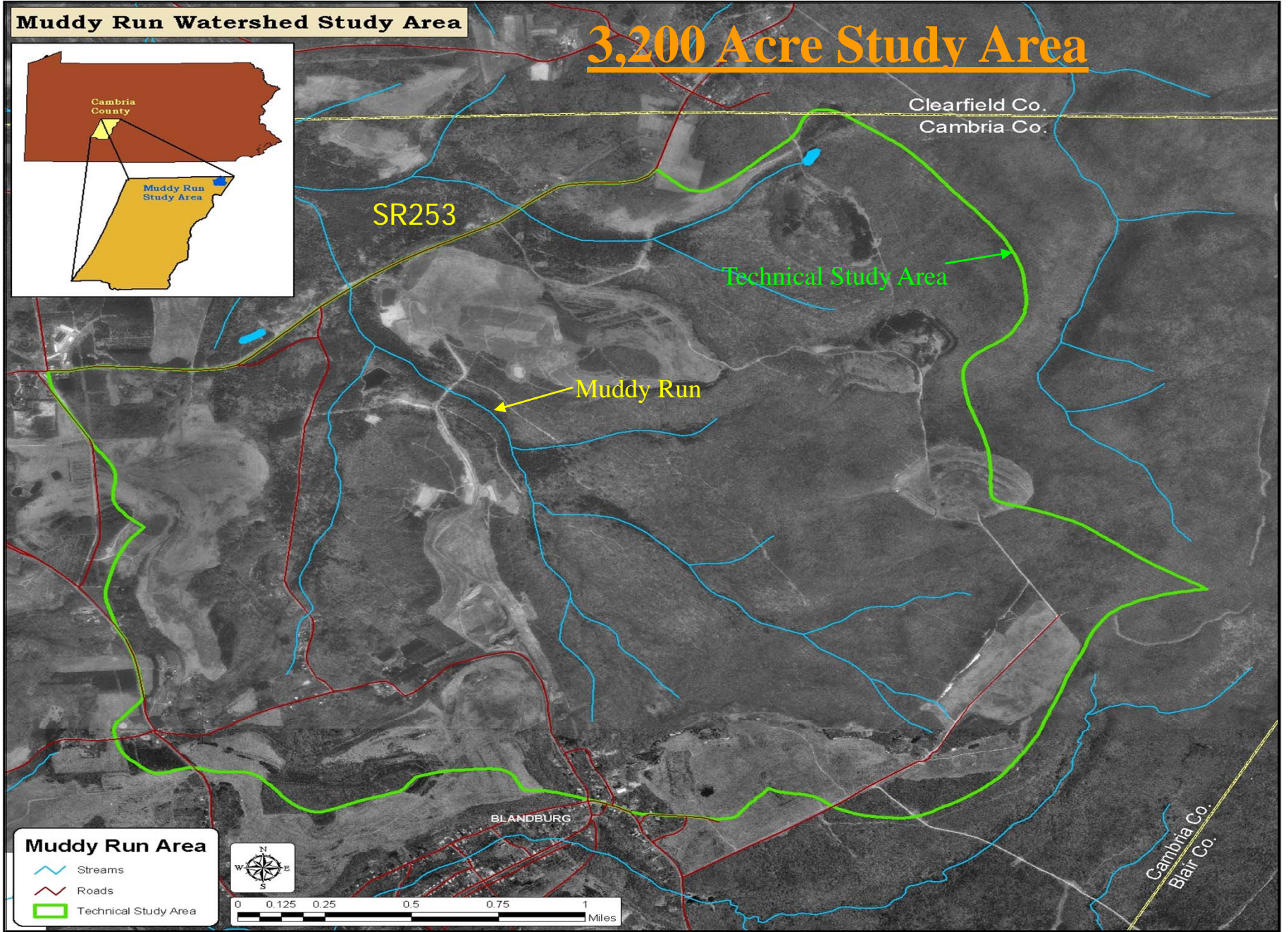
Muddy Run

BLANDBURG

Cambria Co.
Blair Co.

