



## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Suspends Rubber Stamp Permit in Appalachia**

*Claims the Permit is Destructive to Communities*

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Louisville, KY – Today, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) announced the suspension of Nationwide Permit 21 (NWP 21), the general permit that allows the dumping of waste from mountaintop removal and other surface coal mining into Appalachian streams. Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Kentucky Riverkeeper, and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth have challenged the Corps over the inappropriate use of the permit since 2002.

According to a news release issued by the Corps, the suspension will go into effect immediately. It affects surface coal mines in Kentucky, West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia.

“The decision by the Corps to suspend this permit will mean a healthier future for all those living in Appalachian communities,” said Judith Petersen, Kentucky Waterways Alliance Executive Director. “This blanket permit has ravaged streams for years. We’re relieved that the Corps has realized that an individual permit review process will better protect our waterways and ultimately our quality of life.”

Kentucky Waterways Alliance and allies held concerns that these blanket permits failed to meet the necessary requirements to protect Appalachian streams and communities from the devastation caused by valley fills. The decision by the Corps to suspend these types of permits has put a stop to the practice of streamlining mining permits in the Appalachian region. The news release states the suspension “will remain in effect until the Corps takes further action on NWP 21 or until NWP 21 expires on March 18, 2012.”

The Corps states that the decision was made after an extensive review that determined, “the practices allowed under NWP 21 were too destructive to the Appalachian region.”

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**About Kentucky Waterways Alliance:** *Working statewide for over 17 years, Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA) has won better protection for Kentucky’s waterways through community-based efforts, advocacy, and education. With a mission to protect and restore Kentucky’s waterways, our work is making a difference in the quality of life for all Kentuckians one victory at a time. Visit them at: [www.KWAlliance.org](http://www.KWAlliance.org).*