

# Anthracite Region Mine Drainage Remediation Strategy

To contact me after my presentation, text 84H to INTRO (46876)

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Susquehanna River Basin Commission



# SRBC Past AMD Remediation Strategies

- Tioga River Watershed
  - Completed in 2003
  - Being utilized to plan remediation by a public/private partnership.
- West Branch Susquehanna River
  - Completed in 2008
  - Being utilized to plan remediation by the West Branch Task Force.
- Anthracite Coal Fields
  - Completed in 2011
  - Will be used to plan remediation and investigate sites that offer low-flow augmentation water.
- Broadtop Fields/Altoona Bituminous
  - Future Plan?

**ANTHRACITE COAL REGION  
IN REFERENCE TO THE  
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN**

SUSQUEHANNA

WAYNE

81

Carbondale

LACKAWANNA

Scranton

Moosic

WYOMING

LUZERNE

Wilkes-Barre

Nanticoke

81

Berwick

COLUMBIA

Montour

Danville

80

Sunbury

Shamokin

McCormick

Shenandoah

Hazleton

476

80

CARBON

SCHUYLKILL

DAUPHIN

LYKENS

81

Pine Grove

LEBANON

BERKS

AMD Impaired Stream

Abandoned Mine Land

Major Anthracite Fields

Mine Pool Mapping Incomplete

Major Anthracite Fields

Mine Pool Mapping Complete

NY

PA

Susquehanna River Basin

MD

SRBC

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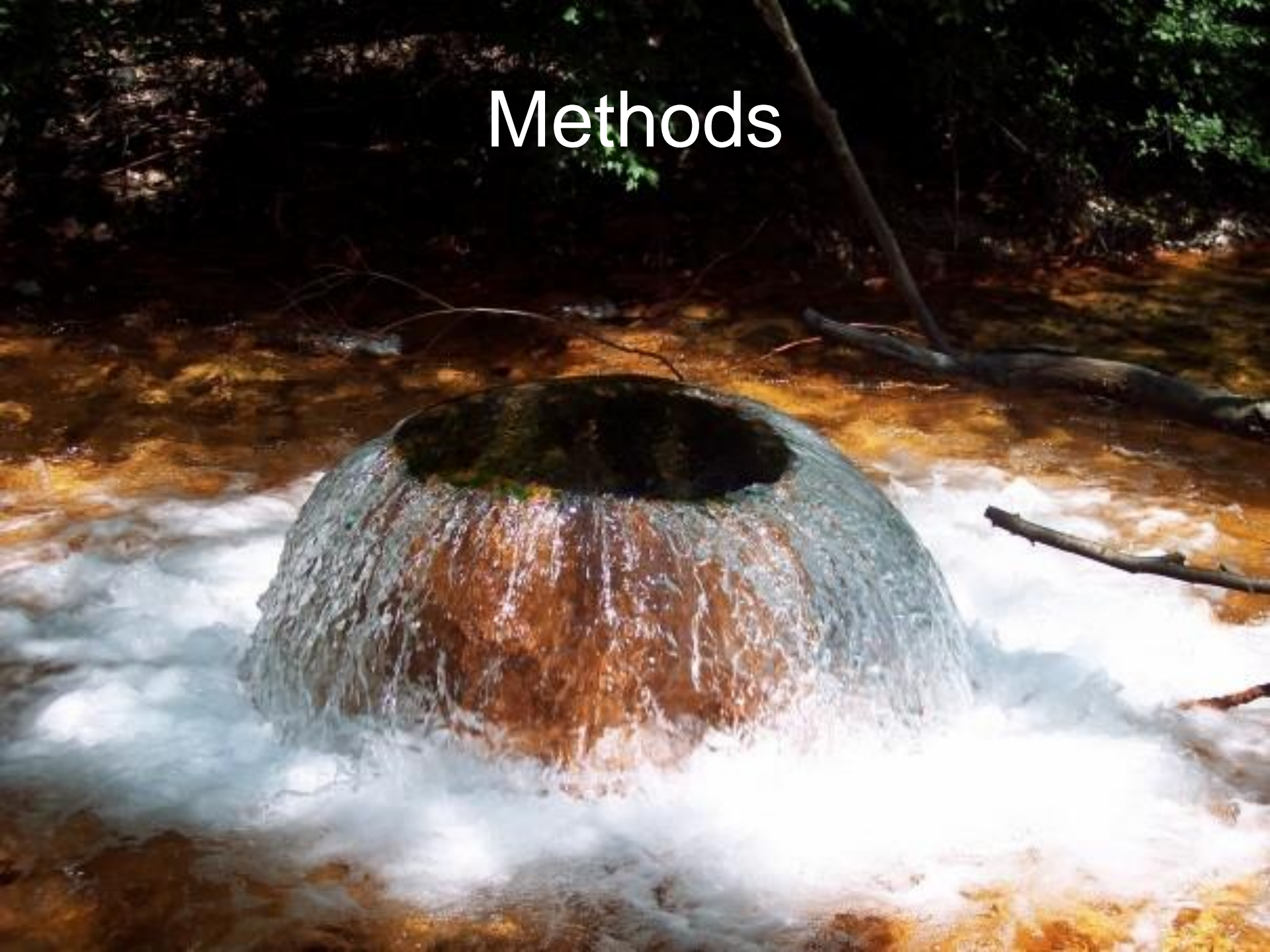
- 226.5 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Lackawanna River
- Small Susquehanna River Tribs

- 77.3 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Nescopeck Creek
- Catawissa Creek

- 114.2 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Shamokin Creek
- Mahanoy Creek

- 98.6 mi<sup>2</sup>
- Mahantango Creek
- Wiconisco Creek
- Stony Creek
- Swatara Creek

# Methods





# Anthracite Remediation Strategy

- Historical stream and discharge water quality and flow database. **No new water quality collected.**
- Incorporated into a Geo Database
- Geo Database Layers
  - AML Sites (PI, PII, PIII)
  - AMD Impaired Stream Reaches
  - Mining Permits
  - Mined Area Extent
  - Class A/Wild Trout
  - HQ/EV
  - Land Use



# Sample Data Entered

- All TMDLs
- All known USGS studies
- All SRBC data
- Several known/found watershed assessments
- Select Scarlift data
- Select DEP SIS Database and NPDES permits



# Data Collected

## Description Data

Site Number – Primary Key (NFD001)

Type – Instream/Discharge

Field

Watershed

Stream

Site Name

Site Description

Mine Description

Latitude

Longitude

Begin Date

End Date

Data Source

Elevation

## Min/Ave/Max

Discharge

Water Temp

Spec Cond

Field pH

Lab pH

DO

SO<sub>4</sub>

Fe (Total, Fer., Dis.)

Mn (Total, Dis.)

Al (Total, Dis.)

Alkalinity

Acidity

TSS

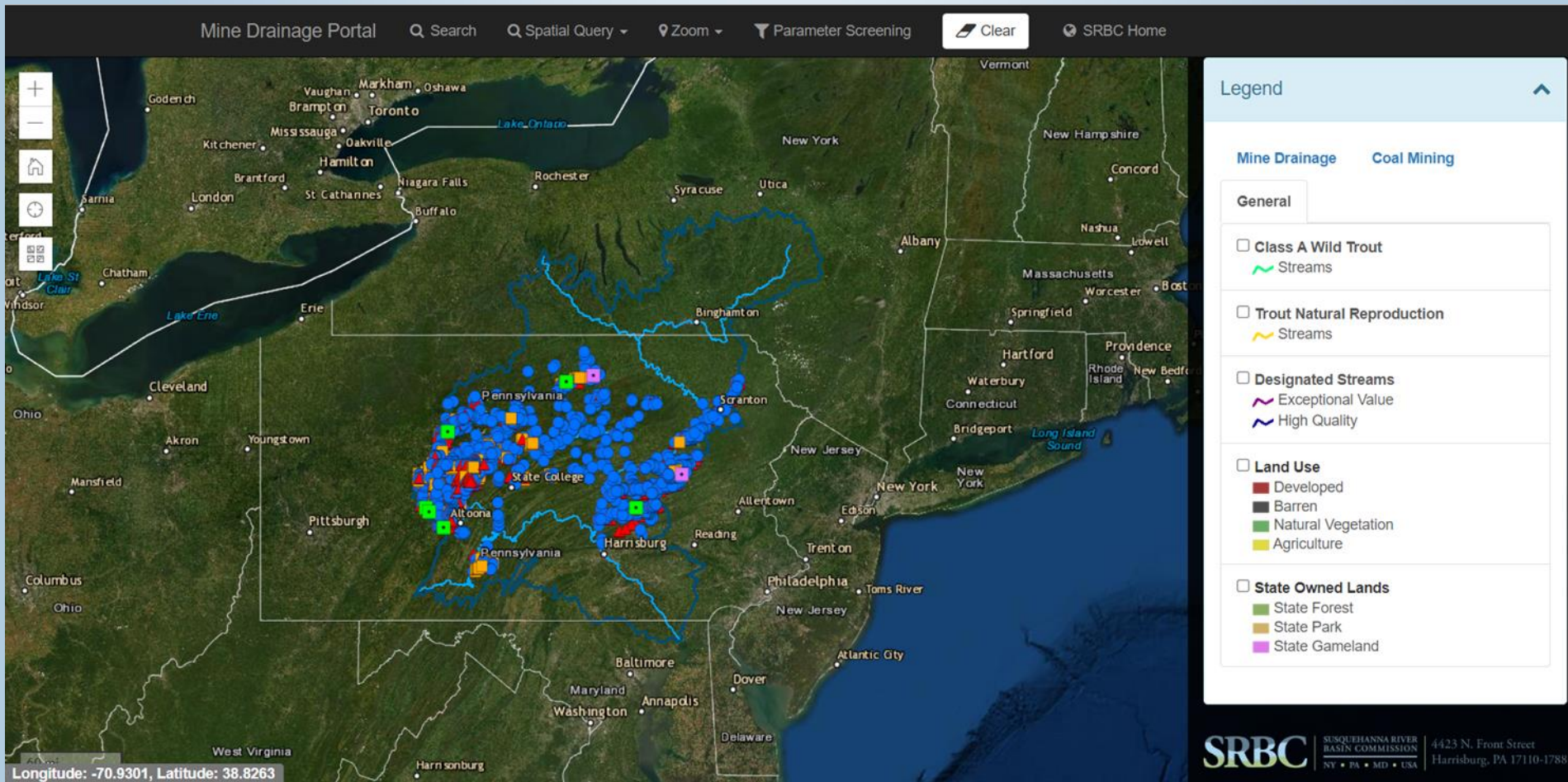
TDS



# Current Sample Station Coverage

	Stream Stations	Stream Samples	Discharge Stations	Discharge Samples	Total Stations	Total Samples
Northern	123	1,341	52	934	175	2,275
Eastern	59	820	20	912	79	1,732
Western	110	2,448	149	3,623	259	6,071
Southern	107	4,471	125	3,112	232	7,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>9,080</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>8,581</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>17,661</b>

# SRBC Mine Drainage Data Portal



[www.srbc.net/minedrainageportal/Map](http://www.srbc.net/minedrainageportal/Map)



