

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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ANNUAL REPORT ON MINING ACTIVITIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1982

	Page
Picture and Biography of Secretary Nicholas DeBenedictis	5
Highlights of Accomplishments - Bureau of Mining and Reclamation	7
Fatal Accident Reports	8

ANTHRACITE REGION

Statistical Reports:

Production, Employes and Fatalities 1870 - 1982	12
Production of Coal, Employes and Fatalities by County	14
Summary of Anthracite Mines, Production and Fatalities by District/County	15
Operators Producing 25,000 or More Tons	16
Accidents in Which Five or More Persons Were Killed - 1847 -- 1982	17
Study of Anthracite by County	20
Deep Mine District--County Cross Reference	35
Surface County Code Cross Reference	36

Production Table:

Production, etc., of Anthracite Operators by District/County	37
--	----

<u>Breakers, Washeries and Preparation Plants</u>	67
---	----

Anthracite Operators Mailing List	70
---	----

BITUMINOUS COAL REGION

Statistical Reports:

Production, Employes and Fatalities 1877 -- 1982.	76
Production of Coal, Employes, Fatala and the Number of Mines by County	78
Summary of Bituminous Coal Mines by District/County	79
Operators Producing Over 200,000 Tons of Deep Mined Coal During 1982	80
Operators Producing Over 200,000 Tons of Strip, Auger and Refuse Coal During 1982	81
Bituminous Fatal Accident Victims - 1982	82
Accidents in Which Five or More Persons Were Killed - 1884 -- 1982	83
Study of Bituminous Coal by County	85
Deep Mine District--County Cross Reference	122
Surface County Code Cross Reference	123

Production Table:

Production, etc., of Bituminous Coal Operators by District/County	124
---	-----

Geographical Table:

Geographical Locations and Explosives Used of Bituminous Coal Mines by District/County.	245
---	-----

<u>Cleaning Plants and Tipples</u>	354
--	-----

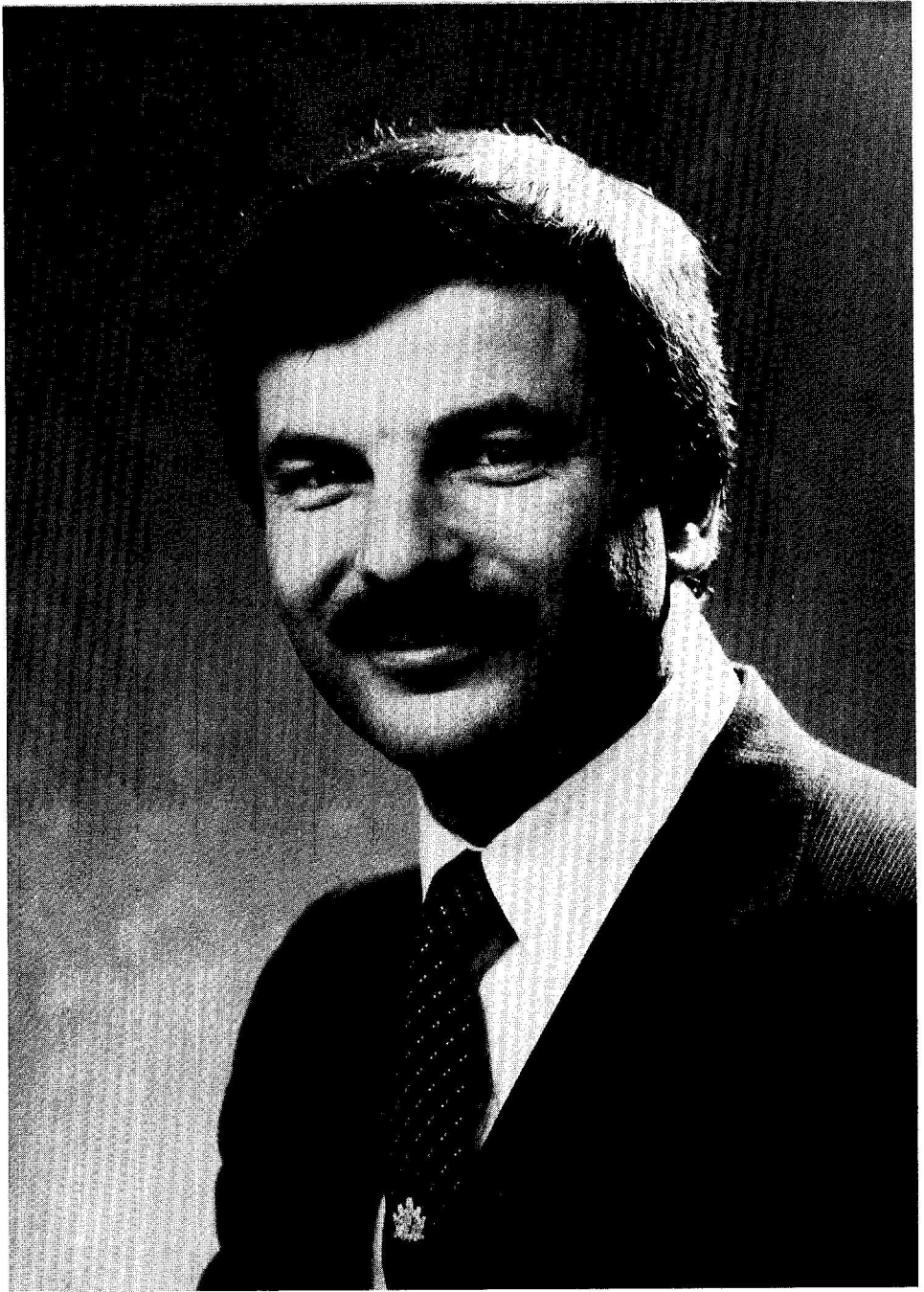
<u>Bituminous Coal Operators Mailing List</u>	357
---	-----

