



# West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey Colloquium Series

Presenting

**Paul F. Ziemkiewicz, Ph.D.**

**Director, West Virginia Water Research Institute**

Date: **Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**  
Place: **Large Conference Room**  
Presentation: **Begins at Noon**

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## FLOODING COAL MINES Turning Lemons into Lemonade\*



**Flooding from a mine blowout in McDonald**  
Darrell Sapp, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*  
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05027/448727.stm>

Over a thousand abandoned underground coal mines exist in north-central West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Water accumulating in these mines “breaks out” when the level of the mine pool intersects the land surface or a conduit to the land surface. The disastrous effects

of a mine-pool breakout were witnessed in 2005 in McDonald, PA where mine water flooded streets of the borough and flowed for days.

Our speaker, Dr. Paul Ziemkiewicz, is Director of the West Virginia Water Research Institute and Principal Investigator of the Monongahela Basin Mine Pool Project. After a general overview of mine drainage, Paul will detail some of the findings of the Mon Basin Project. Paul will also discuss potential uses of mine water. While one may not want to make lemonade from it, water from abandoned mines has the potential for industrial use.

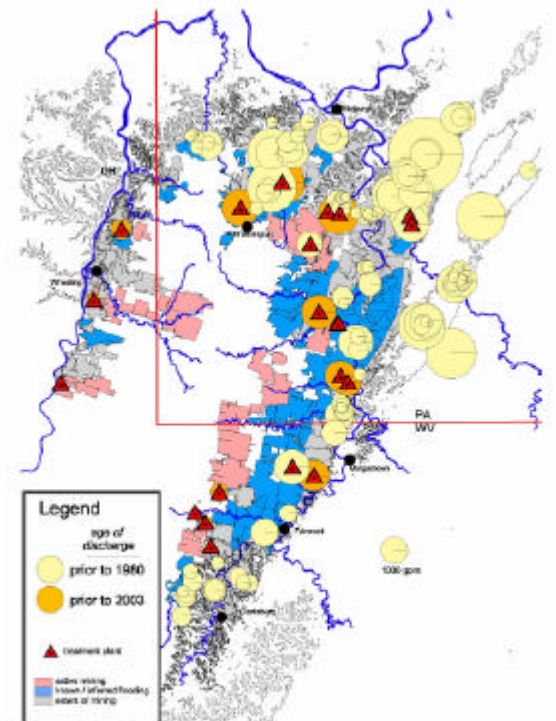


Figure 5.5. Extent of mine flooding and mine discharge locations/magnitude in year 2003. Base of mine outfalls from year 2005 mapping.

More information on the Monongahela Basin Mine Pool Project can be found at  
<http://wwri.nrcce.wvu.edu/programs/mbmpp/index.cfm>

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\* I made up the title of this talk because I either forgot the original title, or Paul did not give me one. However, this captures the idea.