

EVOLVE CAPP

Evolve Central Appalachia

DE-FE0032055

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Virginia Tech Southwest Center Advisory Council Meeting
Abingdon, VA
29 October 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

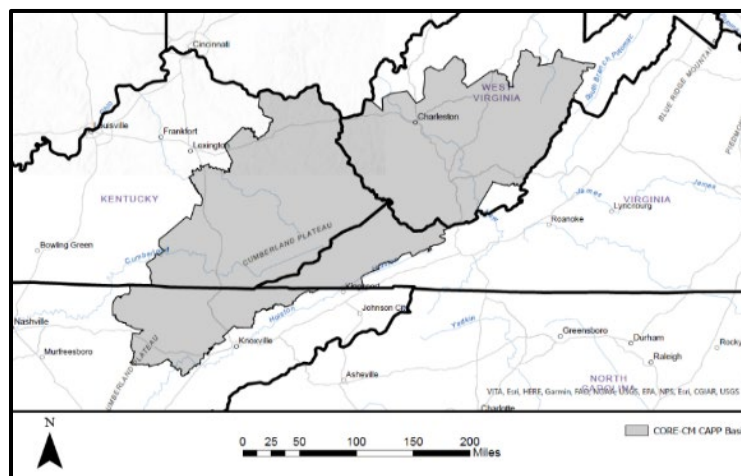
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EVOLVE CAPP IS PART OF AN INITIATIVE FOR U.S. COAL BASINS

- *Expanding & transforming the use of coal & coal-based resources to produce Rare Earth Elements (REE), Critical Minerals (CM) & novel high-value, nonfuel, Carbon-Based Products (CBP), as part of our next generation of domestic U.S. materials*
- *Enable the U.S. to reduce dependency on REE & CM imports & advance new industry*
- *Education & training for technicians, middle-skills workers & STEM professionals*



BACKGROUND – CRITICAL MINERALS

- USGS 2022 Critical Minerals Report includes 50 Mineral Commodities
- Classification based on share of import & countries of origin
- World Bank estimated that “energy critical minerals” (Lithium, Cobalt) **need to increase by 500% by 2050!**

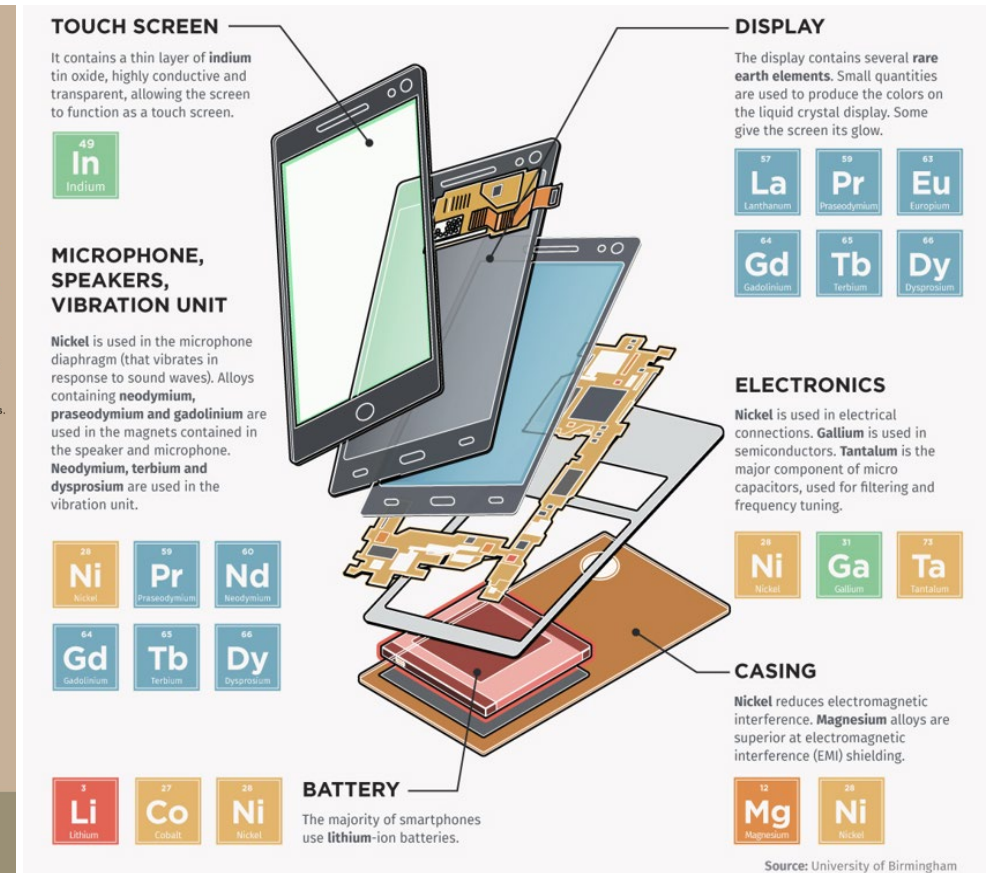
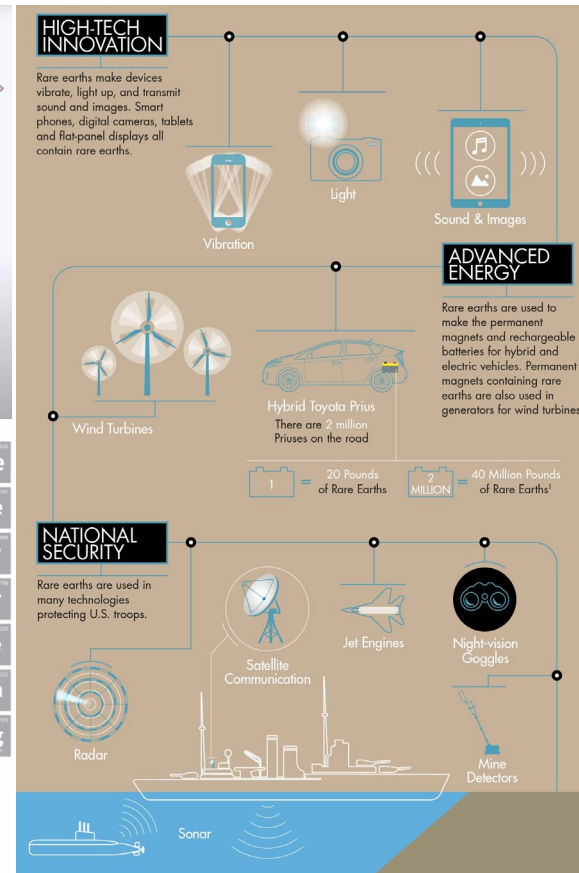
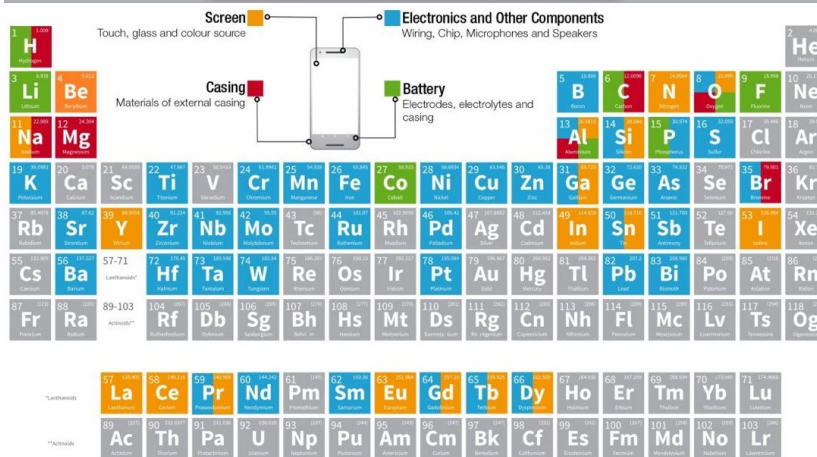
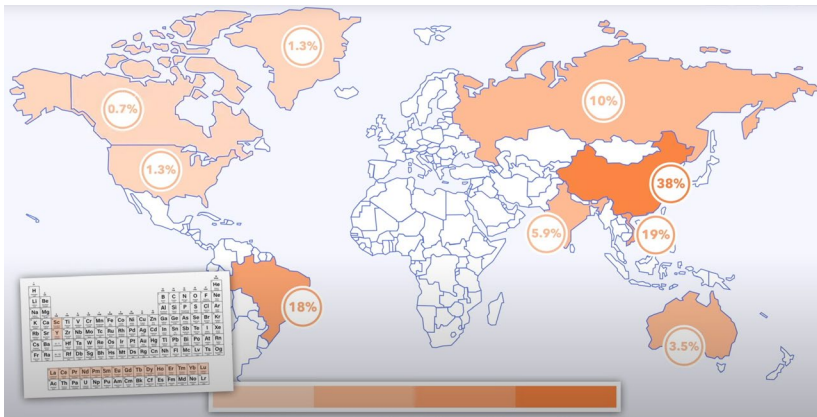
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/extractiveindustries/brief/climate-smart-mining-minerals-for-climate-action>

Criticality Usually Includes:

