

# Self-Sustainable Mine Water Treatment through Passive Iron Oxide Recovery

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# Current Mine Water Treatment

## COSTS

## PHASE

## BENEFITS

Design and Construction (\$\$\$)

System  
Construction

Clean Water

Purchase and Install Substrate (\$\$\$)

Alkaline  
Substrate  
Replacement

Continued  
Neutralization

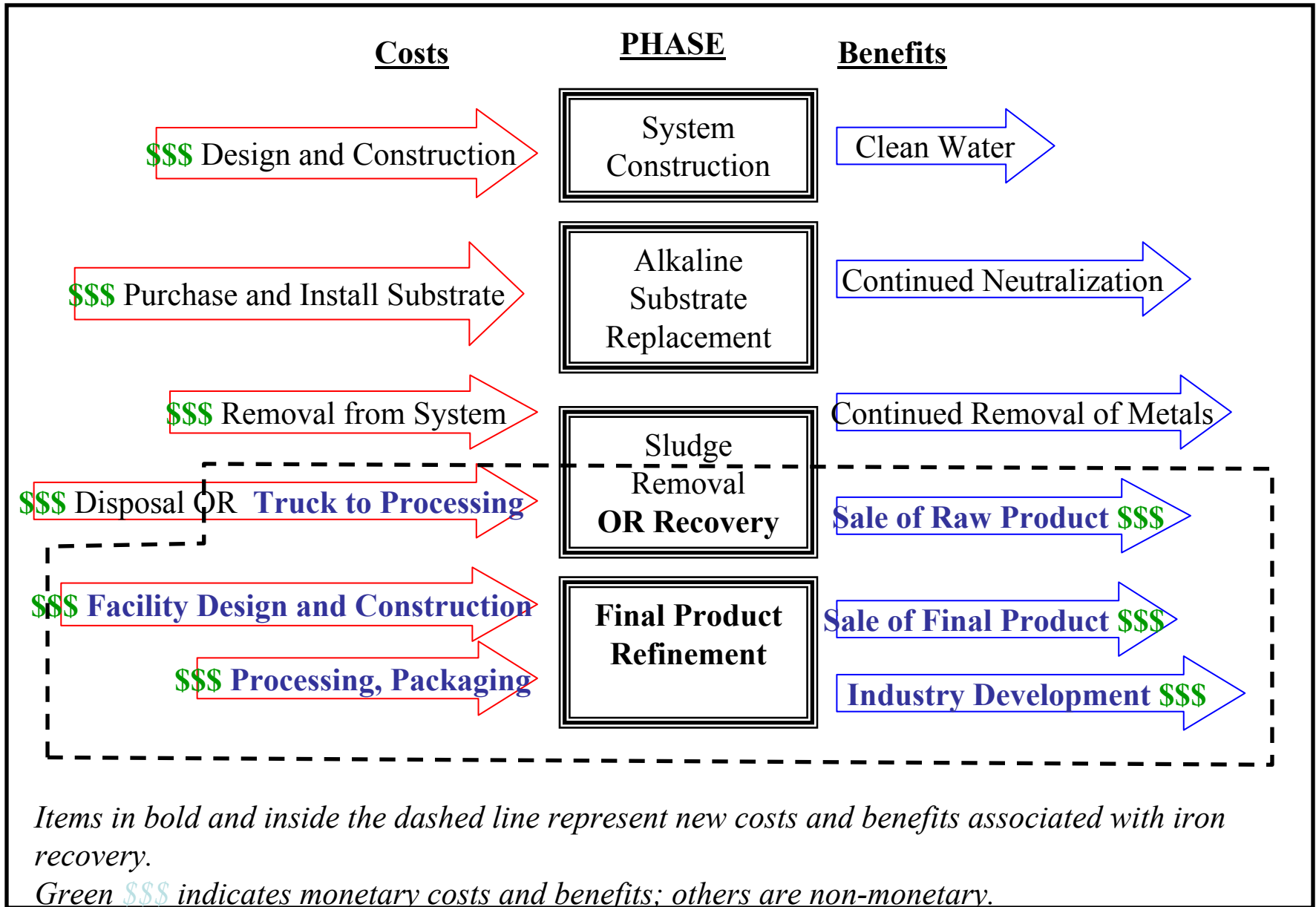
Removal from System (\$\$\$)

