

STATEMENT OF MAURICE K. GODDARD, SECRETARY OF FORESTS AND  
WATERS, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee, I am Maurice K. Goddard, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, and I welcome the opportunity to appear before you as you review the environmental pollution situation as it exists in this country today.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, gentlemen, has more than its share of environmental pollution. It is a Commonwealth where our forefathers, far-removed and not-so-far-removed, feasted on a heavy banquet of natural resources and threw the bones under the table for posterity.

We probably cannot blame these empire builders for the destruction they wrought—they were riding the wave of industrial expansion and growth, and since the Commonwealth's supplies of coal, lumber, oil, and water seemed inexhaustible, they had few, if any thoughts of conservation and orderly development.

While their activities most certainly helped to make Pennsylvania the great industrial and mineral-producing State that she is, and contributed immeasurably to our national growth and economy, the simple fact of the matter, gentlemen, is that their past gluttony and lack of foresight have placed the Commonwealth in a position today of facing the future with a marred and disfigured face and an acute case of acid indigestion.

Being a forester by profession, I could more easily describe the devastation and destruction of Pennsylvania's forest areas by the lumber barons of the last century, and the long and painful period of recovery which is just now bringing our forests back into production. I am, however, going to limit my remarks to Pennsylvania's present mine drainage and mined land reclamation problems.

Both are massive, both are inhibiting our economic growth, and both will continue to do so in the future unless we meet them head-on today.

Judge for yourselves, gentlemen—the past six generations of Pennsylvanians have imposed about a 2 billion dollar burden on the present generation. Of this figure, slightly less than a billion dollars is the amount estimated that present and future generations will be saddled with for operation and maintenance of the projects and facilities necessary to do the job. This is what we estimate it will cost to rid our some 3,000 miles of adversely affected streams of mine drainage pollution.

These streams receive approximately 2,750 tons of acid per day from a mine water discharge of about 964,000,000 gallons. Roughly 75% of this flow emanates from abandoned deep mines.

On the reclamation side of the ledger, it has been estimated that over 300,000 acres of land have been disturbed by coal mining operations. This includes the huge accumulations of debris from deep mining operations, as well as the surface scars of strip mining operations.