1. Dependence on Imports
 2. Country Origin of Mineral Producer
- + *Responsible Sourcing Practices*

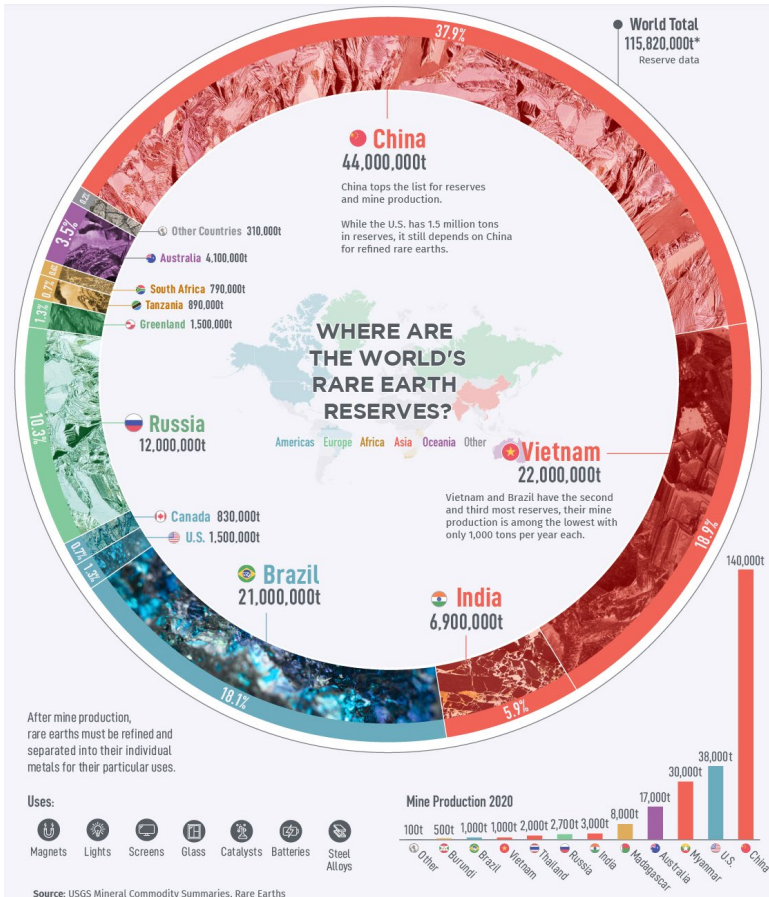
▲	Europium	100%	Phosphors, nuclear control rods	▲	Beryllium	11%	Alloying agent in aerospace, defense industries
▲	Fluorspar	100%	Manufacture of aluminum, cement, steel, gasoline	▲	Aluminum	13%	Power lines, construction, electronics
▲	Gadolinium	100%	Medical imaging, steelmaking	▲	Zirconium	25%	High-temperature ceramics production
▲	Gallium	100%	Integrated circuits, LEDs	▲	Palladium	40%	Catalytic converters
▲	Graphite	100%	Lubricants, batteries	▲	Germanium	50%	Fiber optics, night vision applications
▲	Holmium	100%	Permanent magnets, nuclear control rods	▲	Lithium	50%	EV rechargeable batteries
▲	Indium	100%	Liquid crystal display screens	▲	Magnesium	50%	Car seats, luggage, laptops
▲	Lanthanum	100%	Catalysts, ceramics, glass, polishing compounds	▲	Nickel	50%	Stainless steel, rechargeable batteries
▲	Lutetium	100%	Scintillators for medical imaging, cancer therapies	▲	Tungsten	50%	Wear-resistant metals
▲	Manganese	100%	Steelmaking, batteries	▲	Barite	75%	Hydrocarbon production
▲	Neodymium	100%	Medical, industrial lasers	▲	Chromium	75%	Stainless steel
▲	Niobium	100%	Steel, superalloys	▲	Tin	75%	Coatings, alloys for steel
▲	Praseodymium	100%	Permanent magnets, batteries, aerospace alloys	▲	Cobalt	76%	Rechargeable batteries, superalloys
▲	Rubidium	100%	Research, development in electronics	▲	Platinum	79%	Catalytic converters
▲	Samarium	100%	Cancer treatment, absorber in nuclear reactors	▲	Antimony	81%	Lead-acid batteries, flame retardants
▲	Scandium	100%	Alloys, ceramics, fuel cells	▲	Zinc	83%	Metallurgy to produce galvanized steel
▲	Tantalum	100%	Electronic components, superalloys	▲	Titanium	88%	White pigment or metal alloys
▲	Terbium	100%	Metal alloys, lasers	▲	Bismuth	94%	Medical, atomic research
▲	Thulium	100%	Metal alloys, lasers	▲	Tellurium	95%	Solar cells, thermoelectric devices
▲	Ytterbium	100%	Catalysts, scintillometers, lasers, metallurgy	▲	Vanadium	96%	Alloying agent for iron, steel
▲	Yttrium	100%	Ceramic, catalysts, lasers, metallurgy, phosphors	▲	Arsenic	100%	Semi-conductors, lumber preservatives, pesticides
▲	Iridium	?**	Coating of anodes for electrochemical processes	▲	Cerium	100%	Catalytic converters, ceramics, glass, metallurgy
▲	Rhodium	?**	Catalytic converters, electrical components	▲	Cesium	100%	Research, development
▲	Ruthenium	?**	Electrical contacts, chip resistors in computers	▲	Dysprosium	100%	Data storage devices, lasers
				▲	Erbium	100%	Fiber optics, optical amplifiers, lasers

Energy / Technology / Defense: Raw Materials Dependency!



High Demand → Supply Shortages → Potential INTERRUPTIONS!

GEOPOLITICAL CATALYSTS



China resumes rare earth exports to Japan

24 November 2010

Japan's trade minister says he expects China's rare earth exports to return to normal

China has begun exporting rare earths to Japan after a two-month suspension due to a territorial row.

January 14, 2022 · 10:35 PM GMT
Last Updated 4 months ago

United States

EXCLUSIVE U.S. bill would block defense contractors from using Chinese rare earths

By *Fred Conboy* 4 minute read

GLOBAL RARE EARTH OXIDE, METAL & MAGNET PRODUCERS

- Map of Global Rare Earth Oxide, Metal & Magnet producers
- **Only 5 non-China Western rare earth refineries** in operation, construction or recommissioning

Source: Goldman Sachs (July 2023)



RESEARCH TEAM

**West Virginia University
Mining Engineering**

**Virginia Tech
VCCER & Mining Engineering**

**University of Kentucky
Mining Engineering**

Marshall Miller & Associates

Gray Energy Technologies

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Advanced Resources Intl.

Chmura Economics

U. S. Geological Survey

Crescent Resource Innovation

Southern States Energy Board

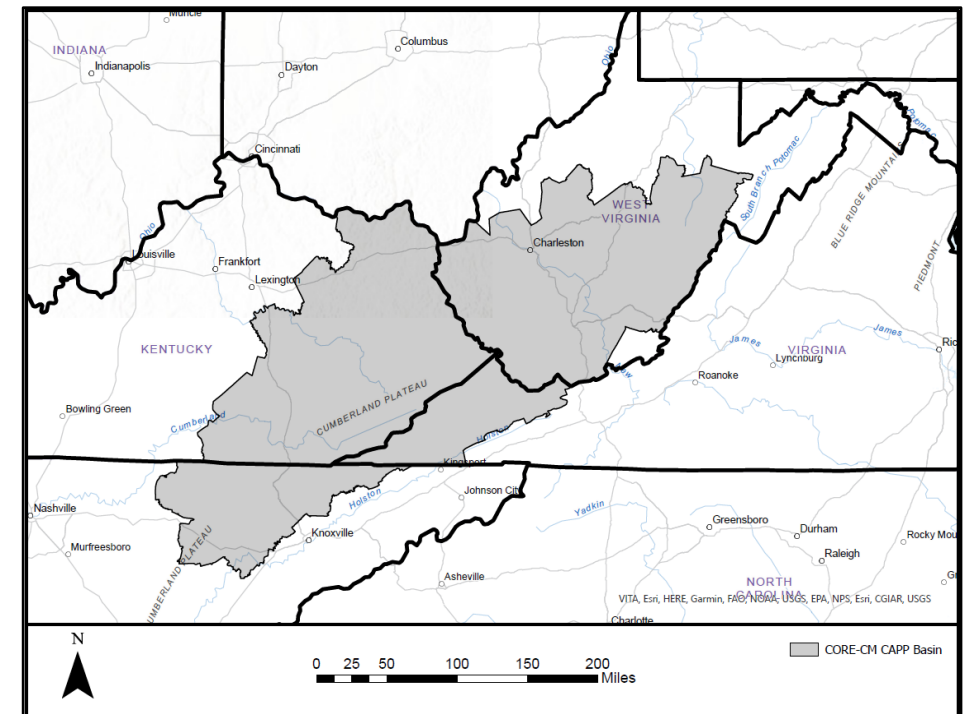
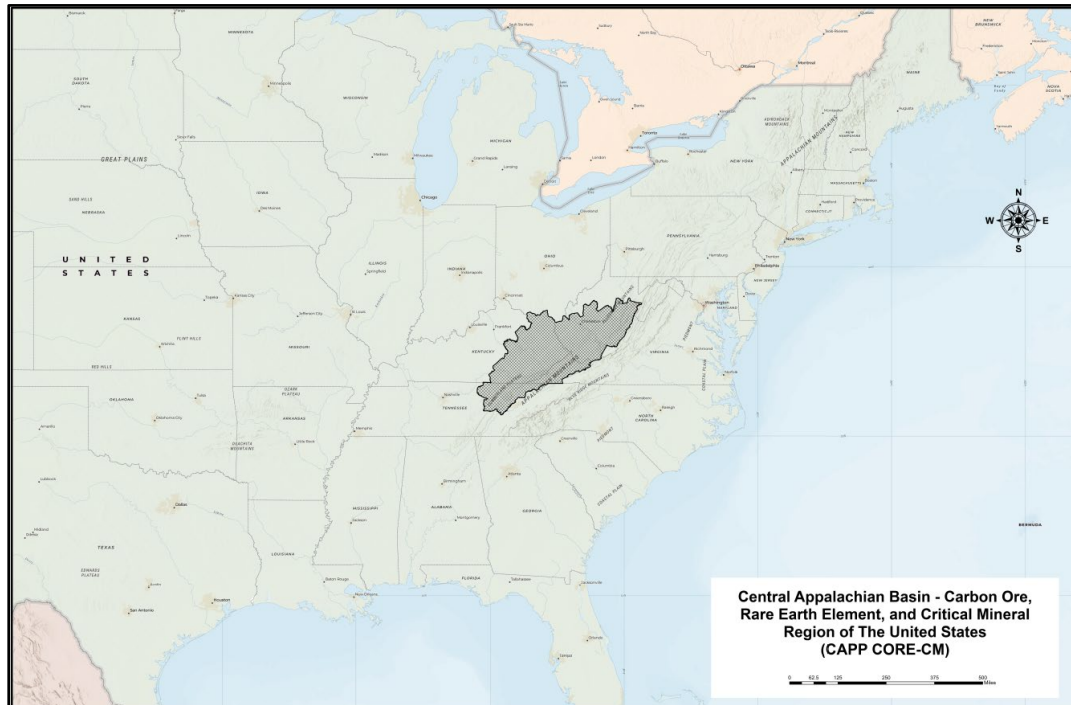
Virginia Dept of Energy