Sludge  
Management

Continued Removal  
of Metals

Disposal (\$\$\$)

# Self-Sustaining Mine Water Treatment



# Self-Sustaining Mine Water Treatment

Value (income) produced from treatment system offsets operation and maintenance costs

# Self-Sustaining Mine Water Treatment: IOR Approach

- Revenue from sale of iron product
- Cost control through passive technologies
- Effective treatment through good design

# How Did We Get Here? Milestones in Iron Recovery



Year	Milestone
1995	SBIR Phase I Award from USDA to Hedin Environmental to investigate the feasibility of recovering saleable solid from coal mine drainage.
1996	SBIR Phase II Award to Hedin Environmental to continue research
1999	Patent No. 5,951,969 for the recovery of iron oxides from mine drainage awarded to Robert Hedin by U.S. Patent Office
2000	Iron Oxide Recovery, Incorporated in Pennsylvania
2000	Grants from PADEF, QSM, and WPWP to Sewerley Creek Watershed Association to support IOR's pilot scale recovery of iron product at Lowber site (Westmoreland County)
2001	First sale of iron oxide as unrefined pigment
2002	EnvironOxide™ registered as trademark in US and EU
2002	Grant from QSM, Southern Alleghenies Conservancy to support construction of IOR
2003	First sale of iron oxide from passive mine water treatment system (Howe Bridge, Clarion County)
2003	EnvironOxide™ Pigments named One of the Top Ten New Green Products in 2003 by GreenSpec™
2004	First signed maintenance agreement, Scrubgrass Creek Watershed Association and IOR, maintenance in exchange for rights to future iron (Allegheny County)
2004	Recovery of saleable product from Keystone passive treatment system (Armstrong County)
2005	First recovery of saleable product from artesian AMD discharge site (Clarion County)
2005	EnvironOxide® registered as trademark by US Patent and Trademark Office
2006	First royalties paid to owners in exchange for iron deposits on their property (Clarion County)
2006	Lowber iron pigments passive treatment system constructed and functional
2006	Record year for iron oxide production (664 tons)
2007	Iron oxide processing center scheduled to open in Clarion County

