
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies



presents

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mountain Top Mining in Appalachia

Abstract:

In 1998, the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy and several citizens sued the Federal government and the State of West Virginia for not properly discharging their environmental review responsibilities with respect to mountaintop mining operations in Appalachia. In a December 1998 settlement agreement, the US Environmental Protection Agency, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Office of Surface Mining, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection joined together to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating the regulatory programs governing these operations. The agencies have completed several technical studies aimed at evaluating the environmental and economic impacts that would occur from several regulatory restriction scenarios. This seminar will describe the processes undertaken by the agencies to date to prepare the EIS; the difficulties inherent in conducting such an interagency study resulting primarily from differing Agency paradigms; an overview of the preliminary findings from the studies conducted to date; and potential policy choices that might be made by Federal and State authorities.

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2002

Time: 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Place: Auditorium at Wistar Institute

On Penn's campus: Spruce Street & Penn's 36th Street Walkway

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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