Mountain Empire Community College Coalition

- Mountain Empire Community College (MECC), VA
- Roane State Community College (RSCC), TN
- Southeast Kentucky Community & Tech. College (SKCTC)
- Southern West Virginia Comm. & Tech. College (SWVCTC)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Investigating the Rare Earth & Critical Minerals potential of the Central Appalachian (CAPP) basin
- Original Project Dates: October 1, 2021 – March 31, 2024; Funding: \$1,584,999
- Extension: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024; Funding: \$500,000
- Total: \$2,084,999 DOE + \$623,868 cost share



PROJECT SCOPE

The general Evolve CAPP project scope is to:

- 1) Assess existing knowledge*
- 2) Perform a gap analysis*
- 3) Fill identified gaps with future projects*
- 4) Provide educational & public outreach*





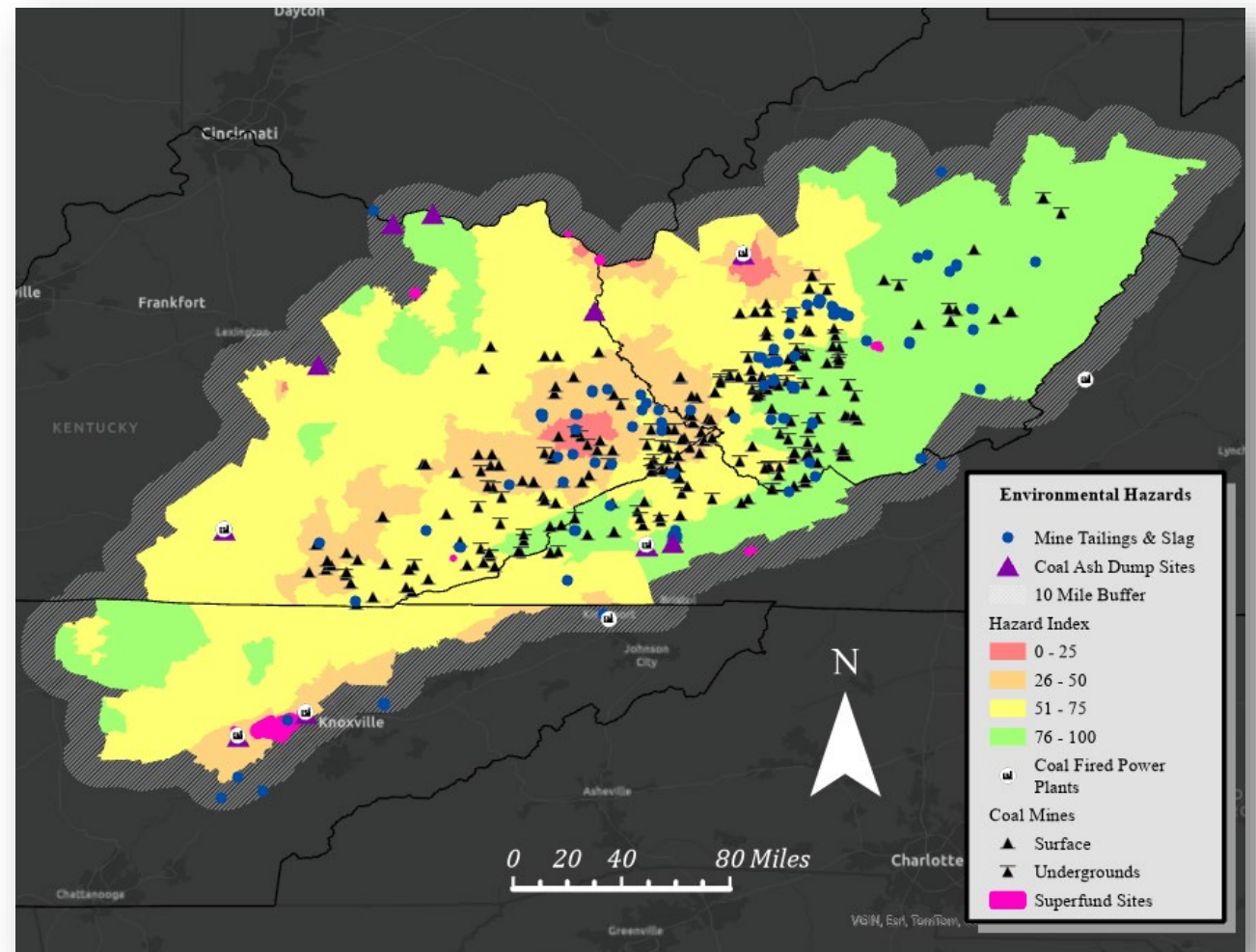
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS IN THE CAPP REGION

Methods of Analysis:

ArcGIS, EJScreen, CORD, CEJST, & other publicly available data

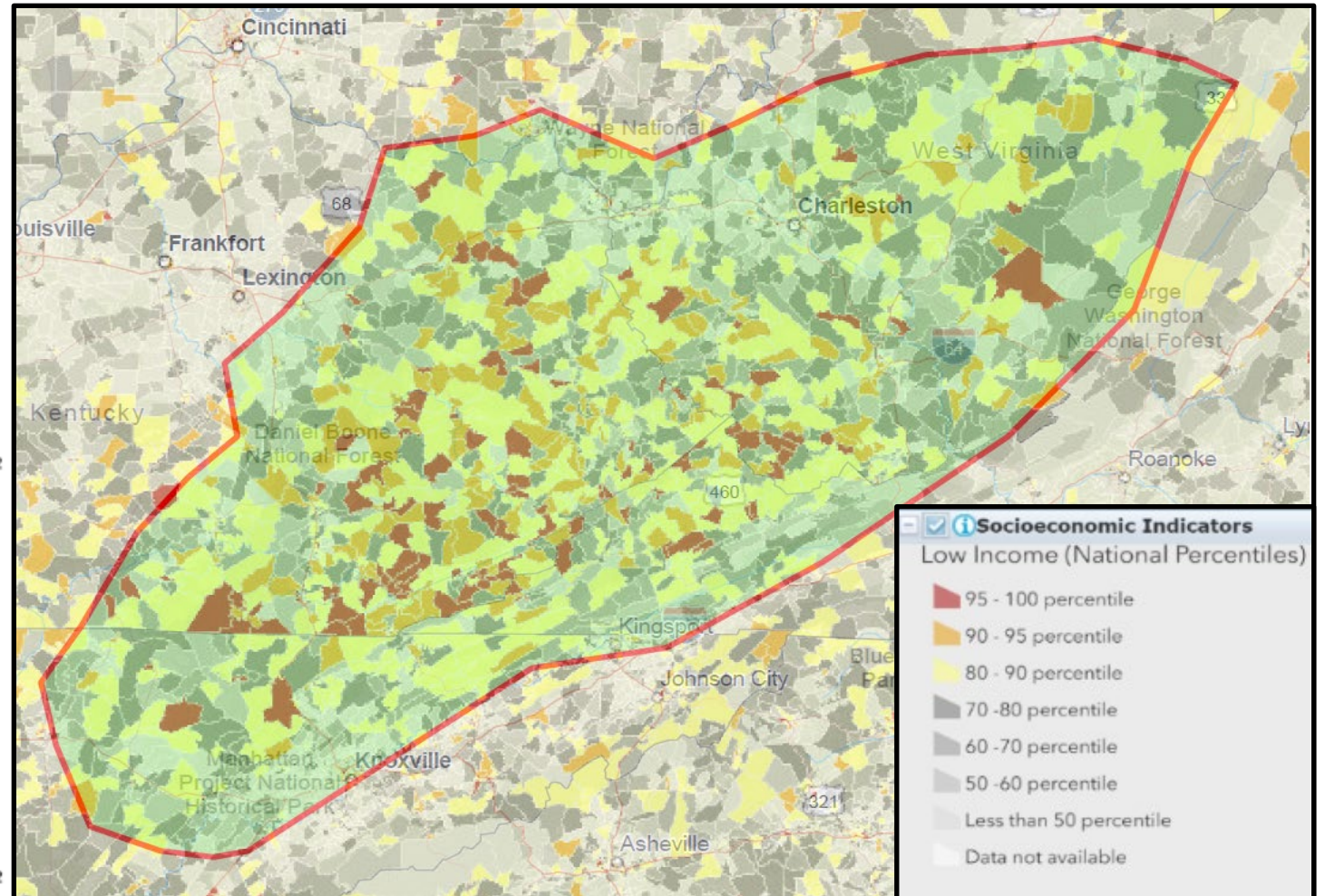
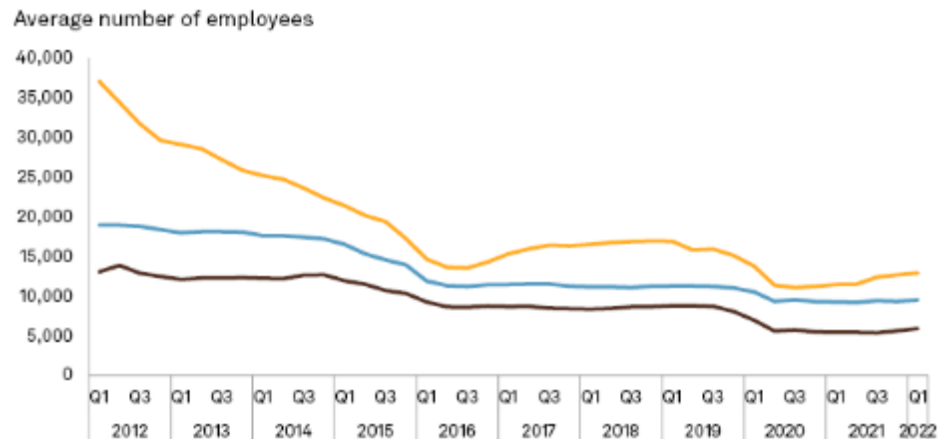
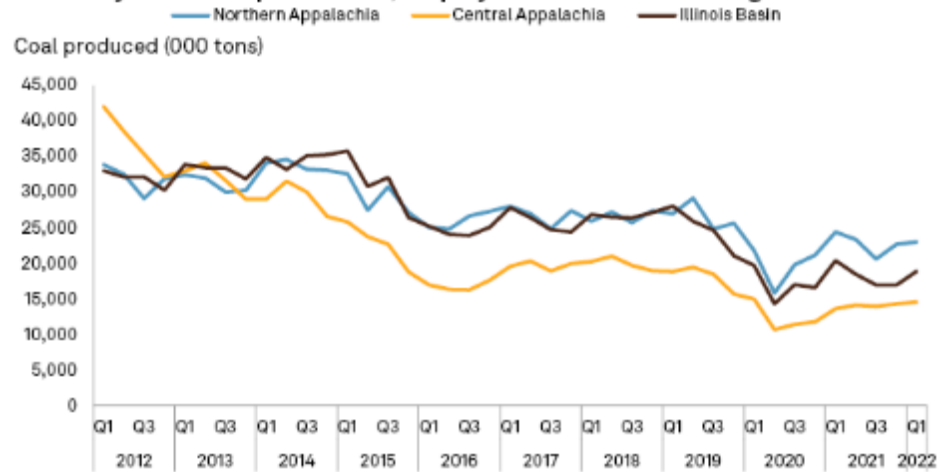
- ❖ 284 Active UG/OP Coal Mines
- ❖ 80M CY of Coal Waste in SW VA
- ❖ >15% area in RED or ORANGE



Sources: EPA, USGS, EIA, VADOE

CAPP EMPLOYMENT TRENDS & SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS

Quarterly coal mine production, employee count for select regions



Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence (May 2022)

EVOLVE CAPP PRIORITIES & PRINCIPLES

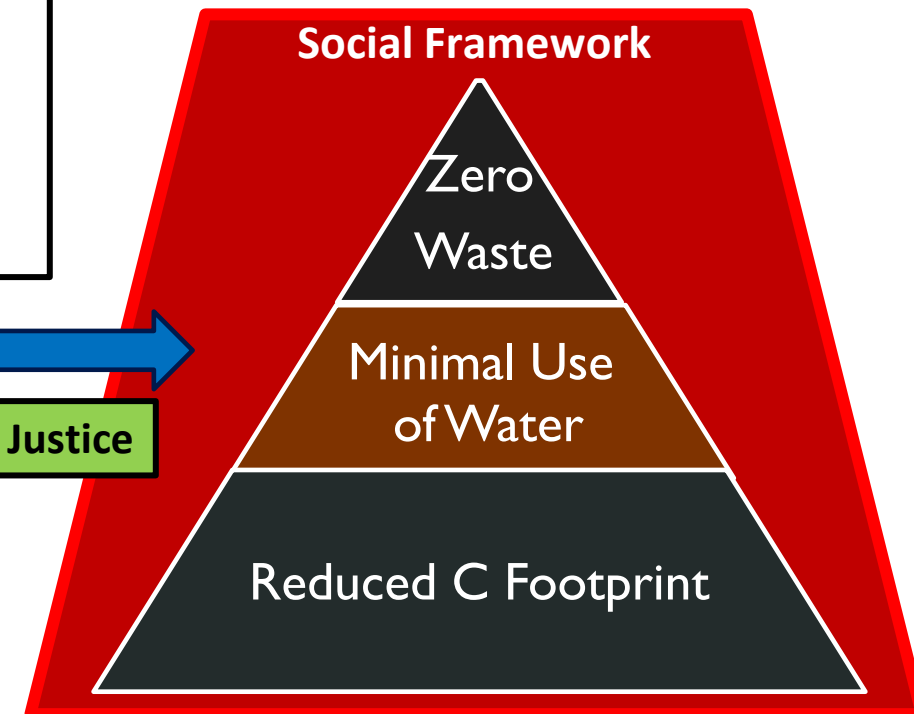
Evolve CAPP Priorities:

- ✓ Establish a CORE-CM Stakeholder **Community**
- ✓ Develop Vibrant CORE-CM Domestic Industries
- ✓ Supply Green & Digital Economy & Contribute to National Security
- ✓ Avoid Mineral Supply Risk, Potential Interruptions
- ✓ Create Downstream Value-Added Industries & Chains
- ✓ Stimulate Economic Growth in CAPP Region
- ✓ Foster New Job Creation & Upskilling of Local Workforce

Evolve CAPP Principles:

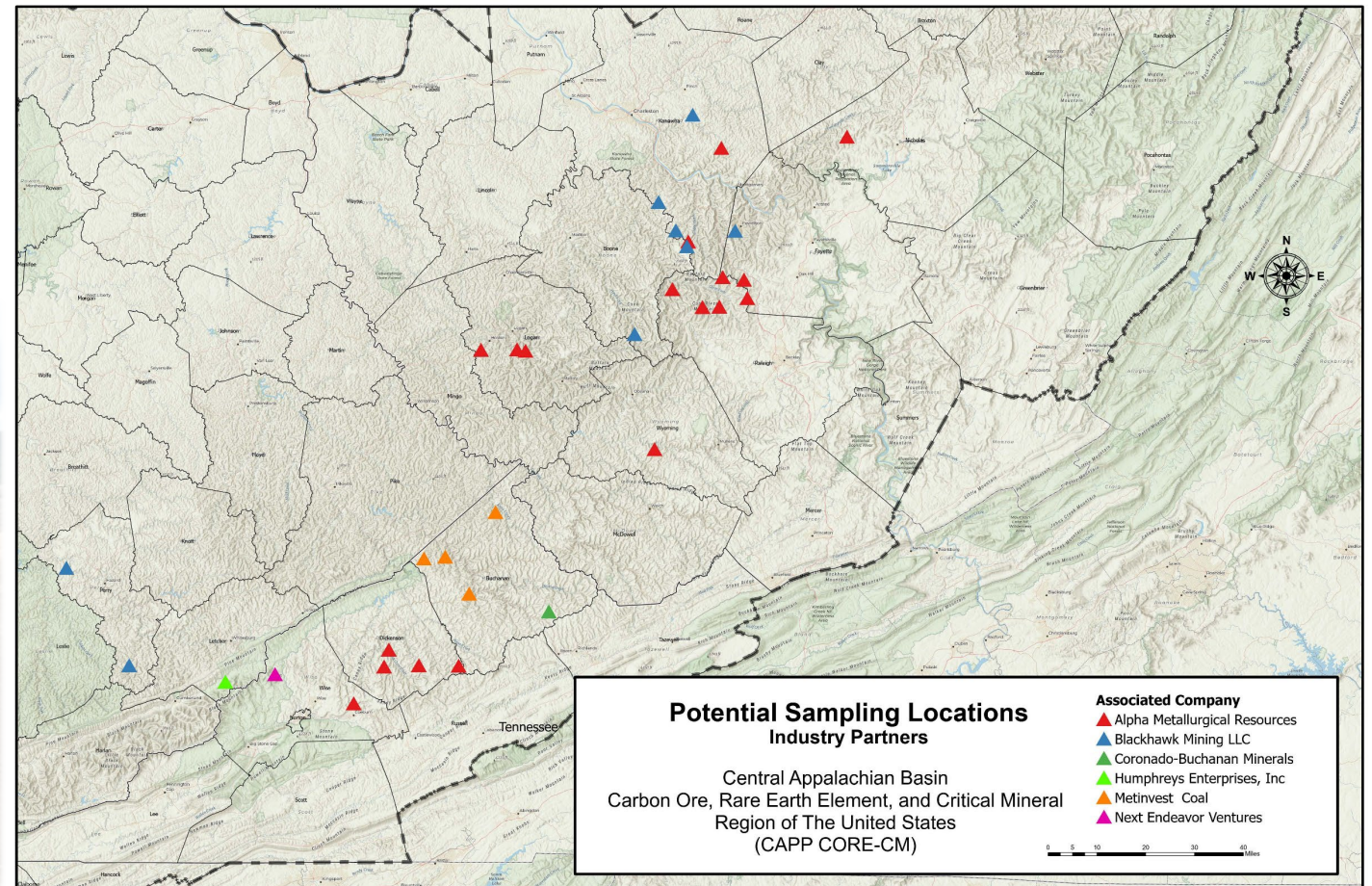
- Develop/Adopt Technologies, Processes & Best Practices that aim for “Zero Impacts” & can earn Social Acceptance
- **Sustainable/Responsible Sourcing**