**1999  
Patent**

**2001  
First Sale**

**2003  
First Recovery  
from Passive  
System**

**2003  
EnvironOxide™ is  
Named Top 10 New  
Green Building  
Product**

**2004  
First Maintenance  
Agreement Signed**

**2006  
First iron  
royalties paid**

**2007  
Clarion iPARC**

# Howe Bridge

Jefferson County  
58 tons, existing system



# Lowber

Westmoreland County  
1,610 tons, pond/channel



# Schwabenbauer

Clarion County  
89 tons, artesian deposit



**2,400 tons sold from 6 sites**



# Keystone

Armstrong County  
239 tons, existing system



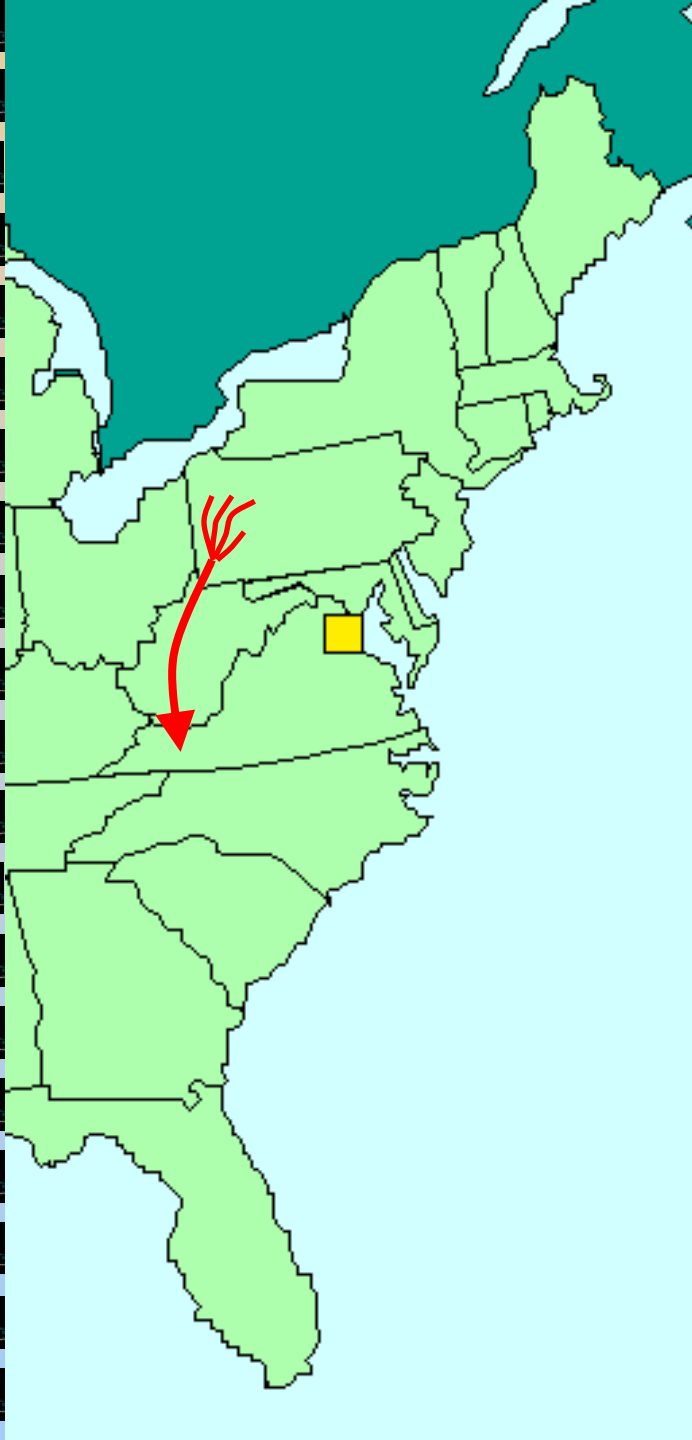
# Scrubgrass

Allegheny County  
48 tons, existing system



# Horner

Clarion County  
367 tons, artesian deposit



... recovery is occurring at two construction sites...



Farmington



Wilson

...and being considered at many other sites.

