

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

**Harrisburg**



**1981**

**ANNUAL REPORT ON MINING ACTIVITIES**

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1981

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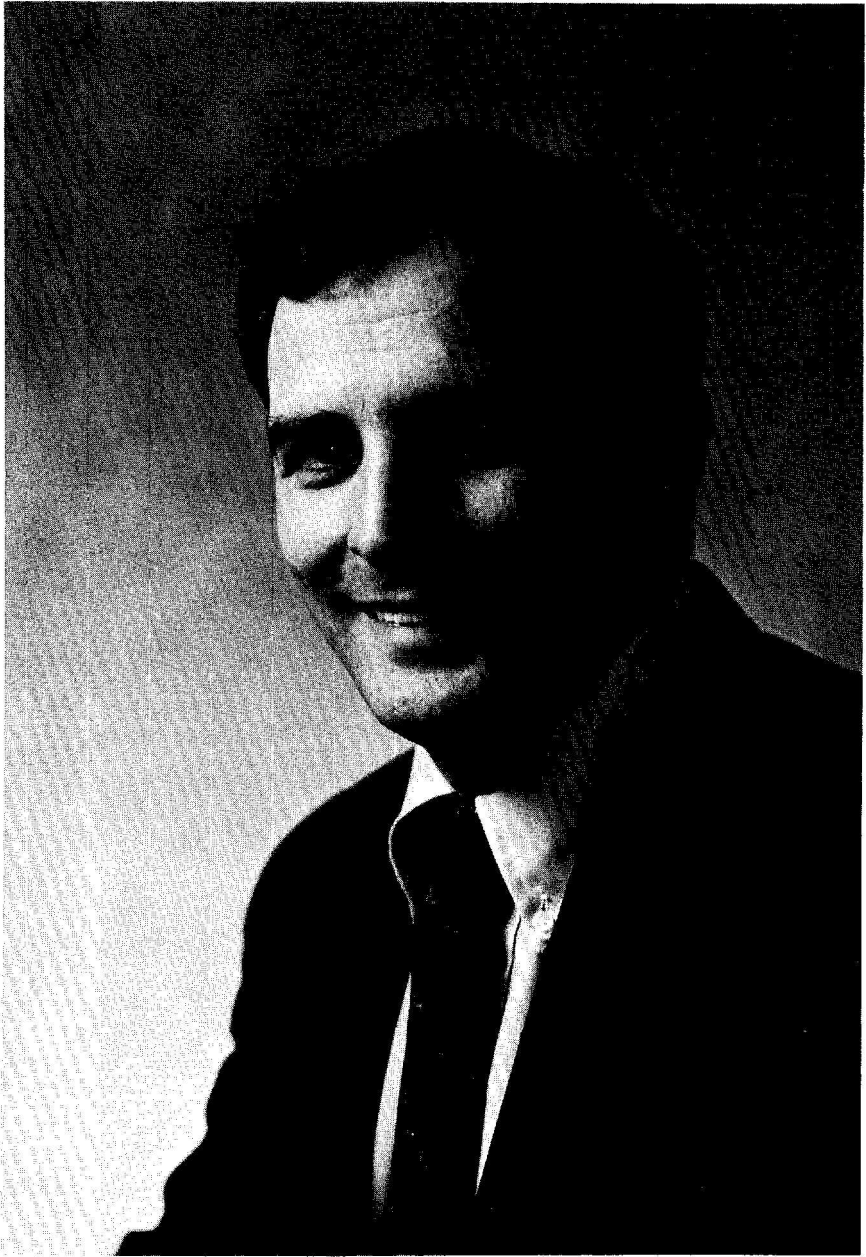
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BIOGRAPHY

PETER S. DUNCAN

SECRETARY

PA. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Peter S. Duncan was sworn in as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources on January 6, 1982, after being confirmed by the state Senate by a unanimous 50-0 vote.

Duncan served as Acting Secretary of the Department following his appointment by Gov. Dick Thornburgh on October 19, 1981.

Pete, as he's known to most people, was named to the post because of his interest in the outdoors and his dedication to protecting the environment.

