



Project No. BF - 17

Project Title: Assess the Feasibility for Economic Development on Surface Mined Properties and Assist in Developing Land Use Master Plans for West Virginia Counties: Phase I

Recipient: West Virginia University

Co-Investigators: Paul Ziemkiewicz, Ph.D.  
Director, WV Water Research Institute  
[paul.ziemkiewicz@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:paul.ziemkiewicz@mail.wvu.edu)  
(304) 293-2867 x 5441

Tony Szwilski, Ph.D.  
Professor, Environmental Engineering  
Chair, Div. of Environmental Science and Safety Technology  
[szwilski@marshall.edu](mailto:szwilski@marshall.edu)  
(304) 696-5457

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Project Description:

Coal mining has been a long standing industry across much of West Virginia. Historically, at the conclusion of surface mining activities, these properties often remained unused offering little value for future use. Considered brownfields, these properties are now seen as possible avenues to the creation of new, sustainable economic development opportunities, especially in the area of alternative energy generation, industrial manufacturing and community-based use.

The WV Department of Energy's (WVDE) Office of Coalfield Development has been assigned the task of assisting counties in collection and evaluation of critical data sets and performance of site specific feasibility studies to ensure the highest potential of economic development opportunities are identified. There is also a need for development of county master land use plans in coal producing areas.

The objective of this program is to augment WVDE personnel resources to effectively determine, collect and evaluate appropriate data sets, and conduct applicable feasibility studies to determine most appropriate future site usage. This effort will solicit the input of numerous specialists with expertise in areas that include brownfields redevelopment, mine land reclamation, environmental and geotechnical systems, business development, real estate development, and geographic information system applications.