

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Harrisburg



1984

ANNUAL REPORT ON MINING ACTIVITIES

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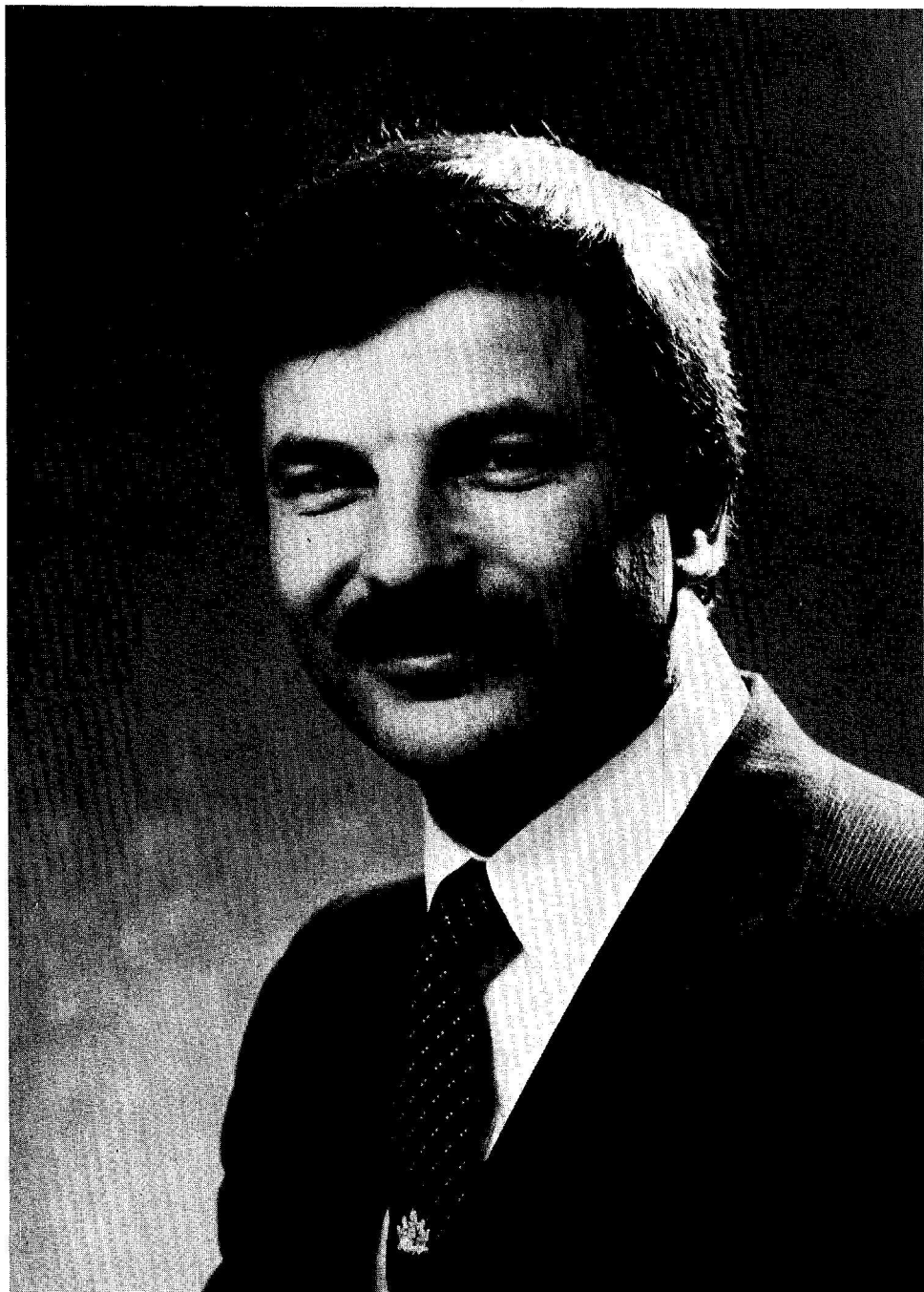
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Biography
Nicholas DeBenedictis

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.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Post Office Box 2357
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Bureau of Deep Mine Safety

May 24, 1985

Honorable Nicholas DeBenedictis, Secretary
Department of Environmental Resources
9th Floor, Fulton Bank Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary DeBenedictis:

As required by the Anthracite and Bituminous Coal Mine Acts, I herein submit a brief report on the activities of the Commonwealth's underground mining operations for 1984.

This edition represents the 115 consecutive annual report concerning the Anthracite and Bituminous coal mining activities within the Commonwealth.

Anthracite deep mine production increased in the year by about 150,000 tons, and there was an increase in employment over the previous year of 123 jobs. The industry accounted for slightly over one million tons produced, employed about one thousand deep miners in 128 mines. There were no fatal accidents and 121 non-fatal.

In the Bituminous coal region, deep mine production increased about one-quarter million tons over 1983 with 300 fewer miners employed, totalling 14,998 jobs. The number of deep mines operating was 121, eight fewer than the previous year. There were seven fatal accidents compared to nine in 1983. There was, however, an increase of 292 non-fatal accidents.

The Bureau continues to train approximately 15,000 miners per year in mine safety techniques and prides itself on maintaining five first-rate mine rescue stations that are strategically located throughout the coal fields.

Ms. Patsie Nichols has single-handedly compiled this report and should be complimented for what I believe is an exceptional job well done.

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the support you have given the Commonwealth's deep mine safety program.

Respectfully yours,

W. J. Vicinelly
Walter J. Vicinelly, Director
Bureau of Deep Mine Safety