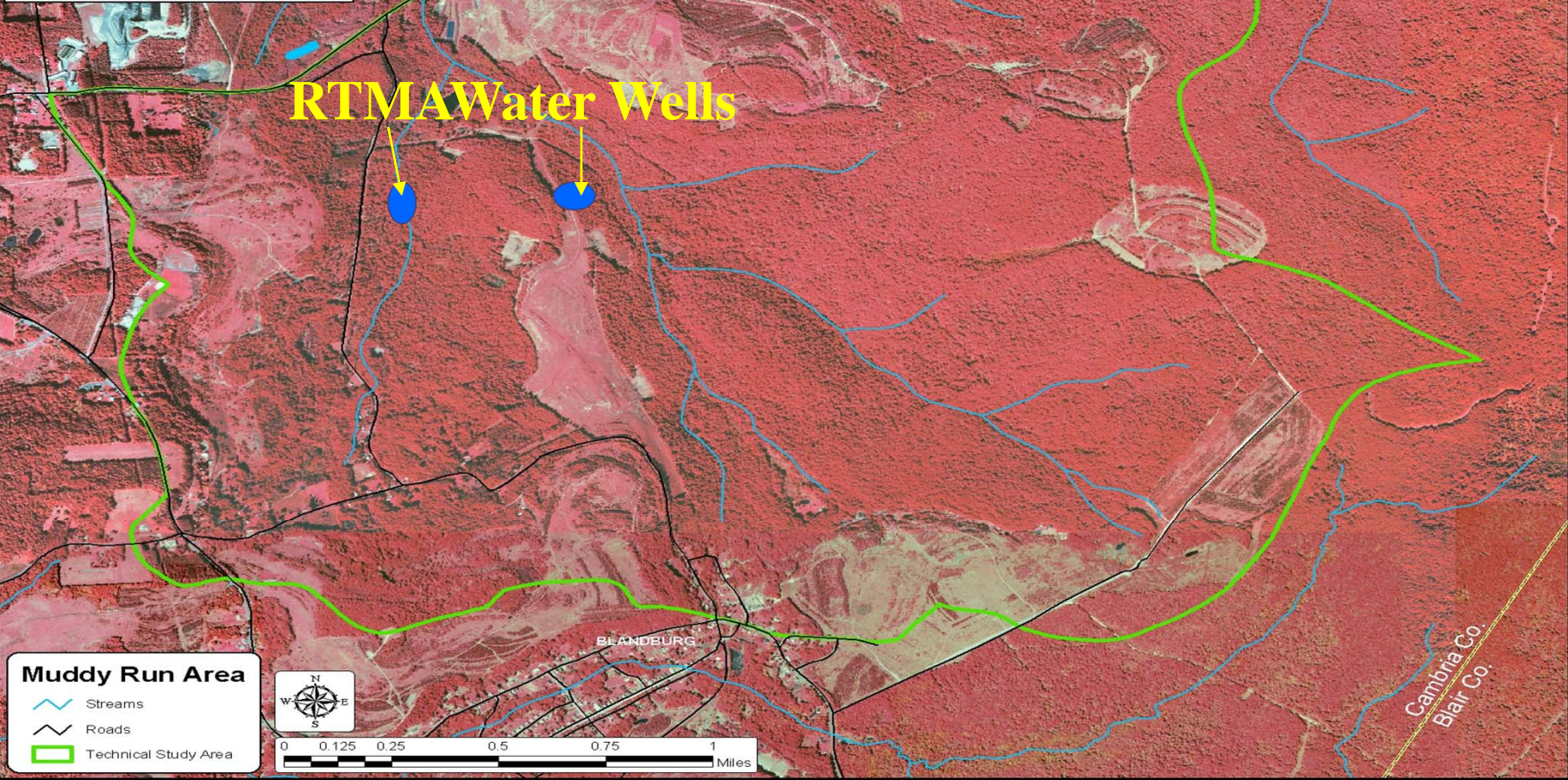
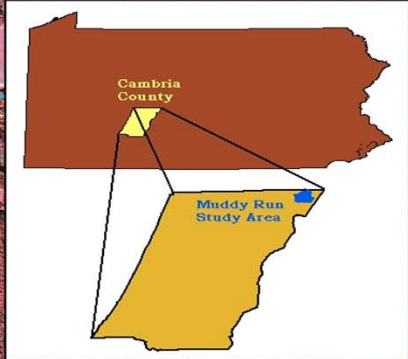
Muddy Run Area

-  Streams
-  Roads
-  Technical Study Area



Muddy Run Watershed Study Area

Forested and Deforested Areas



Muddy Run Area

- Streams
- Roads
- Technical Study Area



Water Authority's Wells

- ◆ Well #1 produces 500 gpm
- ◆ Well #2 produces 425 gpm
- ◆ Wells provide large volumes of high quality water



Water Authority's Treatment and Maintenance Facility

- ◆ Over five million dollars invested in the water system
- ◆ Services 550 residents with additional capacity available



Mining History

- ◆ 1930s underground mining extracted Lower Kittanning coal
- ◆ Over 40 surface mine permits issued since the 1940s
- ◆ Extensive mining of Brookville, Clarion, Lower Middle and Upper Kittanning and the Lower and Upper Freeport Coals
- ◆ Recent operations have mined Mercer, Brookville and Clarion Coals



DEP's Key Technical Study Findings

- ◆ Recharge area for the RTMA wells are primarily from the area east of the well field, where the source aquifers are at, or near, the surface.
- ◆ Potential exists for hydrologic communication between the RTMA supply aquifer and the overlying coal-bearing units.
- ◆ Overburden analysis results indicate the presence of high-sulfur zones, with little or no alkaline strata, creating significant potential for production of acidic, metal – laden mine water from the surface mining of these coals.
- ◆ Coal mining has significantly impacted the water quality and the aquatic community of Muddy Run.
- ◆ Surface mining activities have significantly degraded groundwater resources within the technical study area.



Designation of the Area as Unsuitable for Mining

- ◆ Prohibits mining that would cause acid mine drainage
- ◆ Prevent public water supply from being polluted
- ◆ Government action to prevent pollution of streams and wells is a valid constitutional action that does not require compensation



Alternatives

- ◆ Designate all coals in the Muddy Run Petition Area
- ◆ Designate certain coals in the Muddy Run Petition Area
- ◆ Designating none of the Muddy Run Petition Area as Unsuitable for Mining. This alternative would allow for consideration of the effects of proposed mining operations through the permit review process.



Comments on Proposed Rulemaking

- ◆ Public comment period was from May 8 to June 7 2010
- ◆ Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRCC) had no objections, comments or recommendations.
- ◆ Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors supported this designation.
- ◆ No changes have been made to the proposed designation.

Recommendation

- ◆ The Department recommends that the surface minable coal reserves of the Lower Kittanning, Clarion, Brookville and Mercer coals in the headwaters of the Muddy Run watershed (located south of State Route 253), be designated as unsuitable for surface mining.