

## Pennsylvania MRAB Orphan Mine Discharge Task Force Survey Form

The Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board (MRAB) in Pennsylvania is charged with advising the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection on matters pertaining to surface coal mining and reclamation which shall include, but not be limited to experimental practices, alternate methods of backfilling and reclamation, and obligations for pre-existing pollution liability.

In January 2003, the DEP Secretary requested the MRAB form a task force to explore innovative approaches dealing with re-use and recycling of mine water as one alternative to treatment as well as to explore funding of long-term treatment. The MRAB responded by forming the Orphan Mine Discharge Task Force. The designation of "orphan" refers to those discharges for which there is no responsible entity to provide treatment of the discharges and those discharges which do not have a funding mechanism (e.g. trust fund) in place to cover perpetual treatment. The goal of the task force is to search for new ideas and methodologies for pollution prevention, innovative treatment, and recycling and reuse of the mine water. For instance, flooded or flooding underground mine pools represent vast reservoirs of available, but polluted water. By putting together the right partnerships, this potential liability can be turned into a stimulus for economic growth and development. If treated, these mine pools can serve the water supply needs of commercial or industrial users without the necessity of withdrawing water from rivers or streams.

At its February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Task Force formed four work groups. The groups and their respective Chairpersons are as follows:

- Legal & Legislative    Dave Osikowicz    [daveo@groundhog.net](mailto:daveo@groundhog.net)
- Technical                Burt Waite            [bwaite@moody-s.com](mailto:bwaite@moody-s.com)
- Funding                    Mike Young            [youngmg@att.net](mailto:youngmg@att.net)  
                                  Dave Mankamayer    [convlandmgmt@aol.net](mailto:convlandmgmt@aol.net)
- Education/Outreach    Dave Strong            [dstrong@clearnet.net](mailto:dstrong@clearnet.net)

In order to achieve its mission, it is obvious that the Task Force will need to pool the ideas and cooperation of several groups and individuals who do not normally work in concert with each other on a daily basis. The Task Force members have generated some highly constructive ideas, heard concerns and will continue to seek more ideas. The Task Force seeks your formal input and requests that you take a few moments to fill out the attached survey form.

The survey form may be submitted electronically at:  
<http://AMRClearinghouse.org/Orphan>

Also, additional information, such as case histories or professional publications, may be submitted to:

[jschueck@state.pa.us](mailto:jschueck@state.pa.us) or sent via regular mail to:  
Joseph Schueck, Chief  
Division of Acid Mine Drainage Abatement  
Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation  
Fifth Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8476

**MRAB Orphan Mine Discharge Task Force  
Survey Form**

**Name:**  
**Organization:**  
**Address:**

**Phone:**  
**Email:**

I don't have anything specific to suggest at this time; however, add my name to the email distribution list to keep me updated. Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

The issue of orphan mine discharges is of concern to me or my organization because:

I have an idea, solution, proposal, etc. that I would like to submit to the following work group(s) for consideration:

- Legal and Legislative \_\_\_\_\_
- Technical \_\_\_\_\_
- Funding \_\_\_\_\_
- Education and Outreach \_\_\_\_\_

My idea/solution/proposal is as follows:

(Note: Limit discussion to about one page in length. Your discussion should clearly indicate how your idea fits into the overall concept, the why's and wherefore's, cost/benefit, obstacles, advantages, whether it is a theoretical or a proven concept, where it has been used before, etc.)

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If you have any questions concerning this survey, please call Joe Schueck at 717-783-5633. Please email completed survey forms to [jschueck@state.pa.us](mailto:jschueck@state.pa.us) .

Copies of your response will be forwarded to the appropriate task force members.