Positive Environmental & Social Outcomes



POTENTIAL SAMPLING LOCATIONS WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- Targeting resource gaps
- Confirming historical sampling
- Leveraging industry partnerships



PROJECT EXTENSION - FOCUSED ON SAMPLE COLLECTION

- VCCER planned & implemented a sample collection & analysis plan
- The activities included:
 - Identifying specific sampling opportunities w/ industry partners
 - Field sampling and laboratory analyses including:
 - Rock core collection
 - Channel Sampling – surface & underground mines
 - Fly Ash Sample Collection
 - Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Sample Collection
 - Oil & Gas Well Produced Water Sample Collection
 - Field screening including:
 - Geologic Logging
 - X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF)
 - Downhole Geophysical Logging – Spectral Gamma



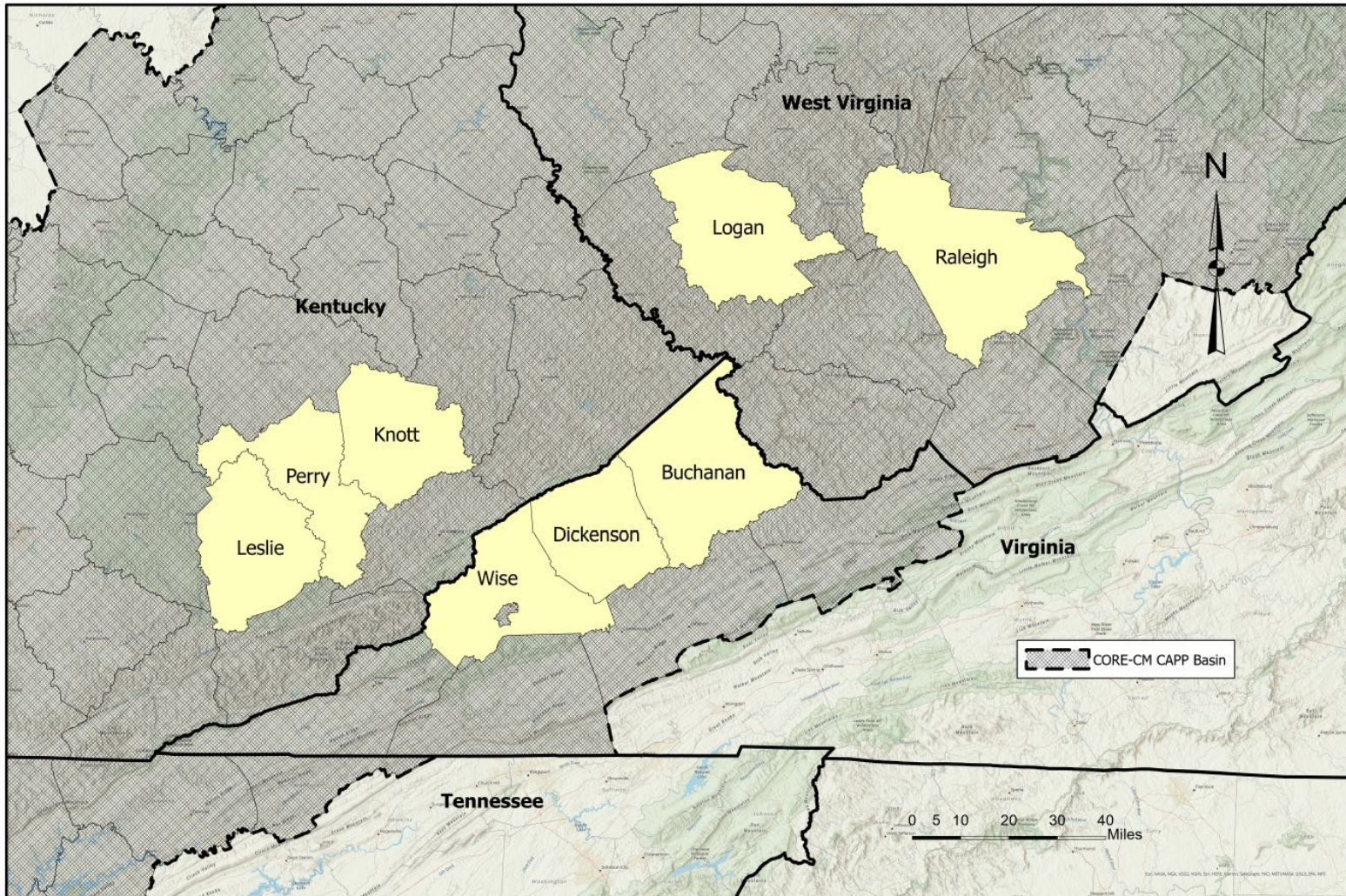
ASSESSMENT OF CORE-CM RESOURCES

- **Sampling:**

- CCR sampling commenced **September 2022 (25 samples)**
- Initial drill core samples **September 2022 (19 samples)**
- Produced water sampling commenced **December 2022 (30 samples)**
- Mine sampling commenced **July 2023 (30 samples)**
- Additional samples collected since **August 2023 (>760 samples)**



CAPP REGION COUNTIES WHERE SAMPLES WERE COLLECTED



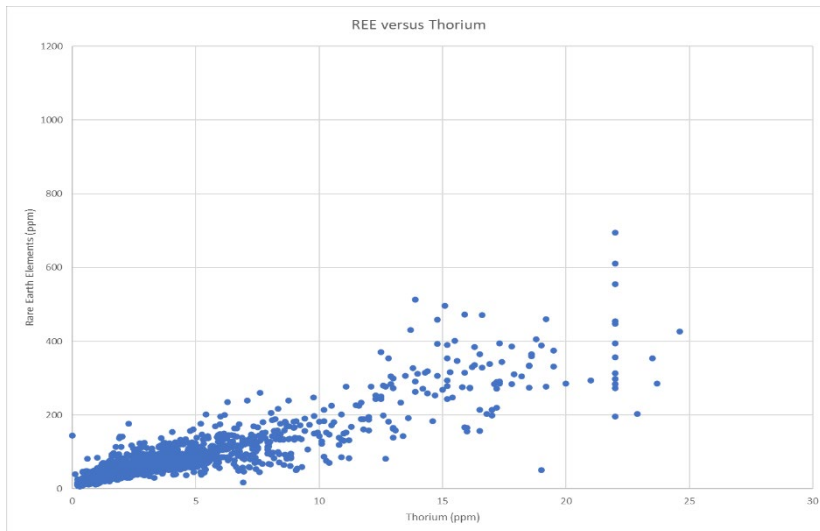
Virginia Counties to date:

- ❖ Buchanan
- ❖ Dickenson
- ❖ Wise

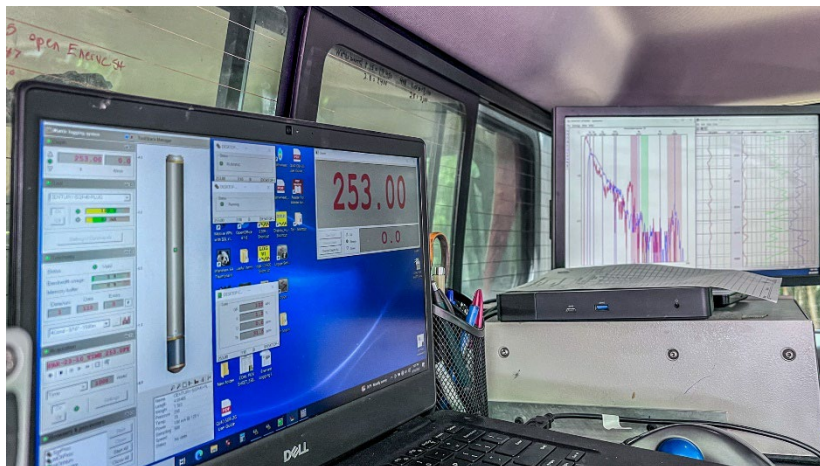
An aerial photograph of a construction site in a dense forest. A large, rectangular pile of reddish-brown earth is the central focus. To its left, a red truck is parked on a dirt path. To its right, a silver SUV is parked. In the foreground, a red truck and a silver SUV are parked on a dirt clearing. A yellow circular marker is visible on the ground near the silver SUV. The surrounding area is filled with lush green trees. The text "PRE-SCREENING TOOLS" is overlaid in large, white, bold letters across the center of the image.

