

Lake Arthur to be created in the park will not become a "dead sea" from mine drainage pollution.

It is our hope that this park with its \$14,000,000 recreation area will become the Mecca for almost 2,000,000 visitors annually by the year 1975.

Some of the rehabilitation work is already well underway, but we have no illusions as to the magnitude of the job.

The environmental damage associated with deep and surface mining to be controlled and eliminated within the park area is: (1) acid drainage from underground and strip mines; (2) deep mine refuse piles and disfigured landscape riddled with over 100 mine openings; and (3) the stark and sterile spoil piles left in strip mined areas devoid of protective vegetation cover.

In short, gentlemen, we have in this area virtually every possible type of environmental damage.

The steps we intend to take to eliminate and control these harmful effects of past mining operations are: (1) the sealing and closure of deep mine openings to abate mine drainage; (2) the treatment of mine drainage which cannot be abated; (3) removal and burial of mine refuse piles; and (4) regarding and revegetation of strip mine spoil piles.

Also a recent *Summary and Status Report on Mine Land Rehabilitation Projects* being undertaken jointly by my own Department and the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries. (Available in committee files.)

This listing includes, in addition to another description of the work being carried out at the Moraine State Park, the status of other projects throughout the State.

You will find a short description of the Experimental Mine Drainage Treatment Plant which is being developed and which will be operated by the Pennsylvania State University for the Pennsylvania Coal Research Board of the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries at Hollywood in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. This facility will be used to obtain urgently needed engineering and economic data and will be capable of treating between 1½ million to 1 million gallons of mine drainage per day, using the lime neutralization process. The design of the plant has already been completed and initial construction is underway. Completion of this vital effort is estimated to cost over \$1,000,000 and is dependent upon receiving matching funds from the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration. These funds have been sought since December, 1966.

I would be remiss if I did not emphasize the magnificent work already done by researchers at The Pennsylvania State University. For example, a development by the University through State sponsored research in 1965 introduced a procedure to employ coal to treat polluted water at negligible costs which is being used by industry today.

Further, a summary of the complex nature of the mine drainage pollution problem and approaches to its solution has been presented by researchers at the University and was described to the Congress in 1967 by Representative John Saylor (Pa.). Reference is made thereto: Congressional Record—House, April 20, 1967, pages H-4410-19.

Recognition of the seriousness of the mine drainage pollution problem was emphasized at the University with the establishment of a Mine Drainage Research Section in January, 1968.