

West Virginia Coal Waste Impoundments

LEGEND

-  Coal Waste Impoundments
-  Rivers
-  Selected Watershed
-  West Virginia

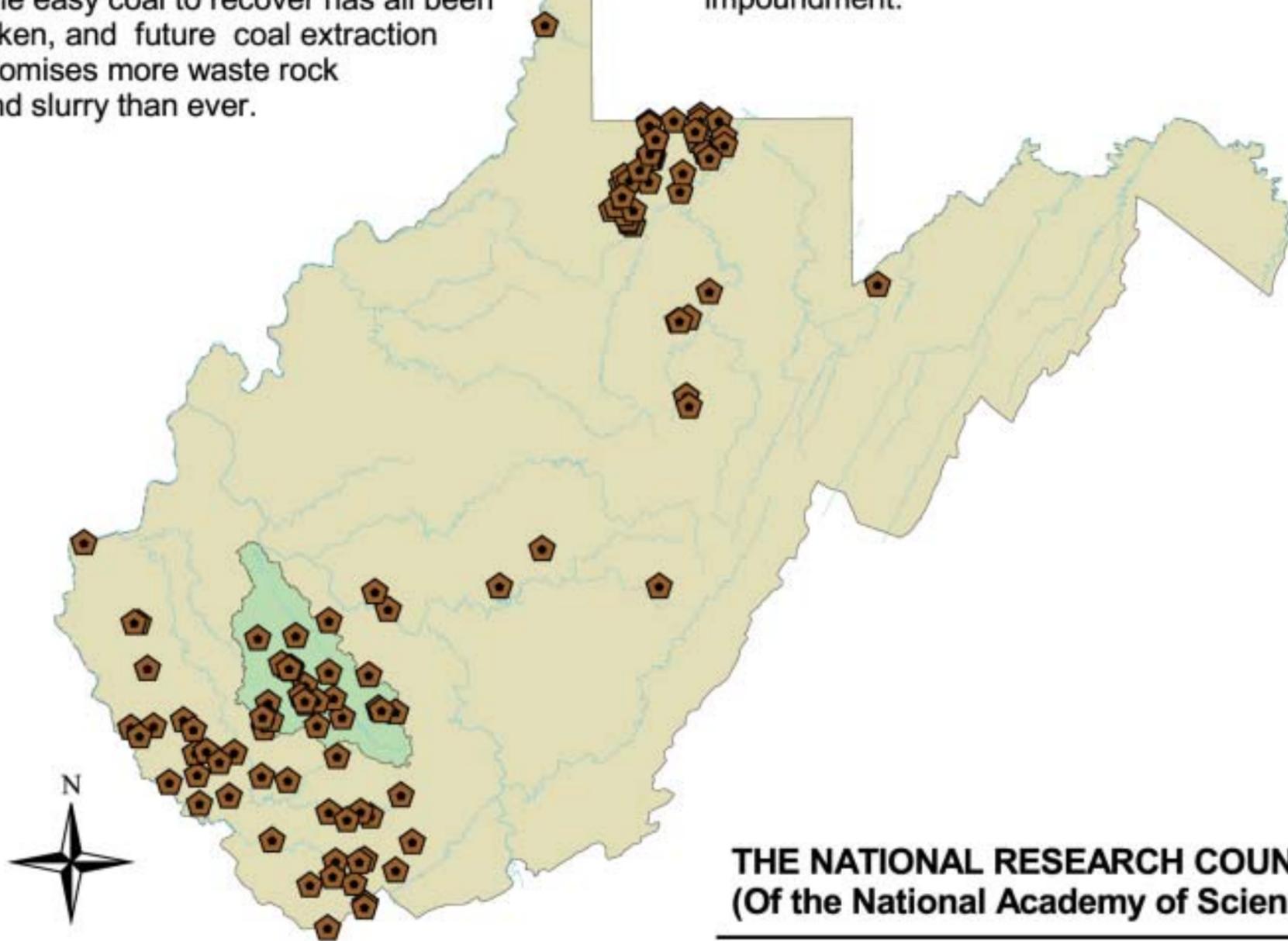
Data Source: WVDEP 2002



Over 9 billion gallons of coal slurry are currently permitted for storage in West Virginia's largest impoundment.

While industry uses the term "clean coal," coal today is dirtier than ever. Marfork Coal indicated 8.3 million tons of waste rock and .9 million tons of slurry were byproducts of 7.6 million tons of coal produced in 2000 at their Boone County site.

The easy coal to recover has all been taken, and future coal extraction promises more waste rock and slurry than ever.



THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (Of the National Academy of Sciences)

January 2002 report called for studies/action on:

- Concerns about slurry chemical composition
- Siting impoundments over old deep mines
- Accuracy of underground mine maps
- Adequate fracture analysis in the pond area
- Issues of chronic blackwater discharges

...And stressed research is needed on alternative waste disposal methods.

COAL RIVER BASIN (highlighted in green) is one of several major rivers threatened by numerous coal waste impoundments.

The Tug Fork, Big Sandy, Guyandotte, and Monongahela Rivers face similar threats, and possibly more risks as impoundments continue to expand.

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