# Coal Field Comparisons





# Coal Field Impairment Analysis

Field	Within Susquehanna	AMD Impairment	Total AMLs	PI AMLs	PII AMLs	PIII AMLs	Undetermined Priority	Undetermined Priority
	mi <sup>2</sup>	miles	Mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	%
Northern	226.48	154.71	31.14	0.36	10.21	5.44	15.13	48.59
Eastern-Middle	77.34	120.74	6.15	0.21	1.52	1.52	2.90	47.15
Western-Middle	114.22	141.30	21.89	0.54	5.38	3.19	12.78	58.38
Southern	98.61	117.00	4.63	0.00	1.94	0.58	2.11	45.57
Total	516.65	533.75	63.81	1.11	19.05	10.73	32.92	51.59

- AMD impaired stream miles are comparable between the four fields. 22% in the Southern and 29% in the Northern.
- 83% of the AMLs are found in the Northern and Western-Middle.
- 32.92 mi<sup>2</sup> of AMLs currently unprioritized. This is 52% of all Susquehanna River Anthracite AMLs



# Coal Field Impairment Analysis Cont.

Field	Discharges	Flow	Fe Loading	Mn Loading	Al Loading	Acid Loading
	#	CFS	Lbs/day	Lbs/day	Lbs/day	Lbs/day
Northern	51	251.97	41343.81	5002.66	622.75	53495.57
Eastern-Middle	20	127.49	3005.11	2500.66	6016.43	54664.67
Western-Middle	128	211.80	23995.90	4726.40	1741.92	61576.76
Southern	121	72.33	5501.94	698.49	583.60	19707.30
Total	320	663.59	73846.76	12928.21	8964.70	189444.30
Field	Discharge Yield	Flow Yield	Fe Loading Yield	Mn Loading Yield	Al Loading Yield	Acid Loading Yield
	#/mi <sup>2</sup>	CFS/mi <sup>2</sup>	Lbs/day/mi <sup>2</sup>	Lbs/day/mi <sup>2</sup>	Lbs/day/mi <sup>2</sup>	Lbs/day/mi <sup>2</sup>
Northern	0.23	1.11	182.55	22.09	2.75	236.20
Eastern-Middle	0.26	1.65	38.86	32.33	77.79	706.81
Western-Middle	1.12	1.85	210.08	41.38	15.25	539.11
Southern	1.23	0.73	55.79	7.08	5.92	199.85
Total	0.62	1.28	142.93	25.02	17.35	366.68

- The Northern and Western-Middle create a majority of the Fe, Mn, and acidity loading.
- The Eastern-Middle creates a majority of the Al loading and significant acidity loading.
- The Southern Field is the least pervasive of the four fields in terms of AMD loading.



# Watershed Comparisons





# Watershed Impairment Analysis

Watershed	Area in Field	AMD Impairment	Total AMLs	PI AMLs	PII AMLs	PIII AMLs	Undetermined Priority
	mi <sup>2</sup>	miles	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>
Lackawanna River	126.64	73.93	17.46	0.12	6.01	3.66	7.67
Susquehanna River-Northern Field	99.84	80.78	13.68	0.24	4.20	1.78	7.46
Nescopeck Creek	51.57	64.43	3.90	0.05	1.04	1.39	1.42
Catawissa Creek	25.77	56.13	2.37	0.20	0.50	0.13	1.54
Shamokin Creek	49.66	60.95	8.29	0.14	1.88	1.23	5.04
Mahanoy Creek	57.09	80.18	13.28	0.37	3.44	1.91	7.56
Mahantango Creek	19.57	16.87	0.80	0.00	0.28	0.14	0.38
Wiconisco Creek	14.78	26.60	1.21	0.00	0.40	0.01	0.80
Stoney Creek	11.09	13.58	0.001	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.001
Swatara Creek	43.21	60.00	2.69	0.00	1.26	0.44	0.99

- AMD mileage fairly comparable between seven of the ten watersheds. Wiconisco Creek, Mahantango Creek, and Stoney Creek are the exceptions.
- 83% of AMLs are found in only four watersheds; Lackawanna River, Susquehanna River-Northern Field, Mahanoy Creek, and Shamokin Creek.
- Undetermined Priority AMLs are the highest in those same four watersheds.

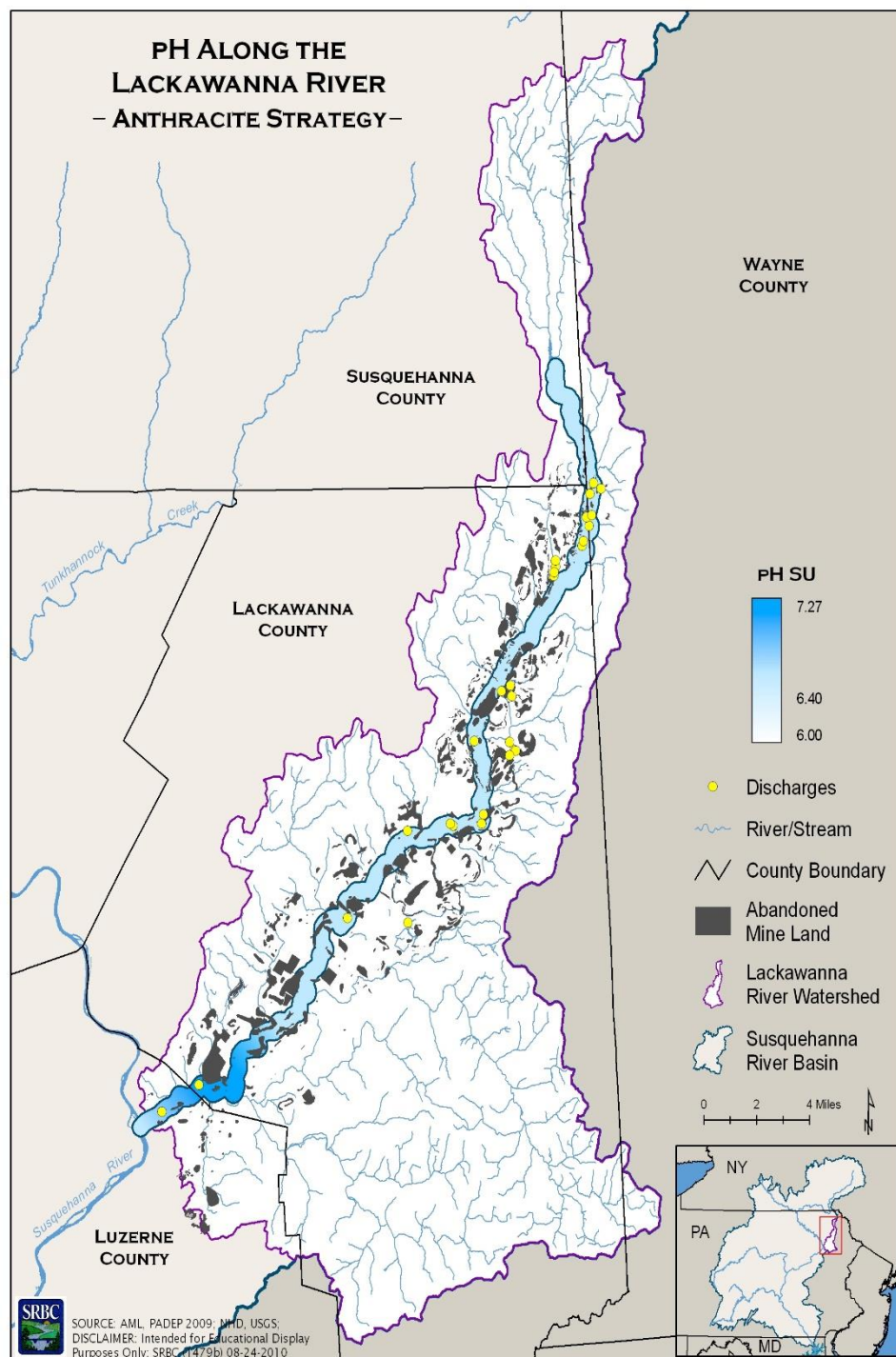
# Watershed Impairment Analysis Cont.

Watershed	Discharges	Flow	Fe Loading	Mn Loading	Al Loading	Acid Loading
	#	CFS	Lbs/day	Lbs/day	Lbs/day	Lbs/day
Lackawanna River	30	147.12	18285.08	2574.93	251.55	8334.24
Susquehanna River-Northern Field	21	104.85	23058.73	2427.74	371.19	45161.30
Nescopeck Creek	12	95.94	2781.84	2200.66	5051.74	35967.51
Catawissa Creek	8	31.55	223.27	300.00	964.70	18697.17
Shamokin Creek	67	79.63	10670.58	1396.27	657.17	26176.75
Mahanoy Creek	61	132.18	13325.32	3330.12	1084.76	35400.02
Mahantango Creek	23	16.75	1616.22	232.48	176.56	8690.85
Wiconisco Creek	12	11.09	1277.33	116.10	201.03	3847.48
Stoney Creek	3	5.68	1.16	8.48	0.00	326.45
Swatara Creek	83	38.80	2607.23	341.43	206.00	6842.53

