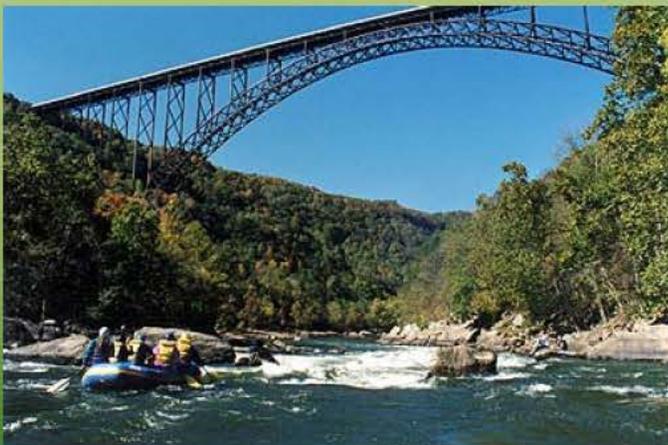
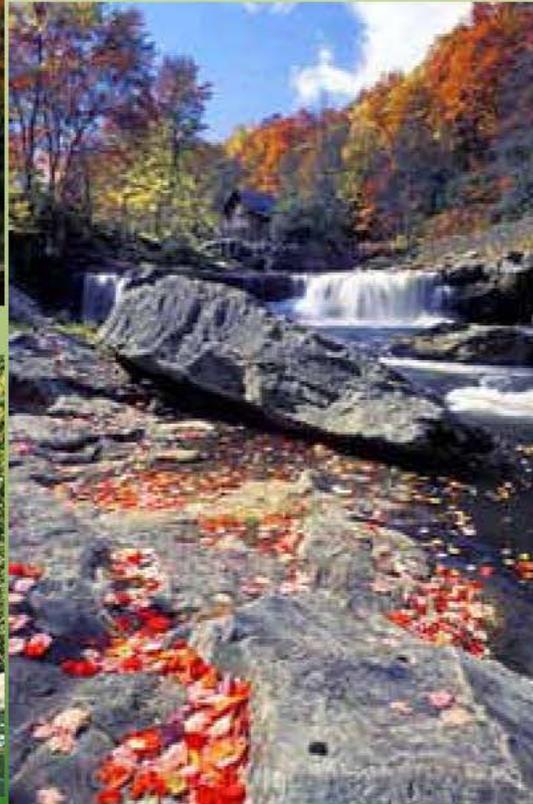
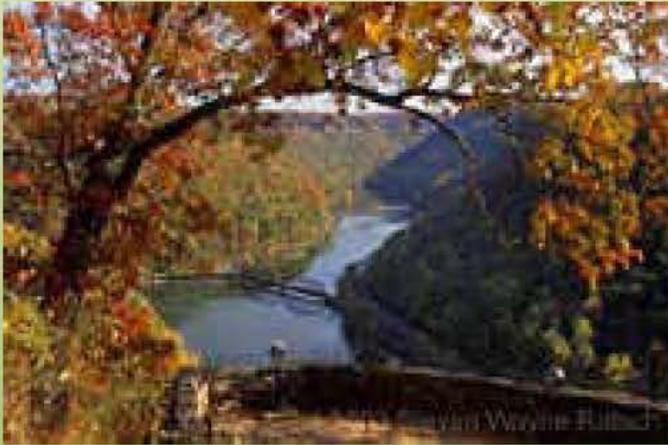




west virginia

department of environmental protection



Division of Mining & Reclamation NPDES Program

Accomplishments and Challenges

Accomplishments

- Late 2013 successfully reduced and controlled a serious backlog that started in 2010.
 - Regional Permit Writers became more productive
 - Regional Training provided a one-on-one instructional process
 - EPA began to prioritize a review process
 - Rationales provided a more standardized review for the EPA reviewer to determine if a full review of the permit was necessary.

Accomplishments

- Permit Writers are more productive
 - Better understanding of the permitting processes
 - More familiar with these processes due to them being utilized more frequently.
 - Less frequent change to the permitting process
 - EPA appears settled in their review and comments
 - Companies have become more familiar with the additional application and permit requirements
 - Knowing what is required in a permit application reduces the review time for the Permit Writer.

Accomplishments

- Better Permits are being written
 - Fewer comments and objections are being received from EPA through their reviews.
 - EPA has been very receptive of the various DEP spreadsheets used by the Permit Writers
 - Aluminum Translator
 - Reasonable Potential Assessment
 - POC
 - WQBEL
 - BWQ - Antidegradation

CHALLENGES

- Selenium
 - Compliance Schedules
 - Effective Selenium Treatment
- Narrative Standards
 - Effective AEPP's
 - Effective BMP's

The Biggest Challenge Of All

Earlier this month, the West Virginia Legislature was told active coal mining sites in the state continue to decrease

- Today there are only 96 active coal mining sites in West Virginia, and that number is down from 152 in 2013 and 184 in 2012.
- Since 2012, 4,000 miners have lost their jobs in West Virginia's coal industry and the number has dropped 1,200 since 2013.
- For every coal miner's job lost, eleven (11) jobs from support areas are lost. Local economy is suffering and businesses are closing.

Are We In Control of Doing Our Job, or Are We Driven by Environmental Law Suits and Petitions?

- Are we over regulating?
- Are we conditioning permits with needless and costly requirements that have little meaning and result?
- Are we permitting companies into bankruptcy?