Honeypot



Hoyman



Hall



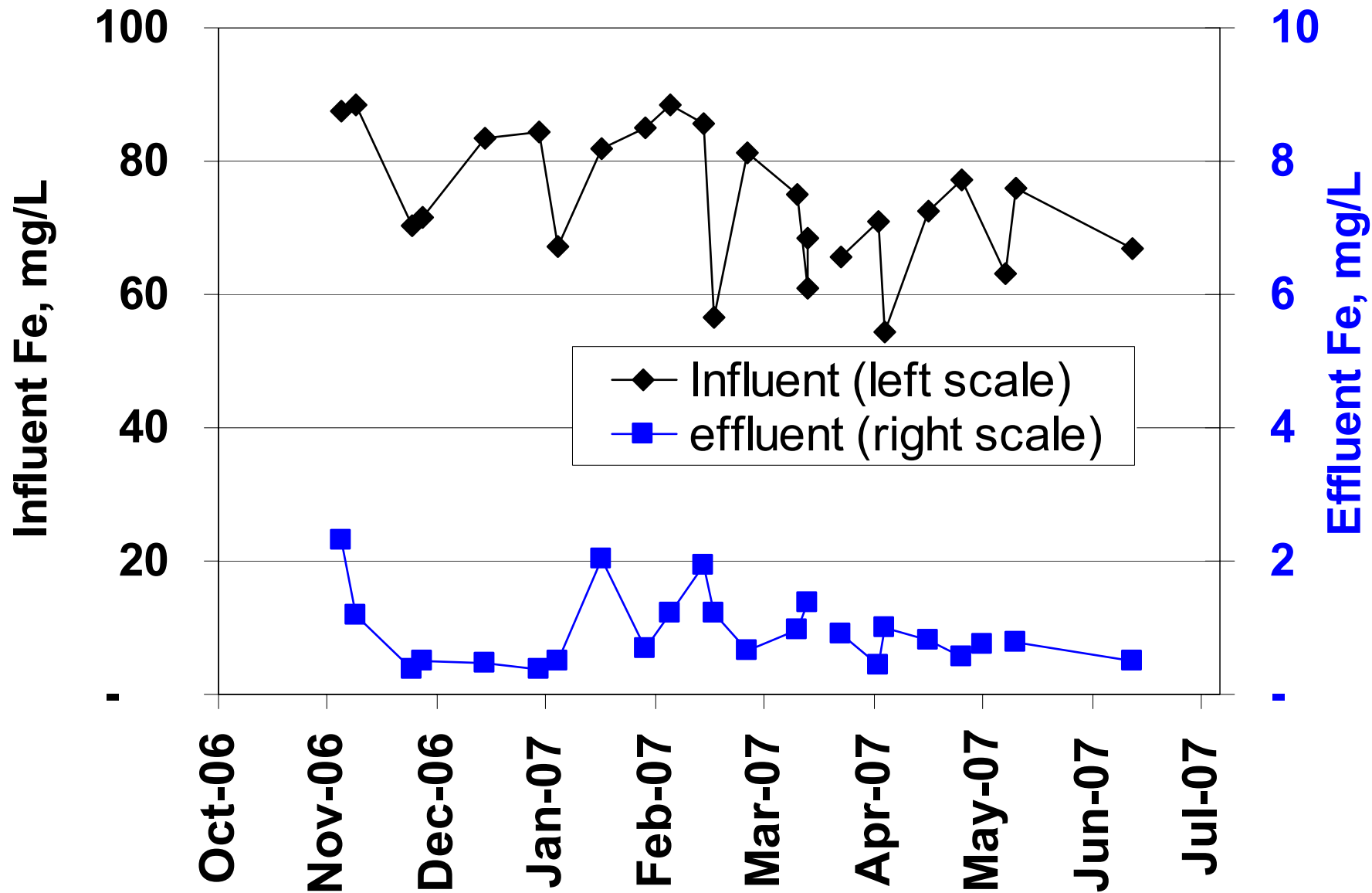
# Are We There Yet? The Present State of Iron Recovery



# Effective Treatment

- Marchand Discharge
  - Sewickley Creek
  - Flow, 1400 – 2250 gpm
  - Fe, 65 – 90 mg/L
  - Fe, 1500 lb/day
  - FeOOH, 800,000 lb/yr
- Passive Iron Oxide Producing System
  - series of settling ponds and constructed wetlands
  - \$1.3 million

# Fe removal by the Marchand System



# For the visually oriented...

**Pond A**



**Final Discharge**



# Anticipated Long-term Costs and Values

- Routine O&M: \$4,000 per year
- Sludge recovery
  - years 0-6, no recovery
  - years 7 forward, 400 tons/yr
  - \$75-100/ton (delivered to PC)
- Sludge value (delivered to PC)
  - \$100/ton