Duncan joined DER as a Special Deputy Secretary on February 23, 1979, and served as the Department's chief problem solver and helped coordinate DER's relations with the Legislature. On July 1, 1980, he was named Deputy Secretary of the Office of Resources Management and placed in charge of supervising functions in the Department relating to Forestry, State Parks, Design, Operations, Soil and Water Conservation, Topographic and Geologic Survey, Dams and Waterway Management, and Resources Programming.

Duncan came to DER from the Legislature's Joint Committee on Air and Water Pollution and Conservation, where he gained the reputation of being an enthusiastic conservationist and demonstrated the ability to see both sides of difficult environmental issues. Duncan joined the Committee in June 1970 as a field representative and was named Assistant Executive Secretary in August 1971. In January 1972 Duncan was named Executive Secretary of the Committee and was responsible for reviewing environmental legislation and working with legislators. Duncan also worked closely with DER and with the state's environmental and sportsmen's groups.

Duncan was born in Hollidaysburg, Pa., on May 1, 1944, and was graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1966.

While in college Duncan served as a forester intern with the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, which later became a part of DER, and as a park ranger for the National Park Service at Glacier National Park in Montana.

Following his graduation from college, Duncan served as a park naturalist for the Arlington County, Va., Department of Environmental Affairs.

He served in the Army from February 1967 through December 1969, rising from the rank of private to first lieutenant. He spent a year in Vietnam as a platoon leader and company commander and was awarded the Bronze Star with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Duncan served as President and Vice President of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. He has been awarded the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's White Hat Award for his dedication to conservation and the Public Administrator of the Year Award by the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators.

Duncan and his wife, the former Rebecca Albright of Hollidaysburg, have two sons, Matthew and Andrew. They live in Millerstown in Perry County.


Office of Environmental Protection  
Annual Report on Mining - 1981

FOREWORD

Final work was completed on submitting the necessary documents of the Federal Office of Surface Mining in order for the Commonwealth to assume primary responsibility for administering the federal surface mining program in Pennsylvania. During this year, primary inspectional efforts were directed towards keeping mining operations confined to permitted areas, insuring concurrent back-filling, the implementation of satisfactory soil erosion controls, and the correction of acid mine drainage problems.

Mining district offices are now fully established and the backlog of mining permits have been eliminated. Emphasis continued on training of inspectional and permit issuance personnel in order to improve technical abilities and to insure uniformity of application.

During 1981 a permit fee of \$50 per acre was established in addition to bonding requirements in order to insure adequate funds for reclamation of abandoned mine lands. As in the previous year, the Commonwealth more than doubled its reclamation efforts of abandoned mine lands.

  
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William B. Middendorf  
Deputy Secretary for Environmental Protection

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
BUREAU OF MINING AND RECLAMATION

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1981

Bureau of Mining and Reclamation

The Bureau administers State and Federal laws and regulations to minimize the environmental impact on surface mining, coal refuse disposal and the surface effects of underground mining related to mine subsidence. The Bureau also operates a mine subsidence insurance program for structure owners over deep coal and clay mines. Regulatory and enforcement activities assure proper land reclamation, the prevention of water pollution and protection of miners and public health and safety.

Program activities for obtaining primacy under the provisions of P.L. 95-87, and the Surface Mining Control Act of 1977, are progressing with anticipated program approval by July 1982.

The information on anthracite and bituminous coal is in compliance with the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Mining Act (November 10, 1965, P.L. 346) as amended and the Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Act (July 17, 1961, P.L. 659) as amended.

This edition represents the 112th Consecutive Annual Report Concerning Anthracite and Bituminous Coal Mining Activities, and includes as well, data on pits and quarries within the Commonwealth.

Mine Subsidence Division

The Mine Subsidence Regulation Section issued four new surface support permits during 1981, and approved 323 map amendments to existing permits. There are now approximately 121 active deep bituminous coal mines under permit. In addition, the Section conducted 326 deep mine inspections, 497 appraisals of protected structures and provided 816 subsurface engineering reports to the general public. The Mine Subsidence Insurance Section sold 2,516 new policies during 1981 bringing total policyholders to 15,850 providing coverage of \$559 million. Sixty (60) claims totaling \$278,000 were paid during the period.