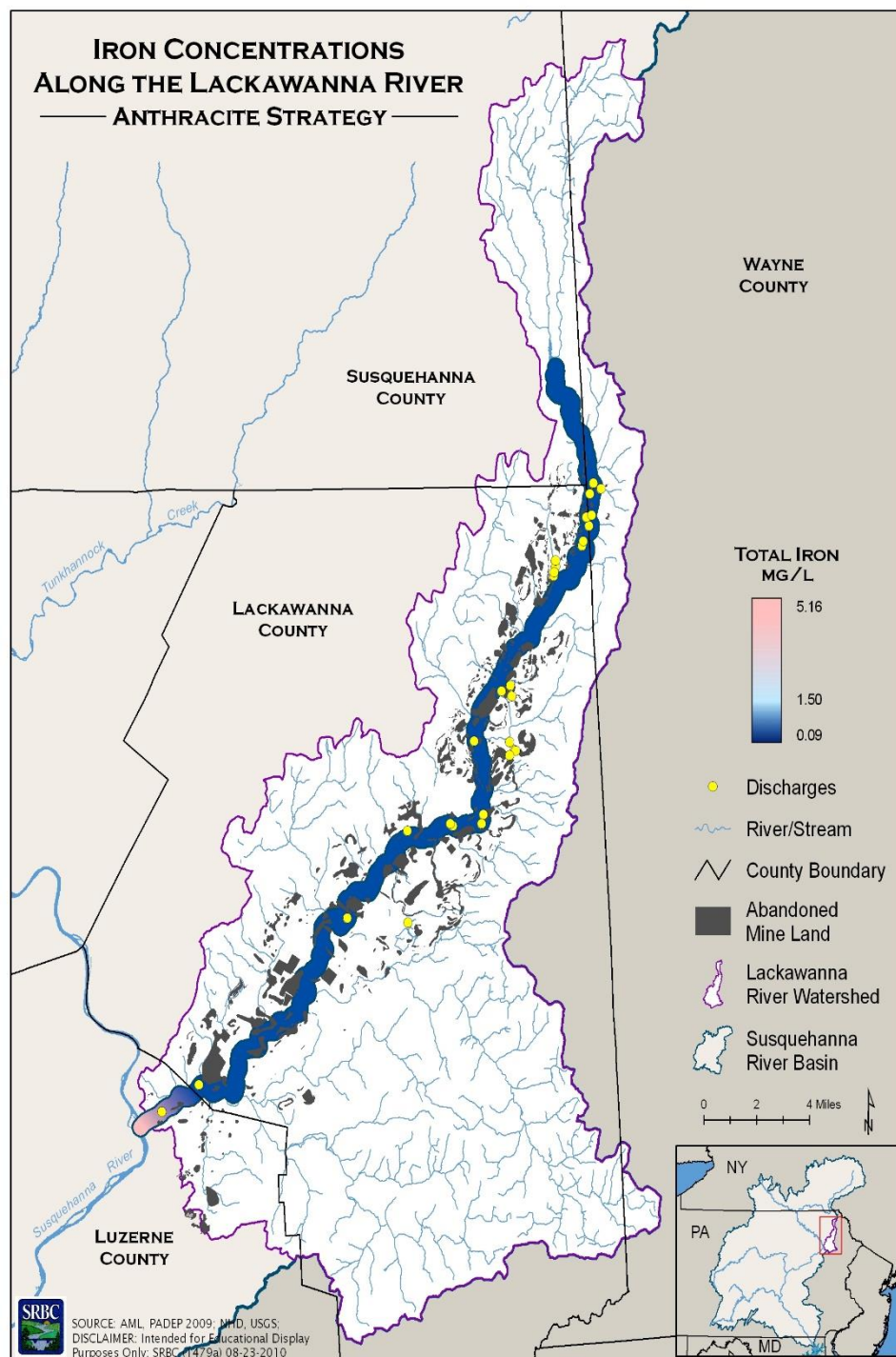
- 56.6% Discharge Flow – Lackawanna, Mahanoy, Nescopeck
- 74.1% Fe Loading – Lackawanna, Mahanoy, Solomon, Shamokin
- 83.5% Mn Loading – Mahanoy, Lackawanna, Nescopeck, Shamokin, Solomon
- 56.4% Al Loading – Nescopeck (79.3% if Mahanoy and Catawissa are included)
- 63.2% Acid Loading – Nescopeck, Mahanoy, Shamokin, Solomon



# PH ALONG THE LACKAWANNA RIVER — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —



# IRON CONCENTRATIONS ALONG THE LACKAWANNA RIVER — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —



# PH ALONG NANTICOKE, NEWPORT, AND SOLOMON CREEKS — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —

LUZERNE  
COUNTY

LUZERNE  
COUNTY

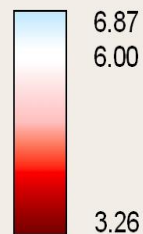
Susquehanna  
River

Nanticoke Creek

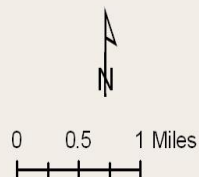
Solomon Creek

Newport Creek

PH SU



- Discharges
- ~ River/Stream
- Watershed
- Abandoned Mine Land



SOURCE: AML, PADEP 2009; NHD, USGS;  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display  
Purposes Only; SRBC (1479d) 08-24-2010



# IRON CONCENTRATIONS ALONG NANTICOKE, NEWPORT, AND SOLOMON CREEKS — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —

LUZERNE  
COUNTY

LUZERNE  
COUNTY

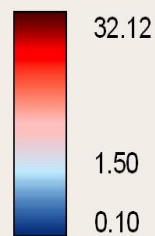
Susquehanna  
River

Nanticoke Creek

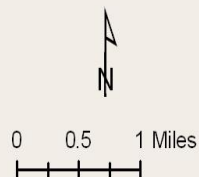
Solomon Creek

Newport Creek

TOTAL IRON  
MG/L



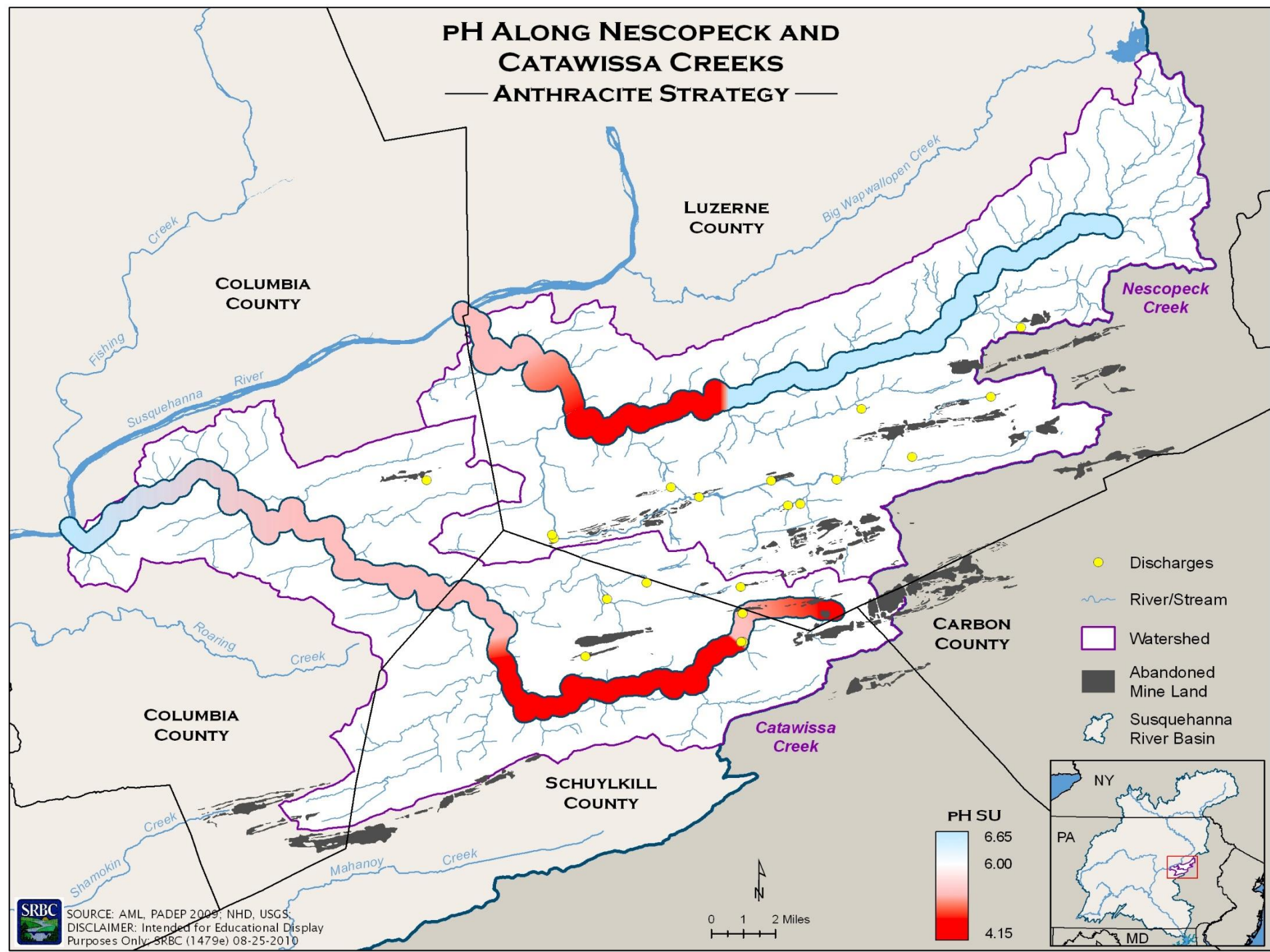
- Discharges
- River/Stream
- Watershed
- Abandoned Mine Land



SOURCE: AML, PADEP 2009; NHD, USGS;  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display  
Purposes Only; SRBC (1479c) 08-24-2010

