



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION
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**press
message**

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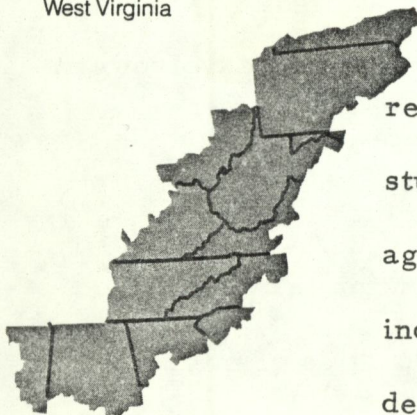
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**ARC AND U.S. EPA ASSESS FUTURE ENERGY
 DEVELOPMENT IN APPALACHIAN REGION**

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The Appalachian Regional Commission announces that the assessment of future energy development in the 13-state Appalachian Region will be made by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Appalachian Regional Commission over the next three years.

This technology assessment will focus on the impact of energy development on the economic, environmental, political and institutional life of the Appalachian Region through the year 2000. The effects of increased mining, processing, transportation and use of coal and other energy resources upon the region are to be analyzed. Examined will be impacts such as health and ecological effects, capital requirements, land use changes, intraregional and interregional migration, increased urbanization, changing social values, and changes in the rural character of Appalachia.

- Alabama
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia



Battelle Columbus Laboratories was awarded this research contract. Robert W. Cobb of Battelle will head the study team. Information obtained will be used by federal agencies, Appalachian state and local governments, private industry, and special interest groups for future policy and decision making.

All forms of energy resource development will be examined, but primary emphasis will be placed on coal -- its extraction, transportation, and conversion.

During the first phase of the study, researchers will develop scenarios based on various levels of energy development projected for Appalachia. These will reflect current and proposed national energy policies, existing energy technology expected to be used until 1985, and existing and new technology to be used between 1985 and 2000.

The impact from these technologies will be examined, and analyses will be made of the management options available for controlling the impacts and issues that the impacts may raise.

As impacts are assessed and issues identified, alternative strategies will be analyzed for managing the rate and pattern of deploying technology. The results are expected to broaden the range of management options decision makers will have for handling Appalachian energy development. Future research needs will also be identified.

Throughout, the study will emphasize participation from persons living in Appalachia, particularly those working with federal agencies, industries, and state and local governments. A number of public involvement techniques will be used in an effort to not only disseminate information, but also to obtain feedback for affected parties of interest in the region.

A project newsletter will be published for distribution throughout the region, and seminars and workshops involving selected parties of interest within Appalachia will be held. Comments received will help identify new issues, as well as guide the preparation of the second phase.