PRE-SCREENING TOOLS

DOWNHOLE SPECTRAL GAMMA



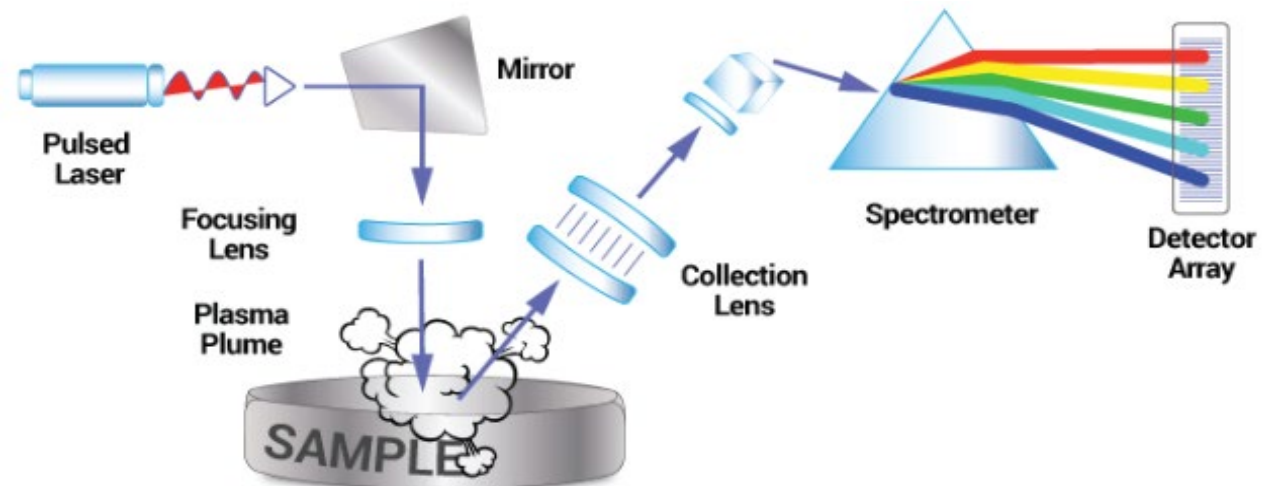
- REEs vs Thorium correlation, detectable w/ Spectral Gamma
- Gamma measured by converting gamma rays to measured & counted electronic pulses



LIBS SCREENING



- **L**aser **I**nduced **B**reakdown **S**pectroscopy
- Used >30 years as a lab technique capable of analyzing any element in periodic table, now available handheld
- Pulsed laser fired at sample creates a plasma
- Plasma cools, atoms combine with electrons & emit UV, Optical & IR light compared with known wavelengths



KYLE 0427-11, BOX 3: 185.72' – 195.72'

SHCL (ash-mottled claystone):

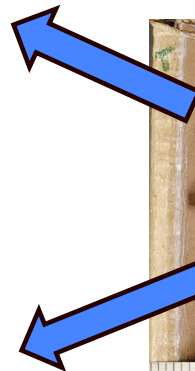
pXRF: $\sum \text{REE} + \text{Y} = 421 \text{ ppm}$



TON (tonstein):

pXRF: Y = 104 ppm, Th = 87 ppm

$\sum \text{REE} + \text{Y} = 955 \text{ ppm}$



VA-C-1 Box #125: 1797' – 1807'

includes P2 coal (Buchanan County, VA)



pXRF: Y = 32 ppm, Th = 15 ppm
 Σ REE+Y 269 ppm
 Σ LREE 215 ppm
 Σ HREE 23 ppm

BUILDING A DEPOSITIONAL MODEL

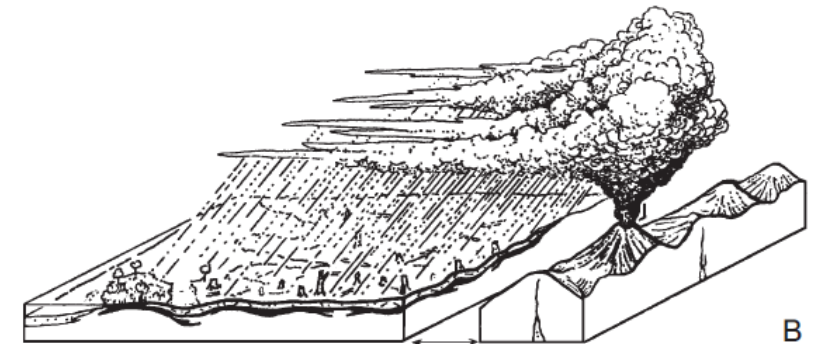
- Basic model for flint clay deposition in sedimentary depositional environment

Eble, CF, Hower, JC, and Andrews, WM, 1999, Compositional Variations in the Fire Clay Coal Bed of Eastern Kentucky: Geochemistry, Petrography, Palynology, and Paleoecology, Report of Investigations 14, Series XI, Kentucky Geological Survey, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

A. Peat accumulation in mire subject to clastic influx; will become lower bench of coal seam



B. Volcanic ash deposited; will become flint clay parting

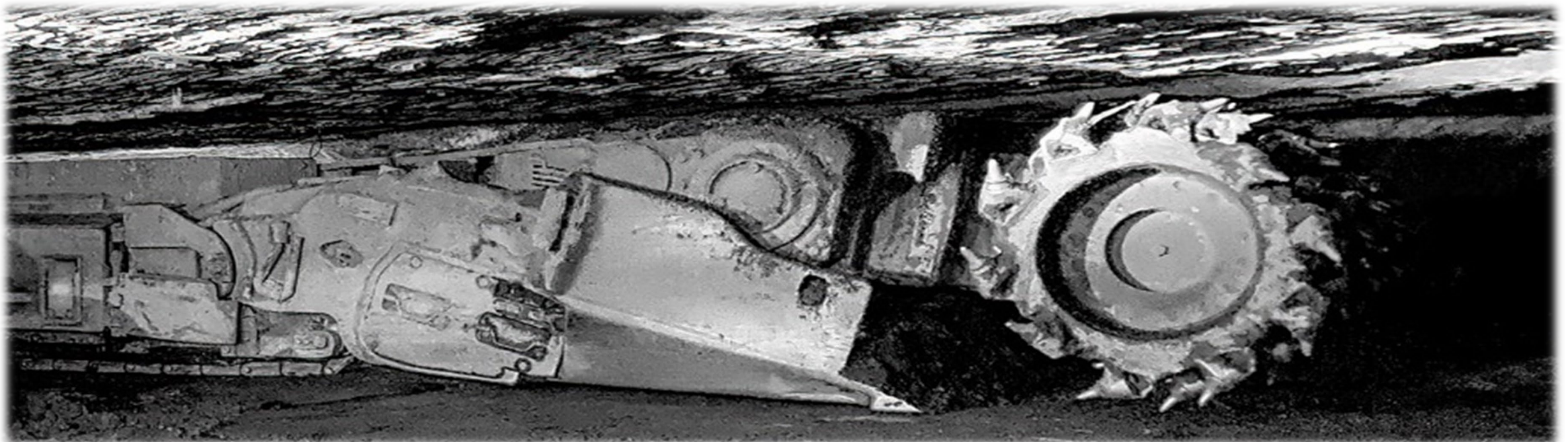


C. Peat accumulates after the ash fall; will become upper bench of coal seam



TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT, DEVELOPMENT & FIELD TESTING

- Mining (primary, co-products, re-mining)
- Separation Processes
- Carbon Products
- Technology Assessment
- Field-Testing
- Gap Analysis