PITS AND QUARRIES

Statistical Reports:

Production of Minerals, Operations, Average Days, Employes and Accidents by County	368
--	-----

<u>Production of Minerals - Net Tons</u>	369
<u>Geographical Table:</u>	
Geographical Locations and Explosives Used	422
<u>Operators Mailing List:</u>	474
<u>List of Small Operators Producing Less Than 2,000 Tons of Non-Coal Minerals</u>	478
<u>Directory</u>	483



Biography
Nicholas DeBenedictis

On December 14, 1981, Governor Dick Thornburgh appointed Nicholas DeBenedictis, of Havertown (Delaware County), to the Cabinet level post of executive director of the Economic Development Committee of the Cabinet.

The Economic Development Committee was established by the Governor in 1979 to coordinate the activities of all state departments with responsibilities for economic development. The committee concentrates on specific economic opportunities and problems to meet the needs of business and industries so that they will remain, expand or locate in Pennsylvania.

The Economic Development Committee of the Cabinet consists of the Governor, who serves as chairman, the Lieutenant Governor who serves as alternate chairman, and the secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Community Affairs, Environmental Resources, Labor and Industry, Revenue, Transportation and Legislative Affairs.

DeBenedictis, 36, served until recently as an Assistant Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and formerly was press secretary for the Commonwealth's Office of Budget and Administration and a special assistant to Budget and Administration Secretary Robert C. Wilburn.

DeBenedictis has managed federal air, water and hazardous waste pollution control programs for the states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

As an EPA congressional and intergovernmental relations officer, DeBenedictis worked with state, federal, and local elected officials from 1976 to 1979. He also served the Reagan administration in Washington as EPA Administrator Ann Gorsuch's press secretary during the transition period in 1981.

As part of a special federal executive interchange program, he served in 1980 as press secretary for the Pennsylvania Office of Budget and Administration, where he worked with the governor and cabinet officers in state budget matters.

A 1969 graduate of Drexel University, DeBenedictis holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a masters degree in environmental engineering and science. He also served in the Army Corps of Engineers (1970-73), and is now a captain in the Army Reserves.

He has received numerous awards for public service, including the International Year of the Child Award from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (1979), the EPA Silver Medal Award for Superior Service (1979), the EPA Quality Performance Award (1976) and the EPA Bronze Medal for Commendable Service (1974).

He and his wife, Eileen, have two children.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF MINING AND RECLAMATION

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1982

Bureau of Mining & 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.

Primacy under the provisions of P.L. 95-87, and the Surface Mining Control Act of 1977, has been achieved. The new rules and regulations became effective August 1, 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 113th 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 eight new surface support permits during 1982, and approved 288 map amendments to existing permits. There are now approximately 115 active deep bituminous coal mines under permit. In addition, the Section conducted 665 deep mine inspections, 378 appraisals of protected structures and provided 1,023 subsurface engineering reports to the general public. The Mine Subsidence Insurance Section sold 1,650 new policies during 1982, bringing total policyholders to 17,500 providing coverage of \$645 million. Forty-eight (48) claims totaling \$281,707.00 were paid during the period.