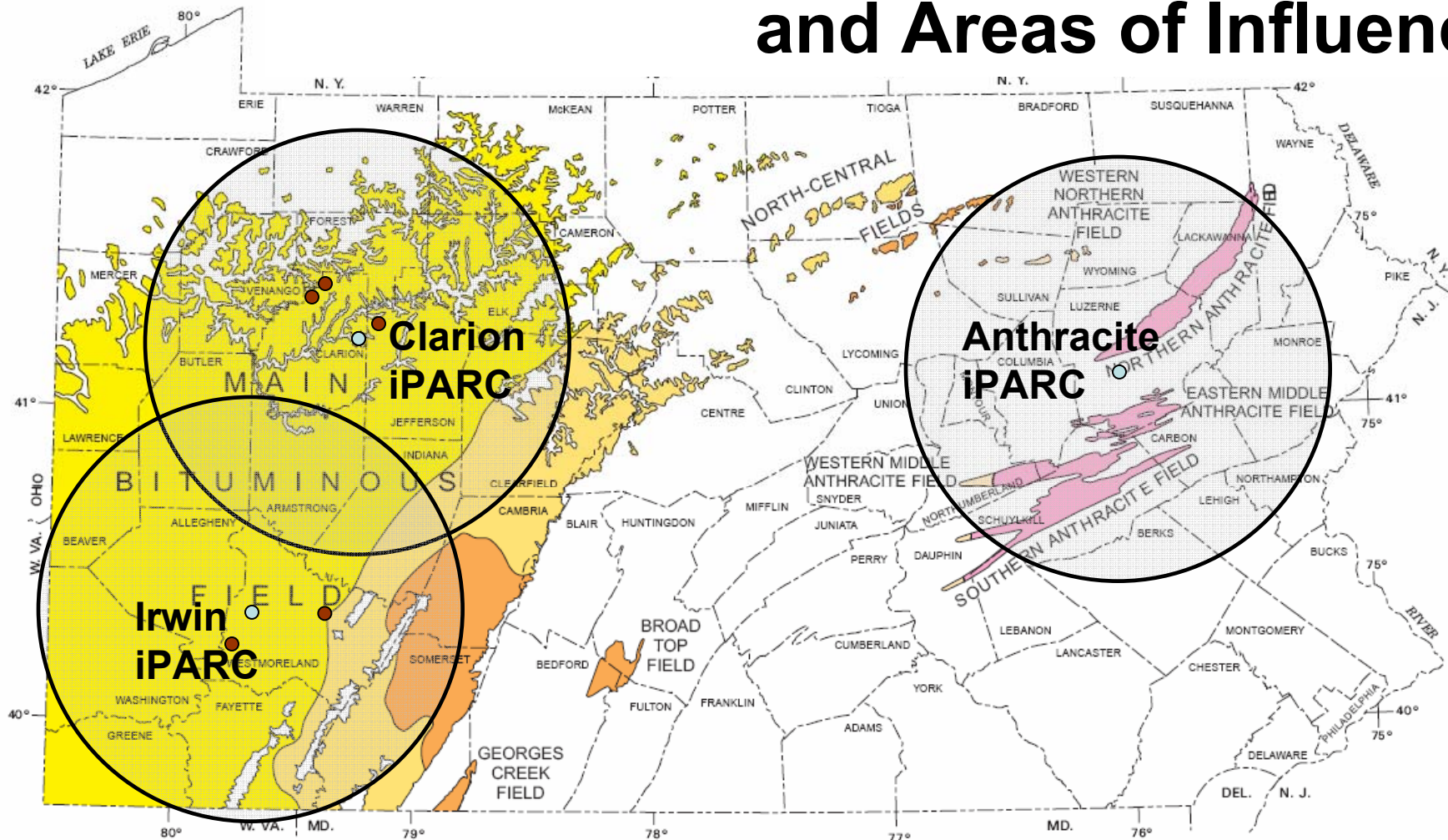
# Where Are We Going?



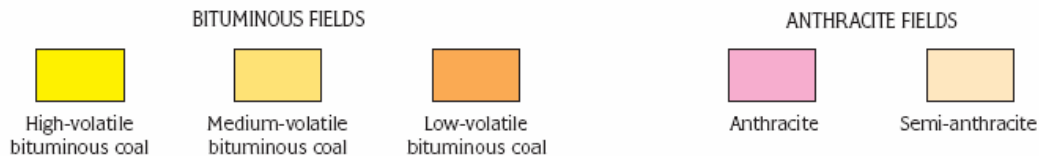
# IOR Processing Center

- Located near I-80 in Clarion County
- Iron sludge will be dried, screened, and blended
- Highest quality product will be sold to existing customer
- Lower quality products will be marketed for lower-value uses
- 2007: accepting Fe sludge from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties
  - Sludge must be pre-approved
  - Paying royalties, recovery costs, and trucking in some cases
  - Avoid landfilling, restore treatment system effectiveness, reclaim degraded AML

# iPARC Network (3 sites) and Areas of Influence



**EXPLANATION**



# Next Steps

## Short-Term

- Open PC and develop processing procedures
- Establish new markets for bulk unfinished products
- Develop market for iron sludge

## Mid-Term

- Establish sludge recovery feasibility across PA
- Increase iron sludge production

## Long-term

- Advance processing capabilities: produce finished products
- Develop other PCs in PA

# Questions?