MINING TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS

➤ **Material Handling**

- Movement of ore from working face to processing operation

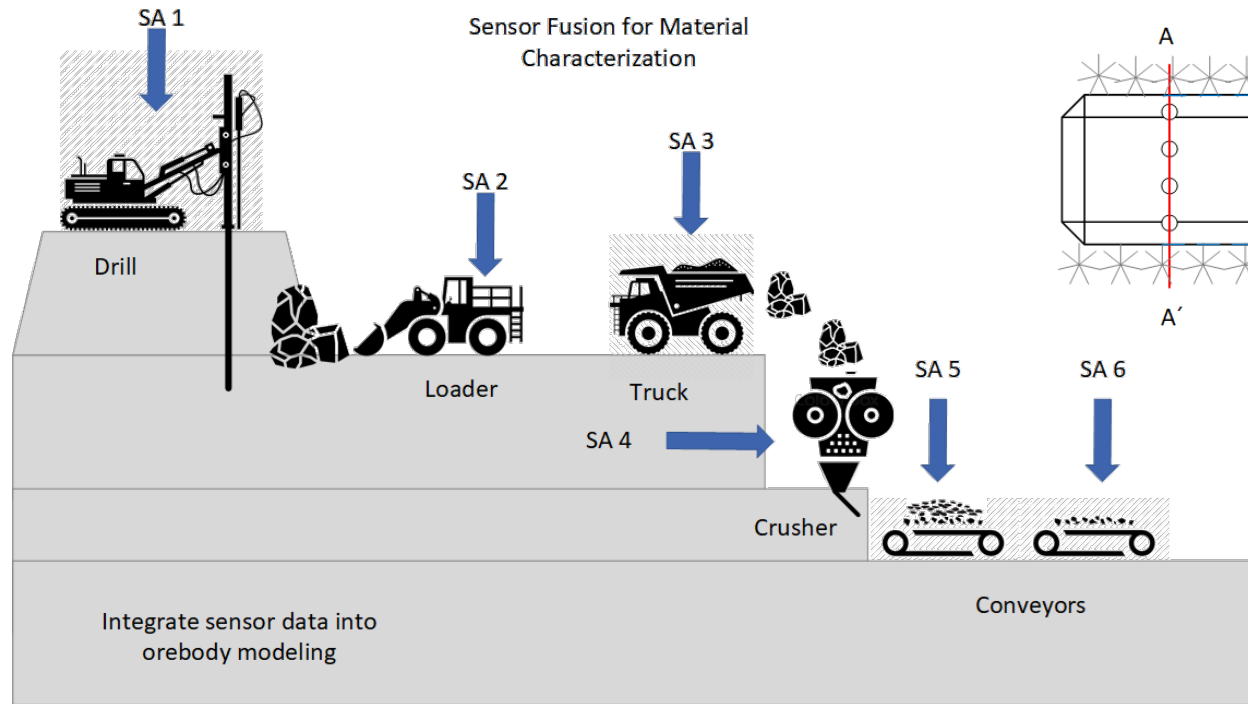
➤ **Surface Operations**

- Out-of-Seam material placed in storage or replaced to get site back to approx. original contour
- Material in storage may be available for re-mining operations to recover REE, but volume of material & mixing of material a challenge
- Selective mining possible for out-of-seam material (flexibility in truck & shovel operations)

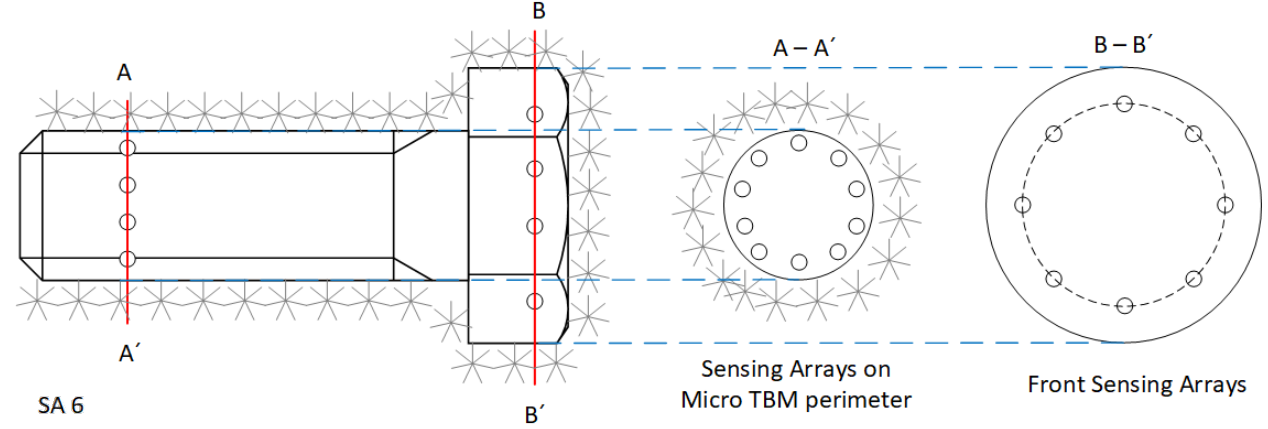
➤ **Underground Operations**

- Selective material handling & selective mining are a challenge
- Out-of-seam material is separated in processing plant & stored separately
- Re-mining options available

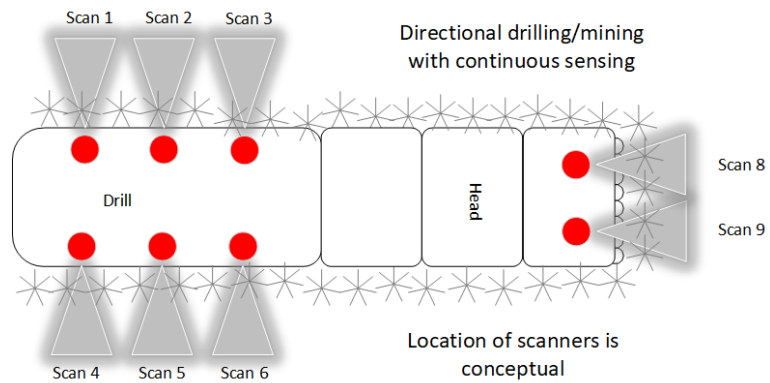
EXAMPLE MINING TECHNIQUES



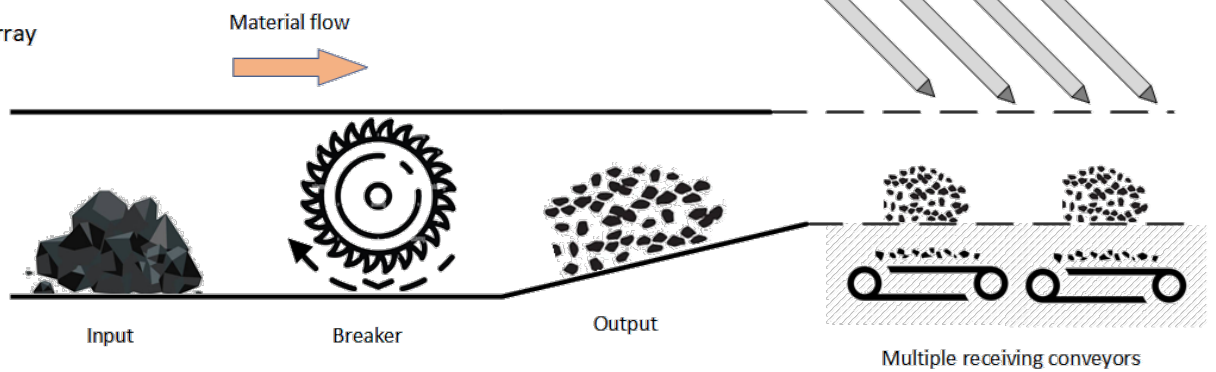
Directional Micro-TBM with Sensing Arrays



SA = Sensor Array



Underground Feeder Breaker with Airjet Separation

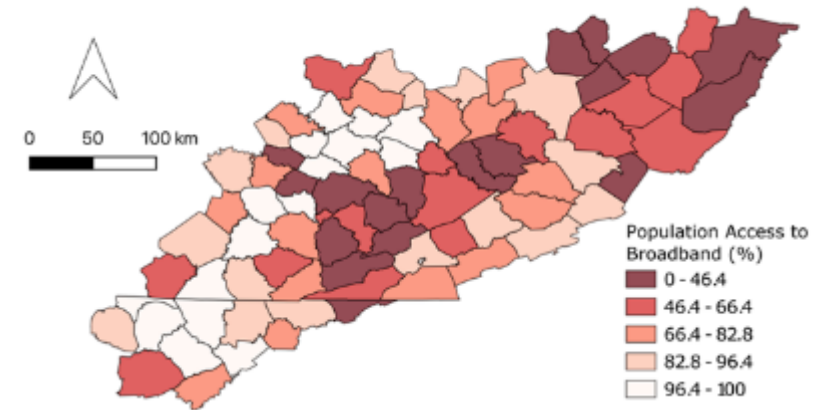


INITIAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Screening for various metrics, including:

- Cheapest source of electricity
- Primary & secondary roads
- Power generation
- Railroad networks
- Commercially navigable waterways
- Fly ash pond locations
- Population with access to broadband
- Educational opportunities

CAPP Region Population With Access to Broadband



CAPP Region Railroad Network



OUTREACH INTEGRATED WITH PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Management
& Planning



