

MINE WASTE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

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The Mine Waste Technology Program (MWTP) was initiated to address mining waste generated by active and inactive mining production facilities. In June 1991, an Interagency Agreement was signed between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy which outlined the following activities.

- To identify and prioritize treatment technologies as candidates for demonstration projects.
- To propose and conduct large pilot-/field-scale demonstration projects of several innovative technologies that show promise for cost effectively remediating local, regional, and national mine waste problems.
- To develop and implement a plan to conduct bench-/pilot-scale research of several innovative technologies that show promise for most cost effectively remediating local, regional, and national mine waste problems.
- To conduct a series of symposia/workshops to convey the continuing and final results of the pilot program to user communities and to publicize information concerning mine waste treatment technologies developed under the pilot program to facilitate early commercialization of those technologies.
- To develop and implement a plan to establish training/educational programs directed toward current and future personnel interested in mine waste treatment technologies.

The operation of the MWTP includes the following activities.

- Identifying mine waste problems that are most severely affecting human health and the environment at local, regional, and national levels.
- Evaluating engineering and economic factors for selected technologies.
- Prioritizing the most promising mine waste treatment technologies based on their engineering and economic value.
- Planning and documenting the demonstration, testing and evaluation of the most promising mine waste treatment technologies.
- Accelerating the commercialization of selected mine waste treatment technologies that are developed, tested, and evaluated.
- Planning the transfer of knowledge gained from the above through systematic training of user communities.

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