

Fairmont mine pool flooding

WASHINGTON
COUNTY

Key to mine status

Active

Closed or
abandoned

0 miles 10

Monongahela River

Hundreds of abandoned mines along the Monongahela River, from northern West Virginia into southwestern Pennsylvania, are flooded or filling with ground water and surface water runoff. The water in interconnected mines forms what is known as a mine pool. Untreated discharges from those pools could soon threaten the water quality of the river and its tributaries. If mining companies stop treating the discharges, West Virginia and Pennsylvania may have to cover millions of dollars in treatment costs. Two points likely to begin discharging soon are at the Clyde and Shannopin mines in Greene County.

The Pittsburgh coal seam has been mined for over 100 years and many smaller mines have closed and stopped pumping out and treating acid mine water. When the mines flood to the level of nearby rivers or creeks the untreated water can discharge into those bodies of water.

