



MINING ACTIVITY WITHIN THE WATERSHED

PREVIOUS MINING ACTIVITY

Coal mining has been conducted in all areas of the Big Run drainage basin.

Several interconnected deep mines were developed in the western area of the drainage basin in the Lower Kittanning seam.

The St. Marys Sewer Pipe Co. opened a mine in 1919 and operated until about 1955. The coal was loaded on a spur of the Pittsburgh and Shawmut Railroad Co. Approximately 750,000 tons of coal is reported to have been produced by the St. Marys Sewer Pipe Co. mine.

The Sprankles Mills Coal Co. mine was opened in 1920 and was operated until 1963. The coal from this mine was also loaded on railroad cars on a spur of the Pittsburgh and Shawmut Railroad Co. It is reported that approximately 700,000 tons of coal were produced by the Sprankles Mills Coal Co. mine.

The King Coal Co. opened a mine in 1922 and operated the mine until 1949. The coal was loaded into railroad cars on a spur of the Pittsburgh and Shawmut Railroad Co. It is reported that approximately 500,000 tons of coal were mined by the King Coal Co.

The Worthville Coal Co. opened a mine in 1945 and operated until 1965. The coal from the Worthville Coal Co. mine was hauled by trucks to the railroad. It is reported that approximately 350,000 tons of coal were mined by the Worthville Coal Co.

The St. Marys Sewer_Pipe Co. mine, the Sprankles Mills Coal Co. mine, the King Coal Co. mine and the Worthville Coal Co. mine are all interconnected and all drain through the drainage heading of the St. Marys Sewer Pipe Co. mine.

A small deep mine was operated by Norman Smith in the 1950's. The coal from the Norman Smith mine was trucked to the railroad. No estimate of tonnage produced by the Norman Smith mine could be obtained during the investigations.

It was reported that many small deep mines have been opened on the outcrops of the Lower Kittanning and the Lower Freeport seams that can no longer be found because of erosion and tree growth.

Richard Beckman opened a deep mine in approximately the center of the Big Run drainage basin in Oliver Township, easterly of Township Road No. 368 and southerly of Township Road No. 381, in the late 1940's and operated it for several years. No mine map was made of this mine, and the extent of mining is unknown. The Richard Beckman mine was in the Brookville seam. The main heading was driven easterly from under the highwall of a strip mine. An air heading was driven out through the outcrop southeasterly from the main heading. There is mine refuse in the pit of the strip mine.

There are many strip mines in all of the coal seams in the Big Run drainage basin. Many of the strip mines are pre-act operations. Other mines were operated during the periods of the various strip mining laws. Some areas of strip mining are constantly changing because there are new strip mines and reaffected areas. There is a large reserve of coal in

the Big Run drainage basin which can be produced by both strip mining and deep mining methods.

CURRENT MINING ACTIVITY

As a large coal reserve exists within the watershed, there are several coal companies currently operating within the limits of the watershed. As no abatement procedures are recommended for this watershed, a detailed investigation of existing mining and water permits was not attempted.

It is known that at least two surface mining operations exist within the watershed and they are being undertaken by the Harry Glenn Coal Company and the Baughman Coal Company. It is possible that the Doverspike Coal Company still holds permits within the watershed as they completed an operation in the Big Run Watershed in the fall of 1974. Other permits may also exist within the watershed but it is felt that this study does not warrant a detailed investigation of the permitting within the watershed limits.