

# **Coal Combustion Product Tools and Mine Pools: Environmental and Geotechnical Engineering Comments from Maryland**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This report presents an overview of fifteen years of environmental observations of the legacy of three hundred and fifty years of mining in Maryland. Abandoned mines are observed not to be dead or static micro-ecosystems. The continuing environmental impacts of long abandoned mines are subject to sometimes insidious and sometimes sudden disastrous changes. Most of these changes are predictable by careful scientific observations. Each mine is unique and subject to some degree of improvement from an environmental point of view through restoration by astute application of modern geotechnical engineering. Long considered to be too costly to fix, many abandoned mines are written off as environmental derelicts of our past environmental insensitivity. The economic feasibility of restoring such mines using pozzolanic coal combustion products to create stabilized or solidified material meeting the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency is discussed with a focus on the two most intensely mined coal basins in Maryland.

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