# PH ALONG NESCOPECK AND CATAWISSA CREEKS

## — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —

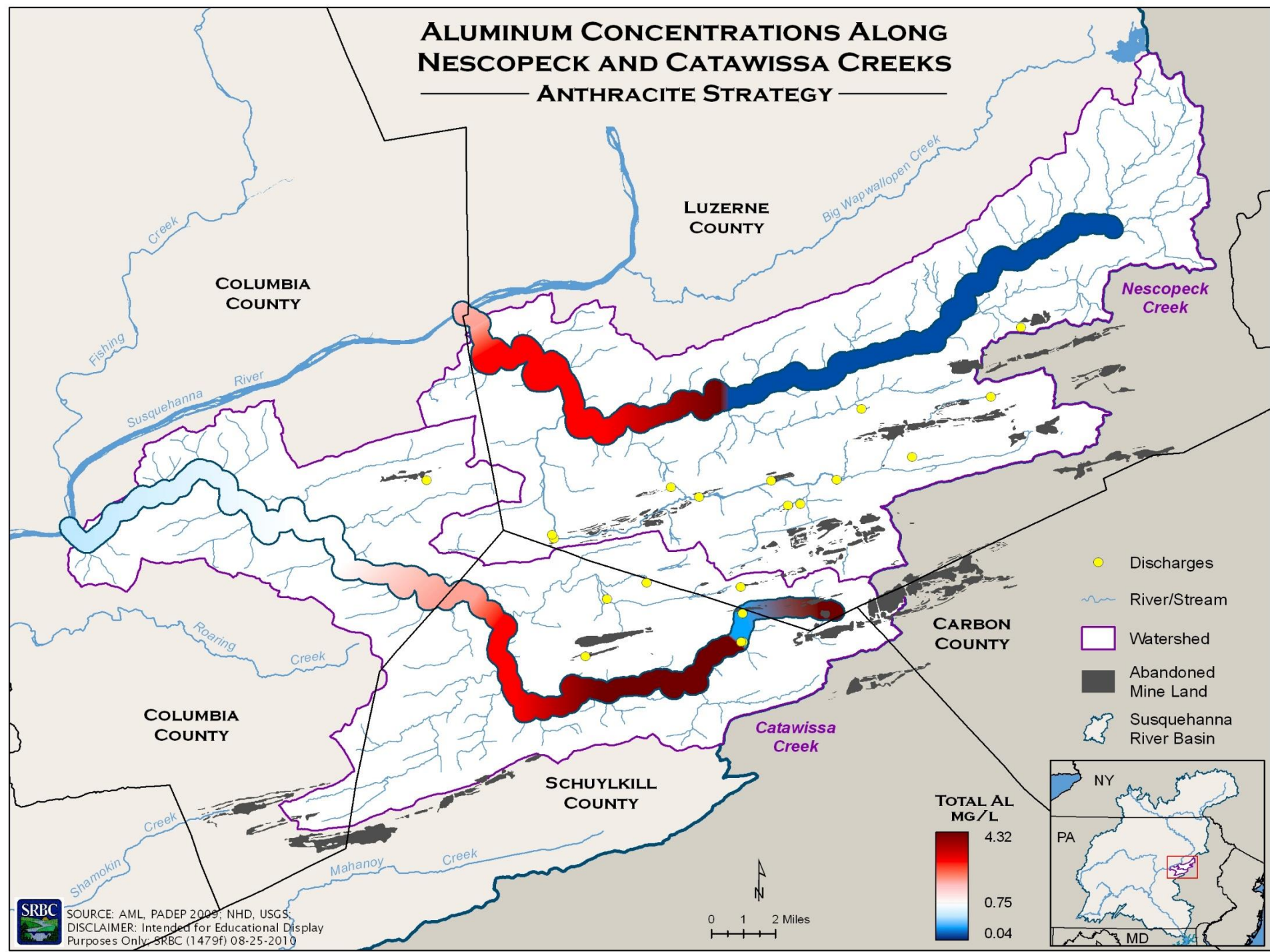


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# ALUMINUM CONCENTRATIONS ALONG NESCOPECK AND CATAWISSA CREEKS

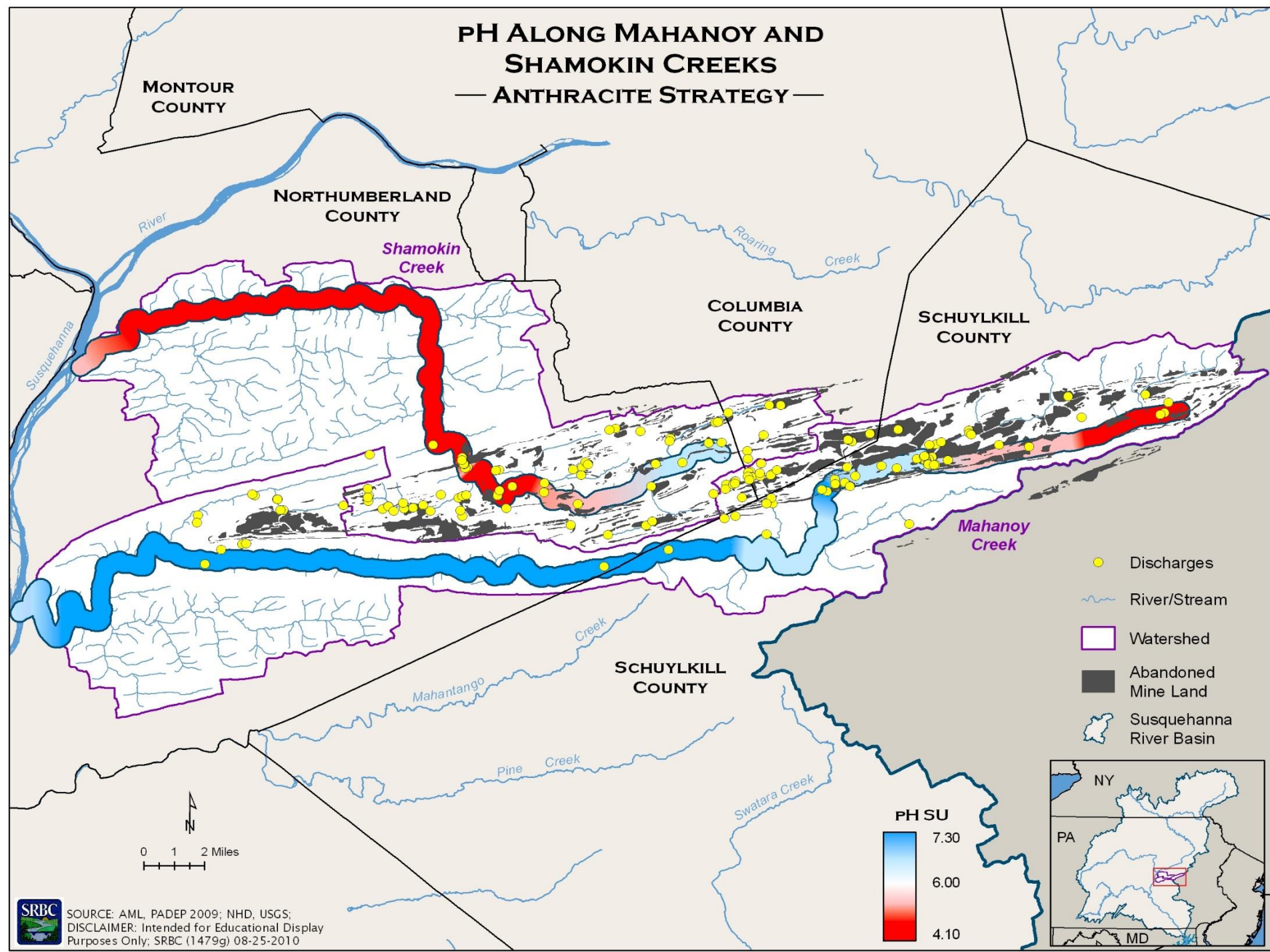
## ANTHRACITE STRATEGY



SOURCE: AML, PADEP 2009; NHD, USGS.  
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# PH ALONG MAHANOY AND SHAMOKIN CREEKS

## — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —

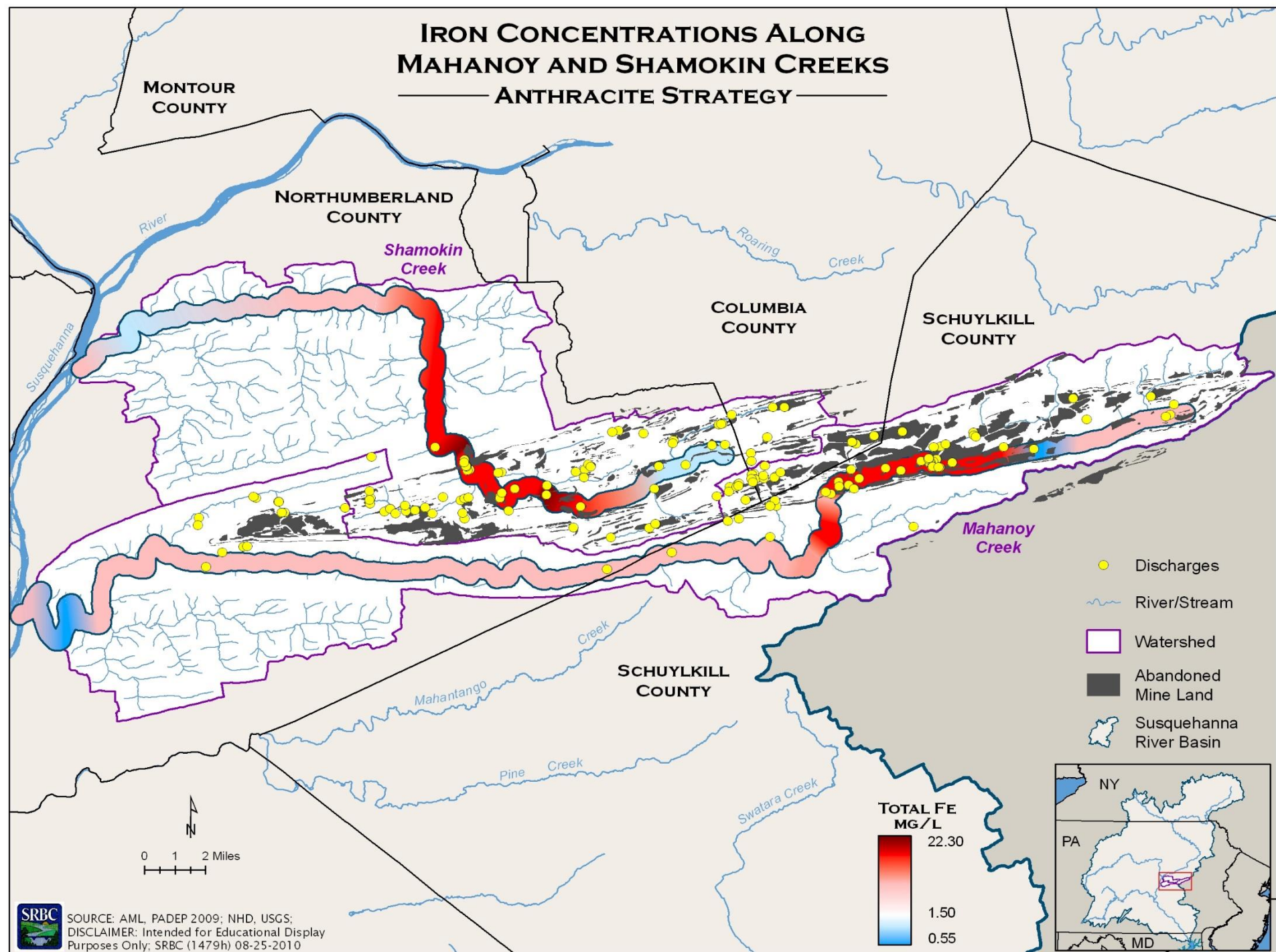


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# IRON CONCENTRATIONS ALONG MAHANOY AND SHAMOKIN CREEKS

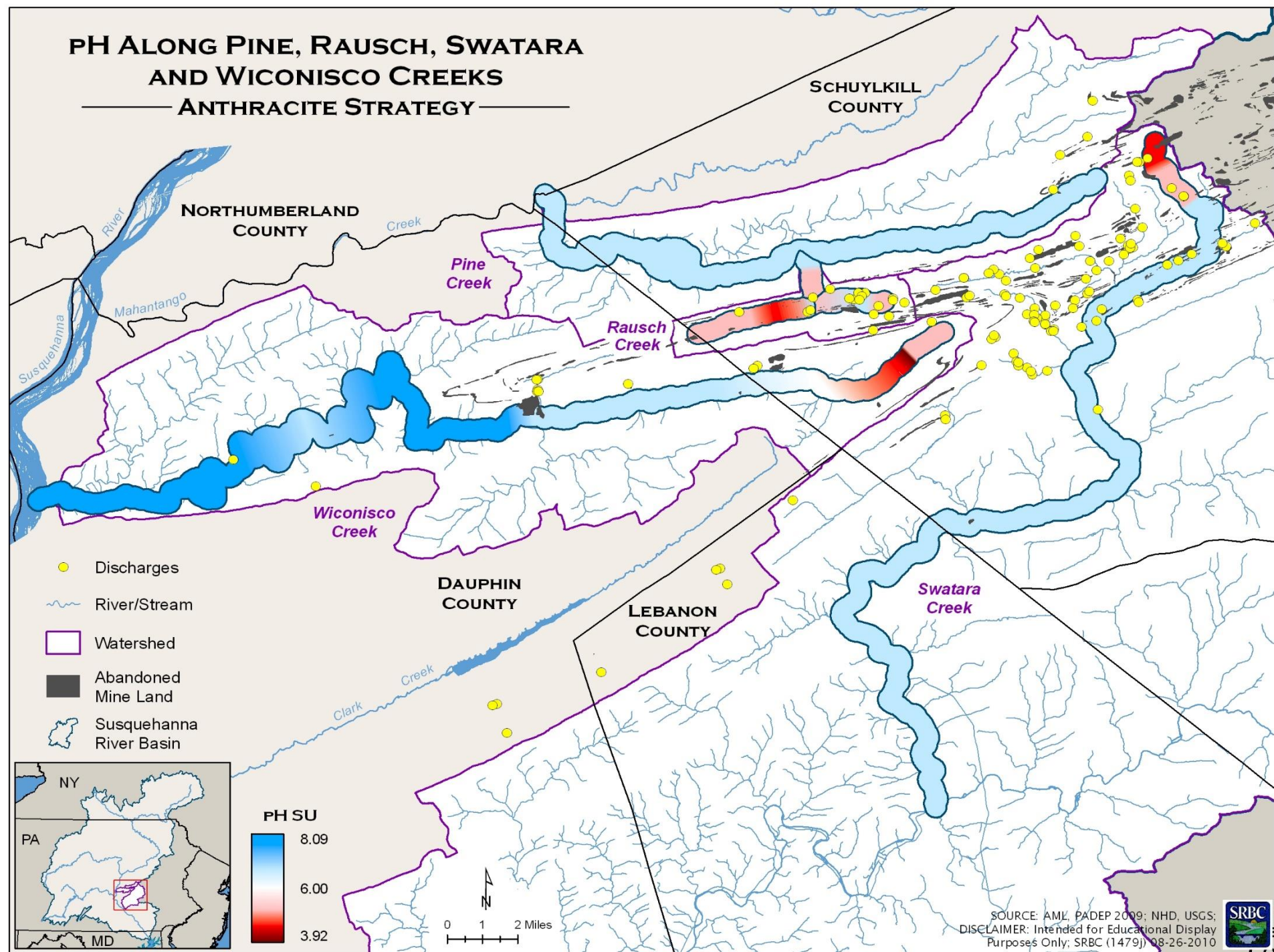
## — ANTHRACITE STRATEGY —





# PH ALONG PINE, RAUSCH, SWATARA AND WICONISCO CREEKS

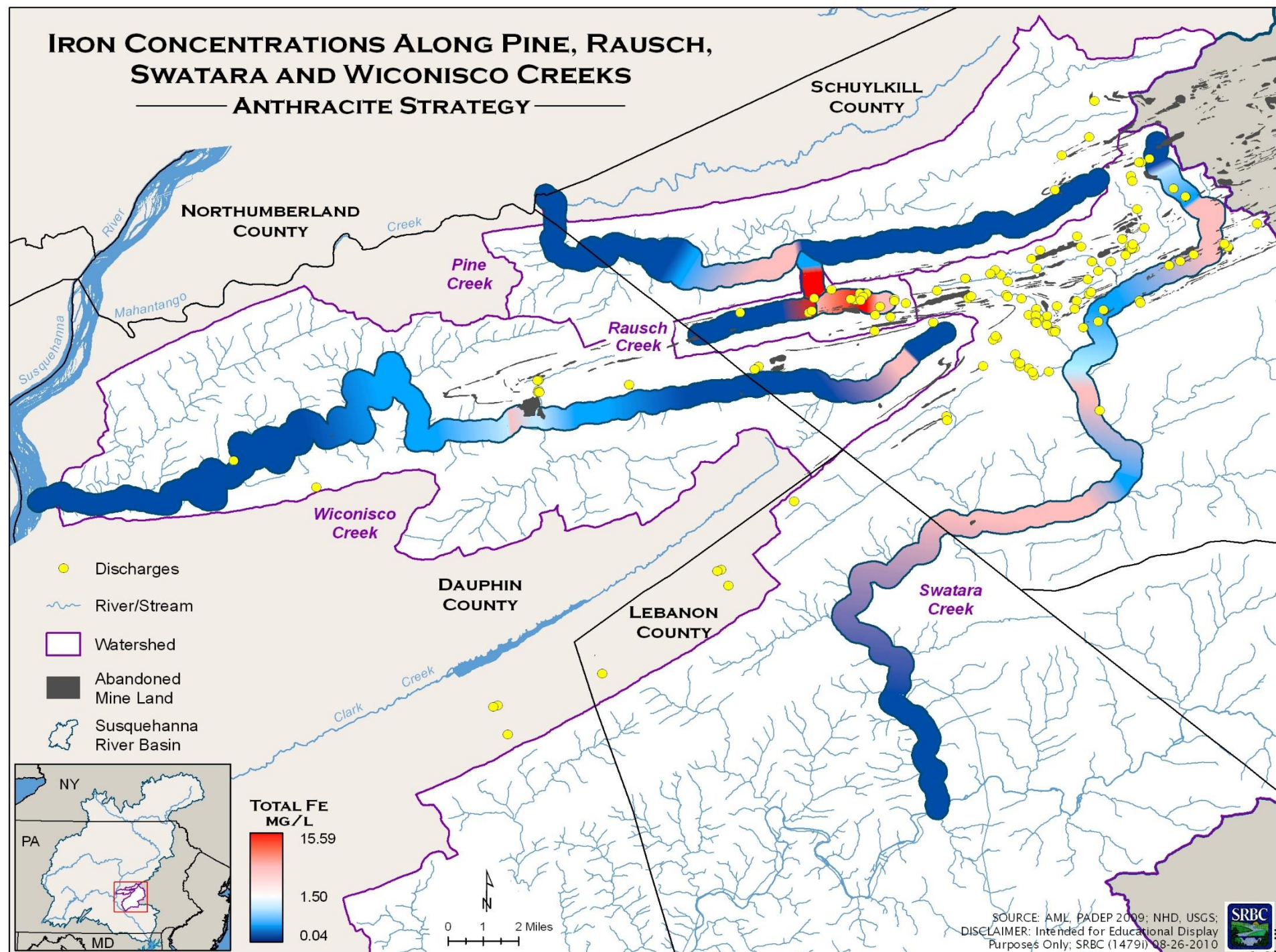
## ANTHRACITE STRATEGY





# IRON CONCENTRATIONS ALONG PINE, RAUSCH, SWATARA AND WICONISCO CREEKS

## ANTHRACITE STRATEGY



# Restoration Effort Focus?

*“By concentrating restoration efforts on only two watersheds, Lackawanna River and Nescopeck Creek, 42.1 percent of the iron loading, 43.8 percent of the manganese loading, 52.2 percent of the aluminum loading, and 58.3 percent of the acidity loading currently entering the Susquehanna River proper from the Anthracite Region would be eliminated.”*



# Top 10 Discharge Analysis





# Top-10 Flow (CFS) Discharges

Ranking	Discharge - CFS	% Discharge Total	Watershed	Mine Discharge
1	75.95	11.45	Lackawanna River	Old Forge Borehole
2	64.89	9.78	Nescopeck Creek	Jeddo Tunnel
3	31.21	4.70	Solomon Creek	Solomon Creek Boreholes
4	30.51	4.60	Solomon Creek	Nottingham-Buttonwood Airshaft
5	27.66	4.17	Lackawanna River	Duryea Breach
6	20.19	3.04	Mahanoy Creek	Packer #5 Breach and Borehole
7	19.94	3.00	Nescopeck Creek	Gowen Tunnel
8	19.93	3.00	Catawissa Creek	Audenreid Tunnel
9	18.06	2.72	Lackawanna River	Jermyn Slope
10	14.47	2.18	Mahanoy Creek	Gilberton Pump
Top Ten Total	322.81			
All Discharges	663.59			
% Discharge Total	48.65			



# Top-10 Fe Loading (lbs/day) Discharges

Ranking	Fe Loading	% Loading Total	Watershed	Mine Discharge
1	12393.02	16.78	Lackawanna River	Old Forge Borehole
2	6700.92	9.07	Solomon Creek	Solomon Creek Boreholes
3	5798.45	7.85	Solomon Creek	Nottingham-Buttonwood Airshaft
4	5464.45	7.40	Lackawanna River	Duryea Breach
5	3435.41	4.65	Mahanoy Creek	Gilberton Pump
6	3319.93	4.50	Nanticoke Creek	Dundee Outfall
7	2746.11	3.72	Mahanoy Creek	Packer #5 Breach and Borehole
8	2544.26	3.45	Nescopeck Creek	Jeddo Tunnel
9	2434.14	3.30	Newport Creek	Susquehanna #7 Shaft
10	1778.10	2.41	Susquehanna River	Plainsville Outlet
Top Ten Total	46614.79			
All Discharges	73846.76			
% Loading Total	63.12			

# Top-10 Mn Loading (lbs/day) Discharges

Ranking	Mn Loading	% Loading Total	Watershed	Mine Discharge
1	1726.76	13.36	Lackawanna River	Old Forge Borehole
2	1461.01	11.30	Nescopeck Creek	Jeddo Tunnel
3	785.01	6.07	Mahanoy Creek	Packer #5 Breach and Borehole
4	739.48	5.72	Lackawanna River	Duryea Breach
5	674.81	5.22	Solomon Creek	Nottingham-Buttonwood Airshaft
6	660.77	5.11	Mahanoy Creek	Gilberton Pump
7	616.21	4.77	Solomon Creek	Solomon Creek Boreholes
8	582.27	4.50	Nescopeck Creek	Gowen Tunnel
9	388.23	3.00	Mahanoy Creek	Continental Plant
10	320.77	2.48	Mahanoy Creek	Centralia Tunnel
Top Ten Total	7955.32			
All Discharges	12928.21			
% Loading Total	61.53			



# Top-10 AI Loading (lbs/day) Discharges

Ranking	AI Loading	% Loading Total	Watershed	Mine Discharge
1	3847.62	42.92	Nescopeck Creek	Jeddo Tunnel
2	937.87	10.46	Nescopeck Creek	Gowen Tunnel
3	856.61	9.56	Catawissa Creek	Audenreid Tunnel
4	337.01	3.76	Mahanoy Creek	Centralia Tunnel
5	253.13	2.82	Nescopeck Creek	Derringer Tunnel
6	182.23	2.03	Wiconisco Creek	Porter Tunnel
7	167.77	1.87	Lackawanna River	Old Forge Borehole
8	153.68	1.71	Mahanoy Creek	West Penn Discharge
9	138.41	1.54	Mahanoy Creek	Doutyville Tunnel
10	132.53	1.48	Susquehanna River	Mocanaqua Tunnel
Top Ten Total	7006.84			
All Discharges	8964.70			
% Loading Total	78.16			

# Top-10 Acid Loading (lbs/day) Discharges

Ranking	Acid Loading	% Loading Total	Watershed	Mine Discharge
1	25410.56	13.41	Nescopeck Creek	Jeddo Tunnel
2	16570.82	8.75	Catawissa Creek	Audenreid Tunnel
3	14024.59	7.40	Solomon Creek	Nottingham-Buttonwood Airshaft
4	8147.17	4.30	Solomon Creek	Solomon Creek Boreholes
5	7130.31	3.76	Nescopeck Creek	Gowen Tunnel
6	6902.56	3.64	Susquehanna River	Mocanaqua Tunnel
7	5480.49	2.89	Nanticoke Creek	Dundee Outfall
8	4804.65	2.54	Mahanoy Creek	Packer #5 Breach and Borehole
9	4804.59	2.54	Mahanoy Creek	Centralia Tunnel
10	4726.07	2.49	Lackawanna River	Old Forge Borehole
Top Ten Total	98001.81			
All Discharges	189444.30			
% Loading Total	51.73			



