

LITTLE BOYD COAL CO., INC. REMINING NO.'S 1 AND 2 MINES

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Abstract. Little Boyd Coal Co., Inc. is now operating the largest re-mining operation in the State of West Virginia. With approximately 5.0 miles of highwall currently under permit and another 1.5 miles of high wall awaiting final regulatory permit approval, this operation has the potential to positively effect the West Virginia environment by the re-mining of a large portion of area negatively impacted by mining that occurred before the implementation of the current mining regulations in 1977. Collection and analysis of pre-mining baseline data is critical because it allows a gauge to environmental control during mining and is key to understanding post mining water quality. This paper will present the information gathered during these periods and will help to provide assurance of the success of the operation for future mining permit applications. Since the submittal of an additional re-mining permit application will occur in 2004, documentation of the conditions, improvements or short comings of the current mining operation is appropriate to give the regulatory agencies confidence in the viability and success of the projects. This also allows Little Boyd Coal Co., Inc. economic confidence that the operation will be a financial success. The changes to the overall environment are also to be documented to quantify the environmental benefits to the State of West Virginia of this re-mining operation.

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