

The prospects for a research breakthrough in mine drainage control will be explored by experts at the Second Symposium on Coal Mine Drainage Research May 14 to 15 at Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh.

This symposium has been arranged by members of the Coal Industry Advisory Committee to ORSANCO in cooperation with: Bituminous Coal Research, Inc. (an affiliate of the National Coal Association); the Coal Research Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission; the Land, Air, and Water Use Study Committee of the American Mining Congress; and, the National Coal Association.

Papers will be presented before symposium sessions covering the chemistry of mine-water formation, the relationship of biology to mine drainage, hydrological influences, research and pollution abatement programs, control and treatment techniques, and their application by industry by some of the Nation's leading scientists, researchers, and representatives of Government and industry who are concerned with the effects and practical control of acid mine drainage.

In short, final and effective solutions to the problems of mine drainage control and prevention will come out of the combined efforts of many individuals representing a broad spectrum of scientific and technological disciplines—chemistry and geochemistry, geology and hydrology, biology and bacteriology; and mining engineering and sanitary engineering.

We recognize that there is a scarcity of talented people in these and other disciplines, and that perhaps the task of solving acid mine drainage problems is not a glamorous one which would attract the people we need. The coal industry is ready to cooperate in every way it can in implementing a successful mine drainage control research and demonstration program.

We urge the establishment by the Federal Government of a statutory technical advisory committee composed of representatives of the coal and other mining industries and academic experts well versed in the mine drainage field. This committee would concern itself with the fundamental, down-to-earth technical problems involved in developing technically feasible and economically attainable means of preventing and controlling acid mine drainage and the subsequent pollution of the Nation's rivers and streams. Policy decisions would be left to the agency charged with administration of the demonstration projects called for in S. 2760, but the agency would have the benefit of advice from those experts who are most closely associated with the basic problem.

We appreciate the opportunity afforded us today to present our views on S. 2760, and to offer a report on the state-of-the-art of mine drainage control.

We support section 2 of S. 2760 because of the urgent need for the body of technical knowledge which will come out of the acid mine drainage research program this part of the bill proposes.

The coal industry is in full accord with all those who strive to make our rivers and streams as free of pollution as is practicable. We are prepared to demonstrate our desire in this respect by working to attain the goals underlying the program set forth in this bill.