# Top-20 Prioritized Discharges within the Anthracite Region of the Susquehanna River Basin and Their Separated Pollution Contribution Percentages

Discharge	Field	Watershed	Flow %	Fe Load %	Mn Load %	Al Load %	Acid Load %	Loading Average %
Jeddo Tunnel	Eastern-Middle	Nescopeck Creek	9.78	3.45	11.30	42.92	13.41	17.8
Old Forge Borehole	Northern	Lackawanna River	11.45	16.78	13.36	1.87	2.49	8.6
Nottingham-Buttonwood Airshaft	Northern	Solomon Creek	4.60	7.85	5.22	0.53	7.40	5.3
Solomon Creek Boreholes	Northern	Solomon Creek	4.70	9.07	4.77	0.34	4.30	4.6
Gowen Tunnel	Eastern-Middle	Nescopeck Creek	3.00	0.19	4.50	10.46	3.76	4.7
Duryea Breach	Northern	Lackawanna River	4.17	7.40	5.72	0.42	0.88	3.6
Audenreid Tunnel	Eastern-Middle	Catawissa Creek	3.00	0.26	2.05	9.56	8.75	5.2
Packer #5 Breach and Boreholes	Western-Middle	Mahanoy Creek	3.04	3.72	6.07	0.08	2.54	3.1
Gilberton Pump	Western-Middle	Mahanoy Creek	2.18	4.65	5.11	0.63	1.72	3.0
Centralia Tunnel	Western-Middle	Mahanoy Creek	1.27	0.49	2.48	3.76	2.54	2.3
Dundee Outfall	Northern	Nanticoke Creek	0.72	4.50	0.92	0.00	2.89	2.1
Derringer Tunnel	Eastern-Middle	Nescopeck Creek	0.78	0.04	1.09	2.82	1.16	1.3
Mocanaqua Tunnel	Northern	Susquehanna River	0.62	2.02	1.85	1.48	3.64	2.2
Porter Tunnel	Southern	Wiconisco Creek	0.17	0.82	0.34	2.03	1.40	1.1
West Penn Breaker Plant Discharge	Western-Middle	Mahanoy Creek	0.27	0.96	0.75	1.71	0.40	1.0
Jermyn Slope	Northern	Lackawanna River	2.72	0.25	0.31	0.12	0.27	0.2
Doutyville Tunnel	Western-Middle	Mahanoy Creek	1.49	0.47	0.88	1.54	1.07	1.0
Continental Plant Bypass	Western-Middle	Mahanoy Creek	1.48	1.36	3.00	0.18	1.80	1.6
Susquehanna #7 Shaft	Northern	Newport Creek	1.43	3.30	1.70	0.23	0.49	1.4
Plainsville Outlet	Northern	Susquehanna River	0.69	2.41	0.62	0.14	2.08	1.3
		Total %	57.6	70.0	72.0	80.8	63.0	

# Restoration Effort Focus?

*“Strategic treatment plant site selections would allow, in some cases, several Top-20 discharges to be treated at the same plant, thus reducing capital, operation, and maintenance costs. Strategic treatment plant site selections would also allow, in some cases, incorporation of adjacent non-Top-20 discharges into the treatment plant, increasing the percentage of total Anthracite loading being treated.”*



# Top 20 Plan Suggested Plants



15-28-33



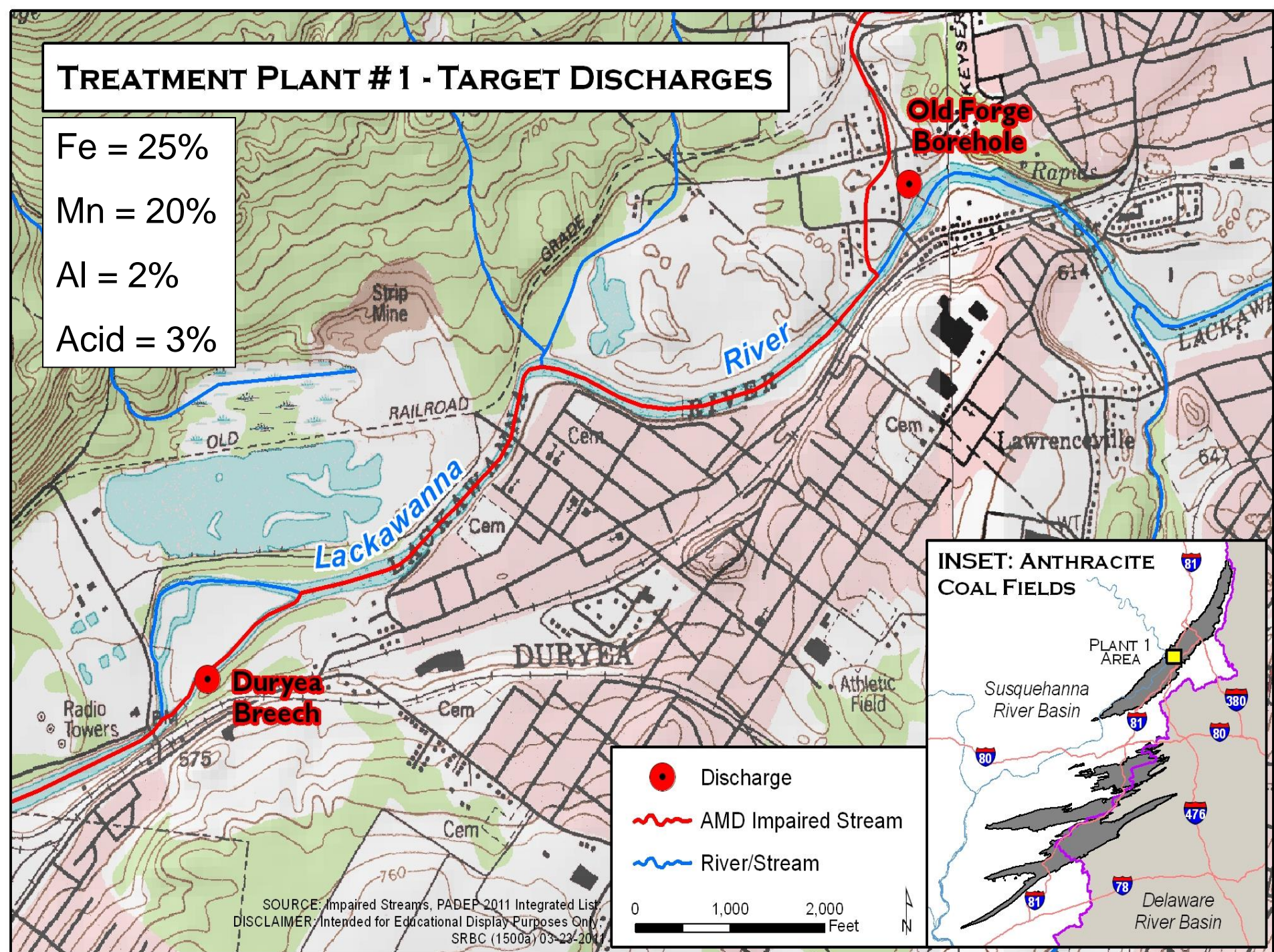
## TREATMENT PLANT # 1 - TARGET DISCHARGES

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Mn = 20%

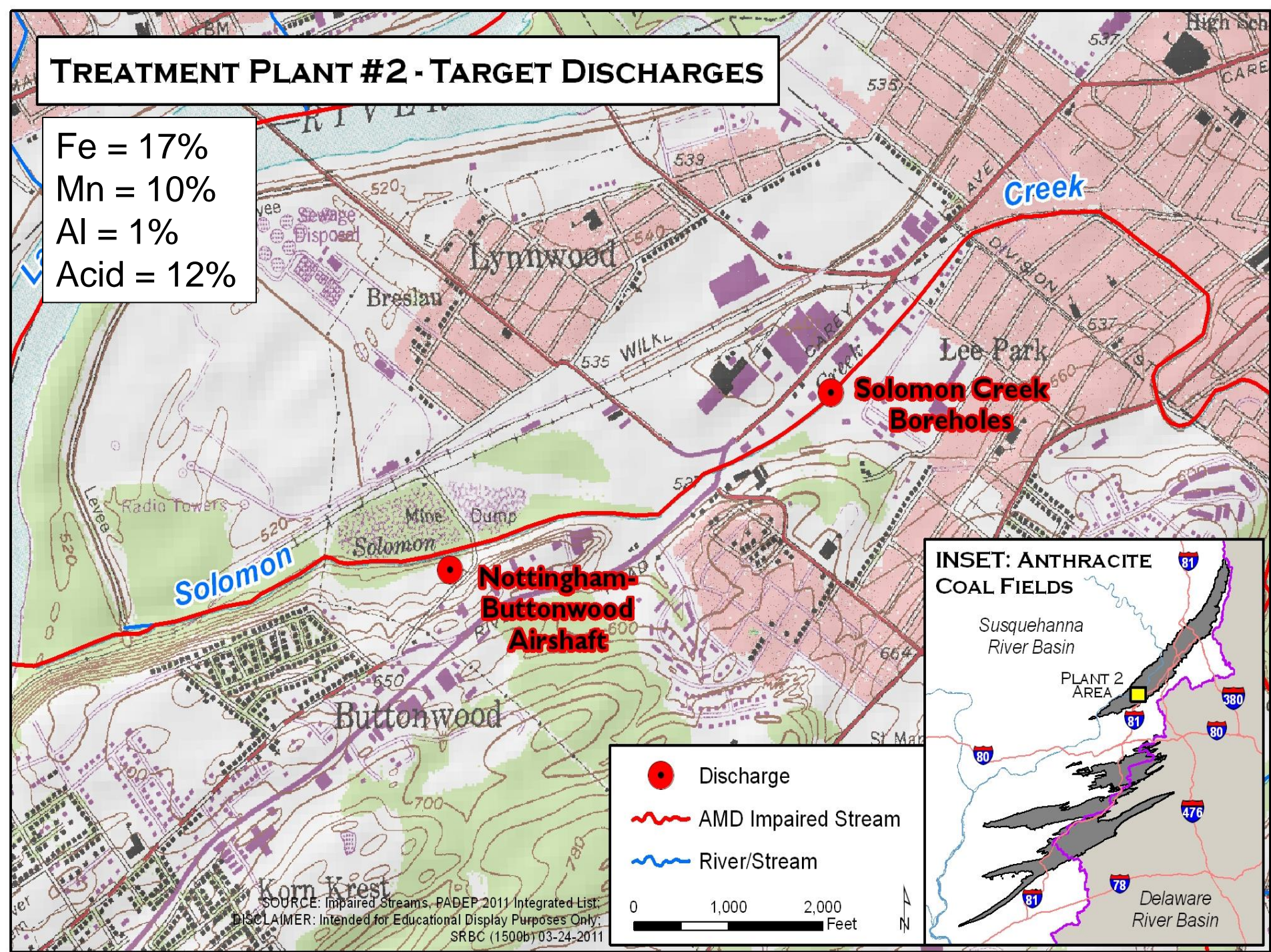
Al = 2%

Acid = 3%





Fe = 17%  
Mn = 10%  
Al = 1%  
Acid = 12%





# TREATMENT PLANT #3 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 8%  
Mn = 3%  
Al = 0%  
Acid = 3%




**Susquehanna #7  
Shaft**

## INSET: ANTHRACITE COAL FIELDS

Susquehanna  
River Basin

PLANT 3  
AREA

Delaware  
River Basin

-  Discharge
-  AMD Impaired Stream
-  River/Stream

0 1,000 2,000  
Feet

SOURCE: Impaired Streams, PADEP 2011 Integrated List;  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display Purposes Only;  
SRBC (1500c) 03-24-2011

