

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR LONG-TERM POST-MINING DISCHARGE TREATMENT¹

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Abstract: Recent changes in Pennsylvania require mining companies to post bonds or establish trust funds to cover costs associated with the perpetual treatment of post-mining discharges. Substantial cost savings can be realized by critically evaluating annual operation and maintenance costs and updating treatment systems. Several scenarios, including active and passive treatment technology, are evaluated to demonstrate the impact of capital, annual and recapitalization costs on funding requirements. Treatment and financial guarantee options can influence total out-of-pocket expenses for even a low-flow, moderately acidic discharge by about ½ million dollars.

Additional Key Words: Passive Treatment, Active Treatment, Liability, Cost Evaluation

¹ Poster paper presented at the 7th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage (ICARD), March 26-30, 2006, St. Louis MO. R.I. Barnhisel (ed.) Published by the American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR), 3134 Montavesta Road, Lexington, KY 40502

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