Stakeholder Outreach &
Education

Initial Stakeholder Outreach &
Education Plan

EJ
Considerations

Economic
Revitalization
& Job
Creation
Outcomes

EH&S
Analysis

Stakeholder
Advisory
Committee

Workforce
Readiness &
Development

Public
Outreach,
Education &
Engagement

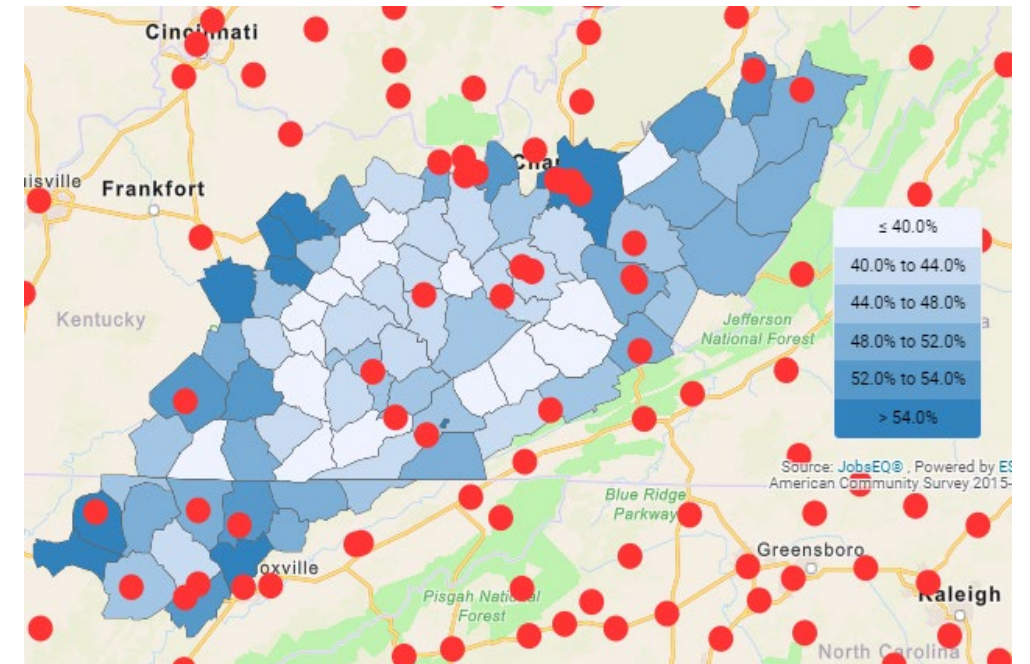
WORKFORCE READINESS & DEVELOPMENT

- Workforce Readiness Plan
- Workshops & Forums
 - ✓ Engage stakeholders/entrepreneurs, public, future workforce personnel
 - ✓ Identify & assess skillsets & employment opportunities
- Offer programs, certifications & skills training to match needs of projects in basin

Workforce Readiness Plan



Labor Force Participation Rate
w/ locations of Public 2-year or Less Training Facilities

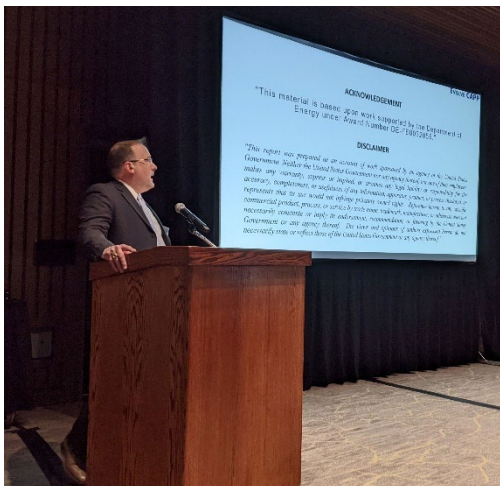


EDUCATION & TRAINING – CAPP REGION

School	Commercial Vehicle	Construction/ Heavy Equip.	Diesel Mech. & Technician	Drafting & Design Tech.	Electrical & Electronic Tech.	Electrical & Electronic Comm.	Electrician	Industrial Mechanics	Information Technologies	Machine Shop Tech.	Welding
Academy of Careers and Technology	x		x	x			x				x
Ashland Community and Technical College	x		x	x			x	x	x	x	
Ben Franklin Career Center		x	x								x
Berea College									x		
Big Sandy Community and Technical College	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Bluefield State College						x			x		
BridgeValley Community & Technical College			x	x		x					x
Cabell County Career Technology Center							x			x	x
Carver Career Center							x				
Eastern Kentucky University									x		
Fayette Institute of Technology							x				
Fortis Institute-Cookeville	x										
Fred W Eberle Technical Center	x		x				x				x
Hazard Community and Technical College	x	x	x	x			x		x		x
Marshall University									x		
Mercer County Technical Education Center							x				x
Morehead State University									x		
Mountain Empire Community College						x			x		x
Mountwest Community and Technical College						x				x	x
New River Community and Technical College			x								x
Somerset Community College	x		x		x		x	x	x	x	
Southeast Kentucky Community			x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Southern WV Community and Technical College						x	x				x
Southwest Virginia Community College						x			x		x
TN College of Applied Technology-Crossville	x		x					x			x
TN College of Applied Technology-Harriman			x					x			x
TN College of Applied Technology-Jacksboro							x				x
TN College of Applied Technology-Livingston			x					x			x
TN College of Applied Technology-Oneida-Huntsville											x
University of the Cumberlands									x		
University of Pikeville									x		
West Virginia University Institute of Technology					x				x		

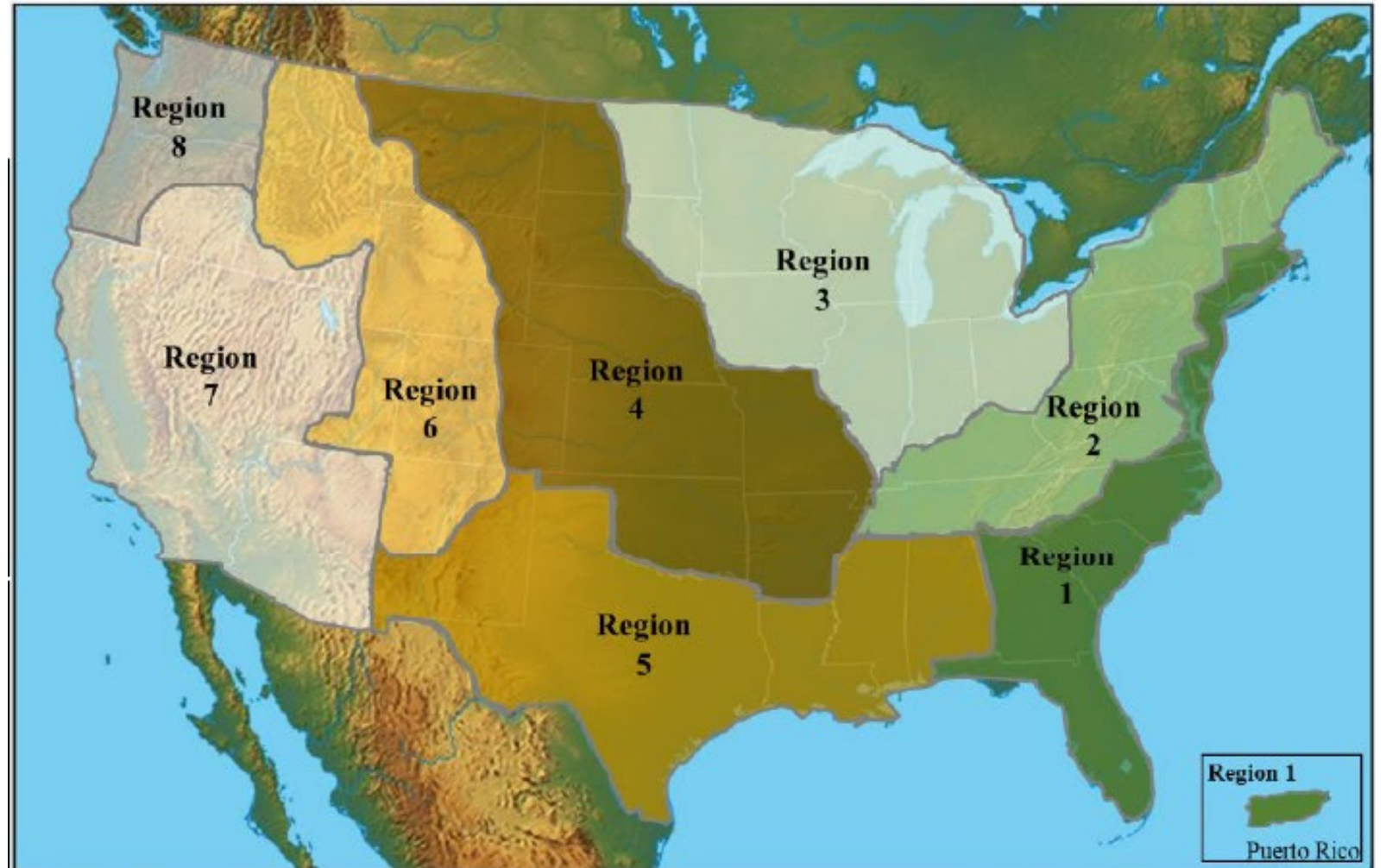
STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH & EDUCATION - VIRGINIA

- *Open Public Session + Stakeholder Mtg: Abingdon, VA, **March 2022***
 - *MCPA PE Seminar: Lebanon, VA, **October 2023***
 - *VaDOE Electrical Retraining Seminar, Big Stone Gap, VA, **September 2023***
 - *VEDP Rural Virginia Action Committee: Richmond, VA, **September 2023***
 - *Critical Minerals Workshop, Blacksburg, VA, **March 2023***
 - *Public Outreach, Education & Engagement: **40 presentations to date..***
- **USEA, SSEB, SME, SME-CAS, SME-FL, SPE, etc.**



DOE-FOA 3077 - CORE-CM PHASE II “REGIONS OF INTEREST”

- Phase II CORE-CM Program
- Potential \$7.5M in funding per region
- Proposals submitted for Regions 1 & 2



EVOLVE CAPP

Evolve Central Appalachia



*Scan QR code
for more info:*

<https://energy.vt.edu/research/evolve-capp.html>

*For more information,
please contact:*

*Richard Bishop
ribishop@vt.edu*