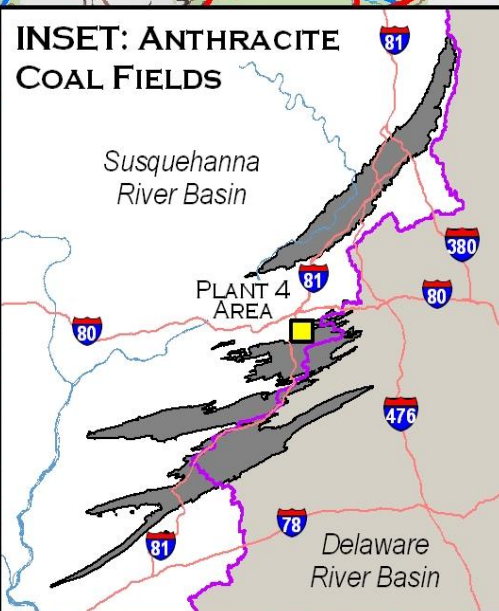
**Truesdale/  
Dundee  
Outfall**



## TREATMENT PLANT #4 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 4%  
Mn = 11%  
Al = 43%  
Acid = 13%

### INSET: ANTHRACITE COAL FIELDS



- Discharge
- ~ AMD Impaired Stream
- ~ River/Stream

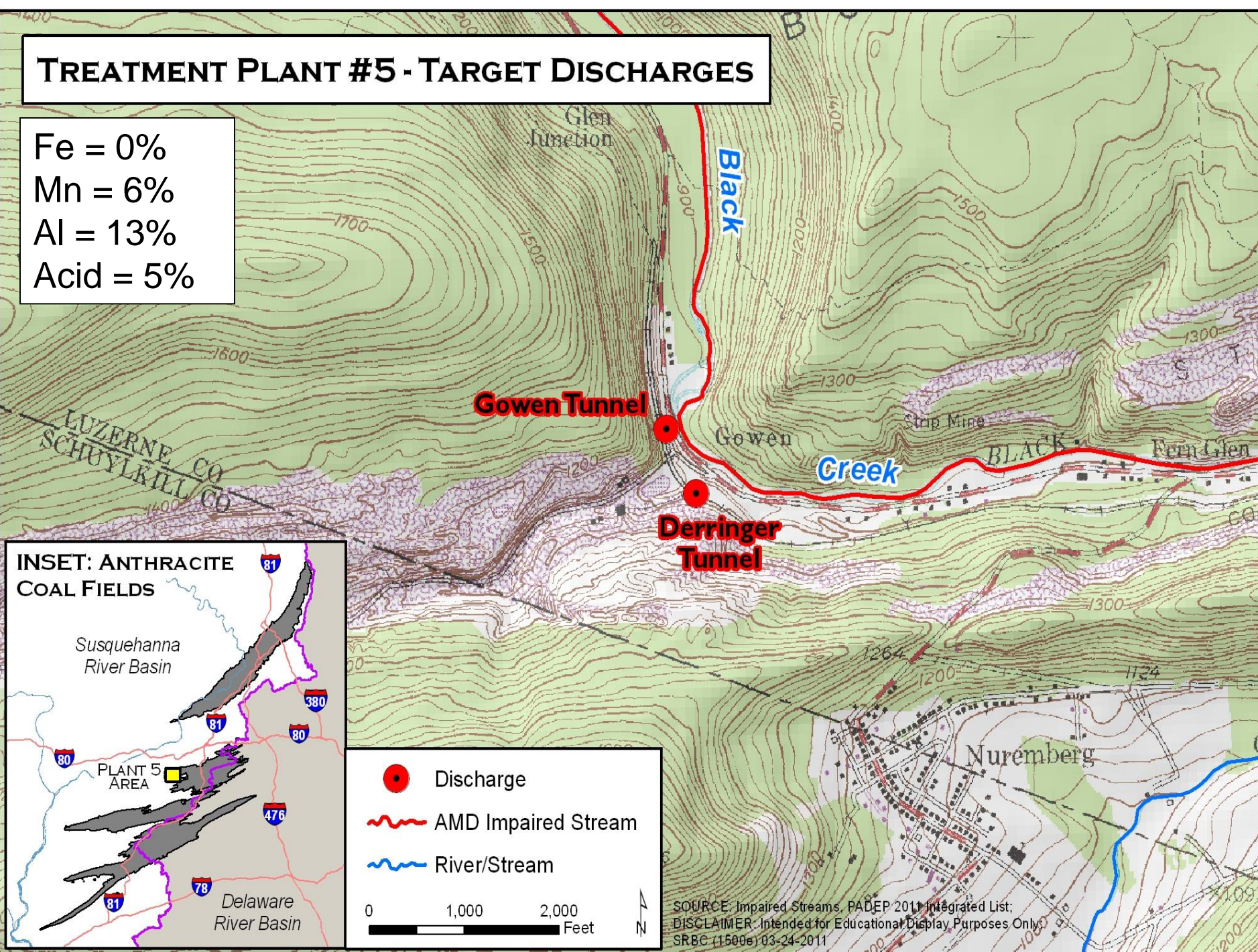
0 1,000 2,000  
Feet

SOURCE: Impaired Streams, PADEP 2011 Integrated List.  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display Purposes Only.  
SRBC (1500d) 03-24-2011



## TREATMENT PLANT #5 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 0%  
Mn = 6%  
Al = 13%  
Acid = 5%





# TREATMENT PLANT #6 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 0%  
Mn = 2%  
Al = 10%  
Acid = 9%

## INSET: ANTHRACITE COAL FIELDS

Susquehanna River Basin

PLANT 6 AREA

Delaware River Basin

- Discharge
- ~ AMD Impaired Stream
- ~ River/Stream

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

SOURCE: Impaired Streams, PADEP 2011 Integrated List;  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display Purposes Only;  
SRBC (1500f) 03-24-2011

Catawissa Tunnel

Green Mtn Tunnel

Audenreid Tunnel

Creek

Catawissa

Spies Run

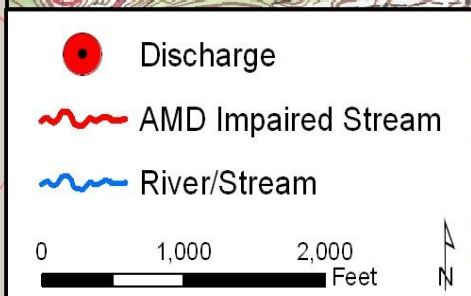
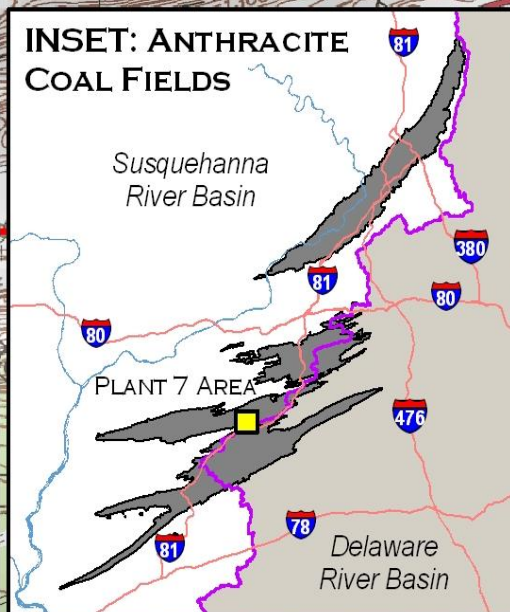
MINES

