Illinois Coal Basin
INDIANA COAL MINING FACTS

- 32-35 million tons/year
- 68% Surface Production
- 32% Underground Production
- 10,000 Acres/Year affected and reclaimed.
- 97% of Indiana’s electricity from coal
- Generally surface coal reserves are <200 feet
INDIANA COAL MINING FACTS

- Truck/shovel operations dominate, 2 draglines operating
- No steep slope mining
- No mountaintop mining
- Little topographic relief
- USGS Area 32 Report- 62% of landuse is agriculture
INDIANA COAL MINING FACTS

- Underground depths range from 200’ to 1000’
- Underground access to coal via slopes or shafts
- Room & Pillar
- No Longwall operations to date
- Coal Refuse Disposal
Indiana Production

Indiana Coal Mine Production
Tons Produced

Millions

[Bar chart showing years 1995 to 2007 with bars indicating Underground and Surface Tons produced]
SURFACE WATER AVAILABILITY

- Annual Precipitation Ranges from 40-45 Inches
- 10yr/24hr Storm Ranges from 4.3 to 4.6 Inches
- 100yr/24hr Storm Ranges from 6.0 to 6.5 Inches

“7day/10yr low flow values for the (Wabash) lowland are minimal, owing to the absence of surficial aquifers.”

USGS Open-File Reports 81-498
Hydrology of Area 32
Landuse Acres Returned to Landowners Between 1996-2007

- Cropland: 29,577 acres
- Pasture: 11,596 acres
- Forest: 9,255 acres
- Fish & Wildlife: 19,317 acres
- Water: 5,505 acres
- Other: 2,786 acres
AGRICULTURE
TYPICAL DRAINAGE PATTERNS
UNAFFECTED AREA STREAMS
PAST PRACTICES

- Focus: soil stability, water transport, water quality
- Rip rap
- Terraces
- Heavy vegetation
- Straight channelized drainages
CURRENT PRACTICES

- Focus: soil stability, water transport, water quality AND wildlife values
- Natural stream channel design
- Native vegetation
- Establishment of wooded riparian corridors
BENEFITS

- Wildlife habitat diversity
- Less maintenance
- Aesthetics
- Better flood control
- Water quality
CHALLENGES

- Land use restrictions
- Landowner concerns
- Multi agency jurisdiction
- Conflicting regulations
- Learning curve
- Review complexity
- Swell factor
- Personal values
STRIKING A BALANCE

- Environmental protection
- Maximizing coal recovery
- Landowner concerns
- Environmental laws and regulations
- I-SMCRA Law  "Assure that the coal supply essential to the nation's energy requirements and economic and social well-being is provided and strike a balance between protection of the environment and agricultural productivity and the nation's need for coal as an essential source of energy."
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