PRIVATE

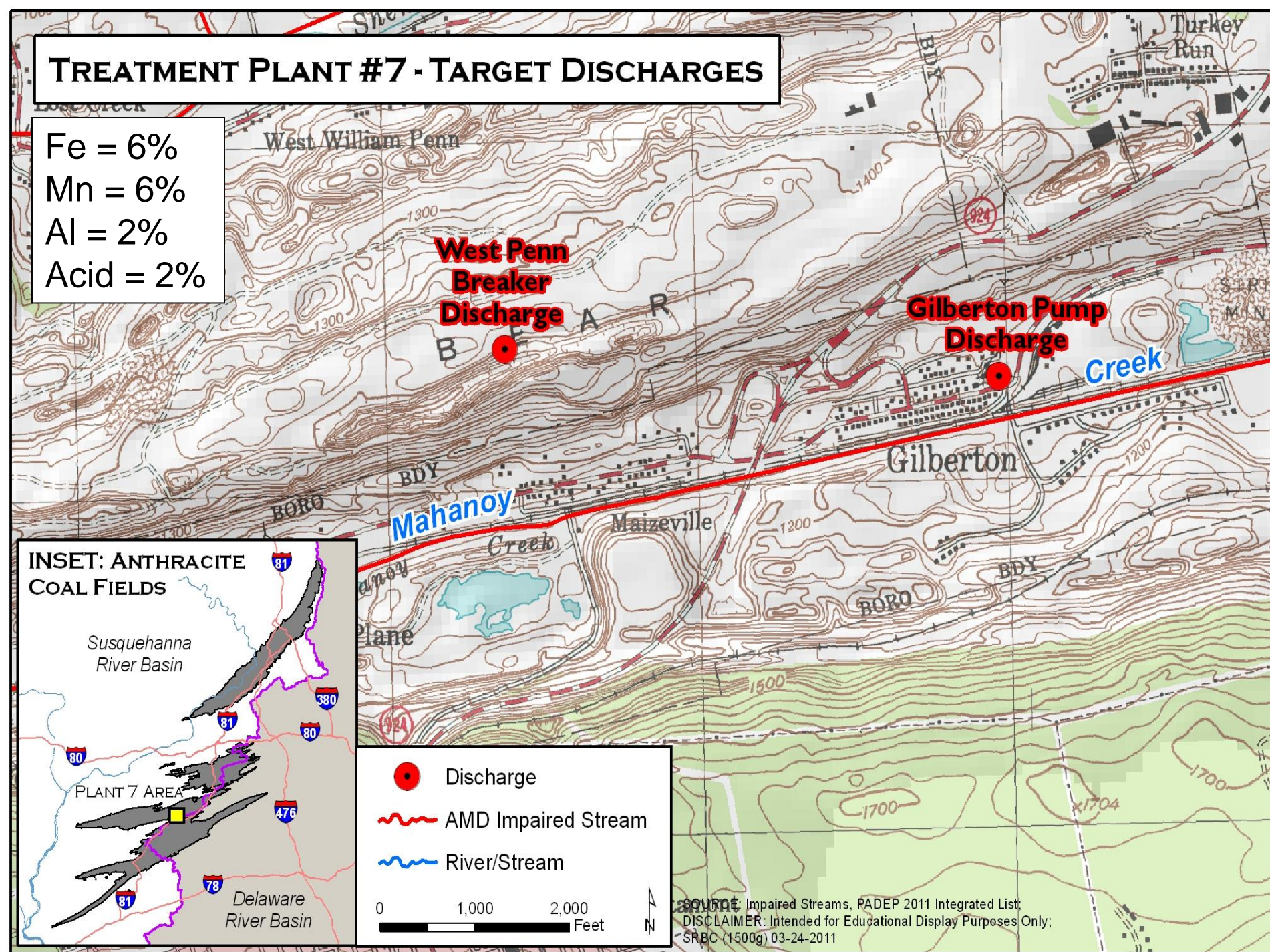


# TREATMENT PLANT #7 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 6%  
Mn = 6%  
Al = 2%  
Acid = 2%



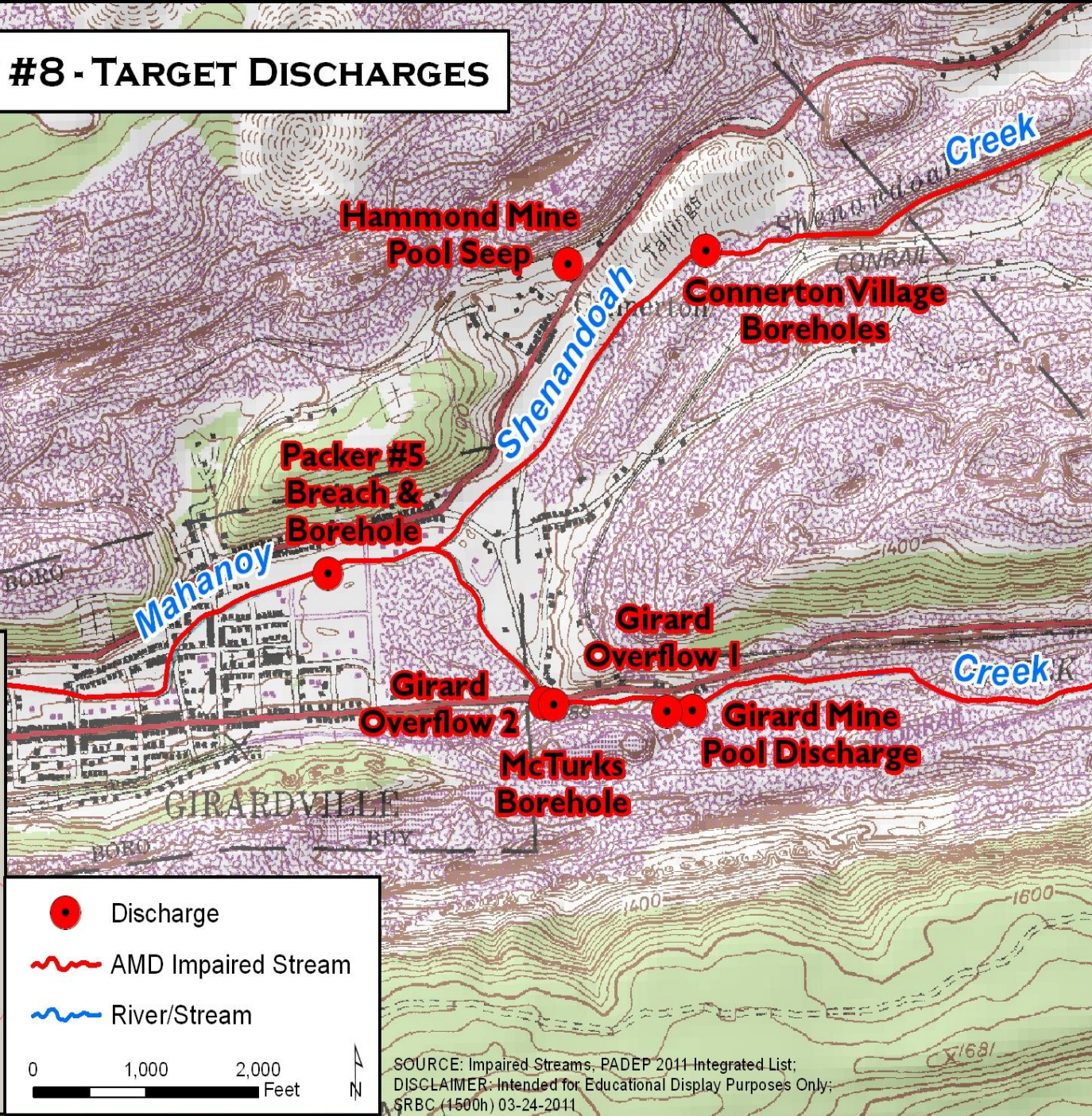
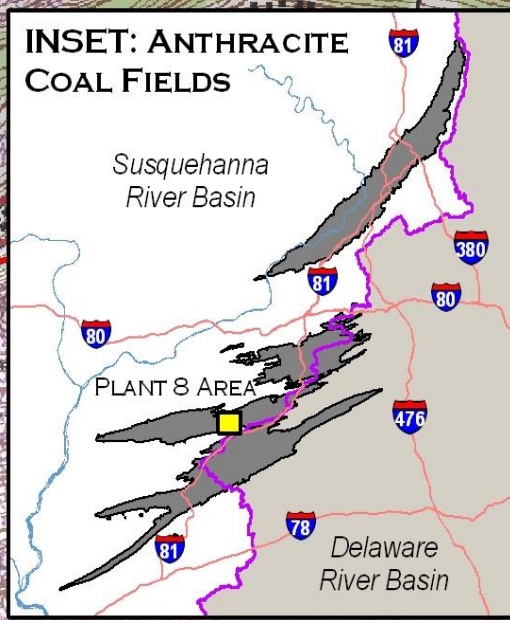
SOURCE: Impaired Streams, PADEP 2011 Integrated List  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display Purposes Only;  
SRBC (1500g) 03-24-2011





# TREATMENT PLANT #8 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 6%  
Mn = 7%  
Al = 0%  
Acid = 5%



SOURCE: Impaired Streams, PADEP 2011 Integrated List;  
DISCLAIMER: Intended for Educational Display Purposes Only;  
SRBC (1500h) 03-24-2011

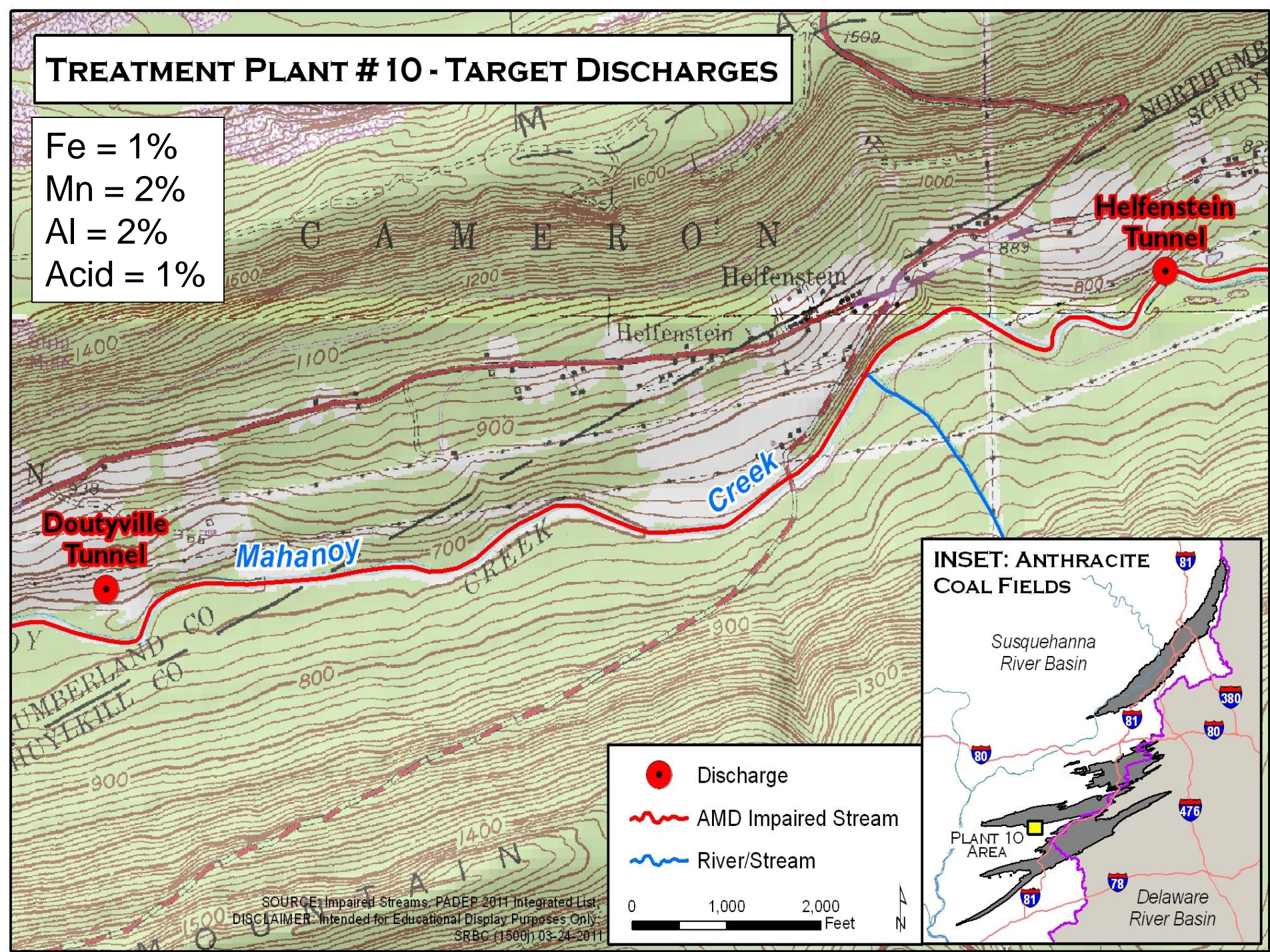






# TREATMENT PLANT # 10 - TARGET DISCHARGES

Fe = 1%  
Mn = 2%  
Al = 2%  
Acid = 1%





# Summary

- These 10 possible treatment plants would treat 16 of the Top-20 Discharges and 20 non-Top-20 Discharges.
- The treatment of the four final Top-20 Discharges are significantly less important than the combination of discharges suggested for treatment within the ten plants.
- The 10 plants would treat 68% of the Fe loading, 73% of the Mn loading, 79% of the Al loading, and 60% of the acidity loading that enters the Susquehanna Basin via the Anthracite Coal Fields.



# Questions or Comments?

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<https://www.srbc.net/our-work/mine-drainage/>