

# The Forestry Reclamation Approach at Fola Coal Company



06/27/2



This permit was the first to be approved in WV with Commercial Forestry / Forestry as a Post Mining Land Use

06/27/200



**Along with that distinction came some challenging operational changes;**

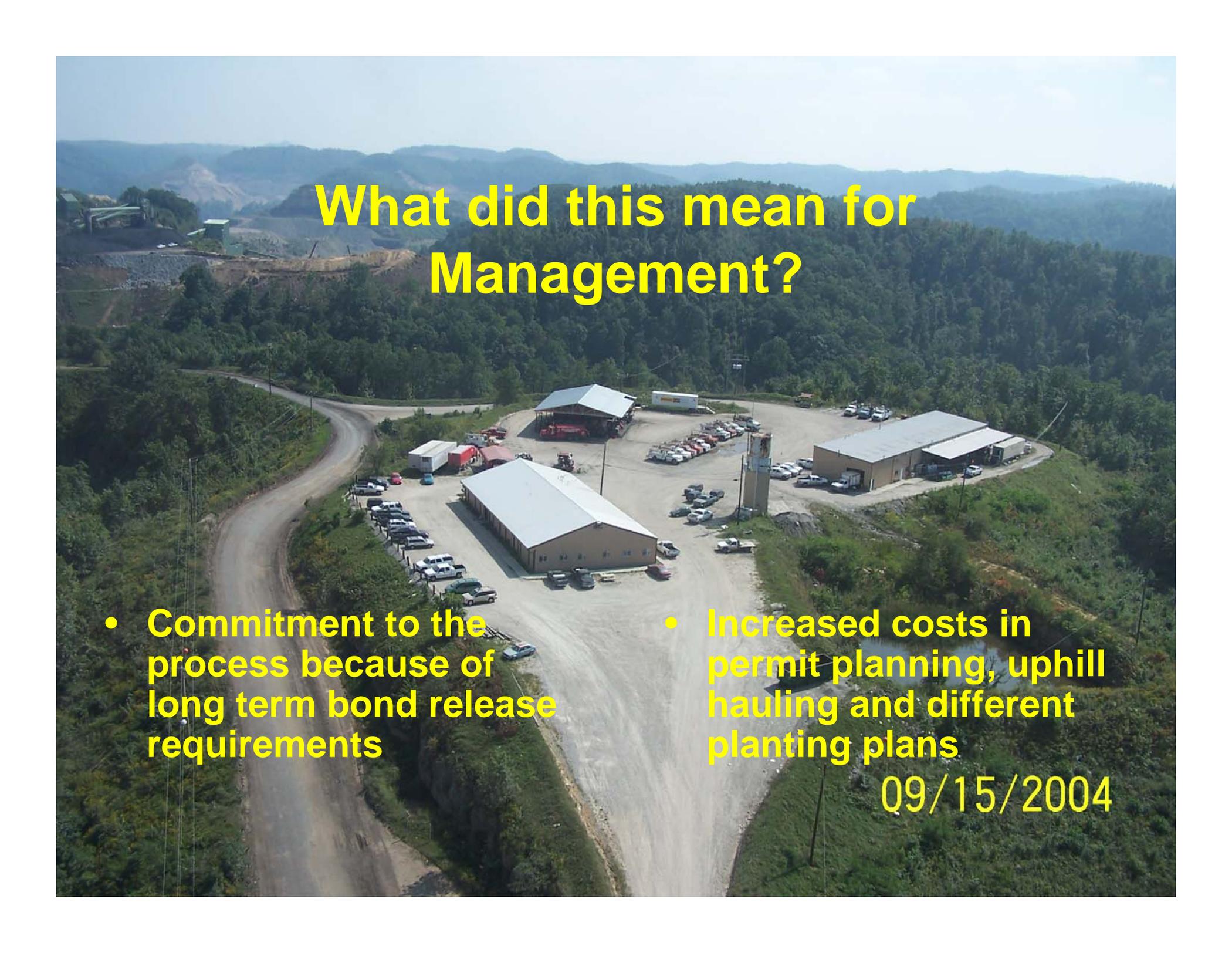
- Specified Topsoil management plans
- Overburden blending to provide specific subsoil and topsoil substitutes
- Land formations defined in the permit

09/15/2004



The permit also has a variance from  
Approximate Original Contour (AOC) which  
means;

- A “higher and better” Post Mining Land Use (PMLU)
  - Being located out in the boonies, no Malls or Golf Courses or major roads coming soon
  - Our company has other lands that are managed for timber production
  - And we “gotta have the permit!”
  - So.....LET’S GROW TREES!
- 06/27/2005



# What did this mean for Management?

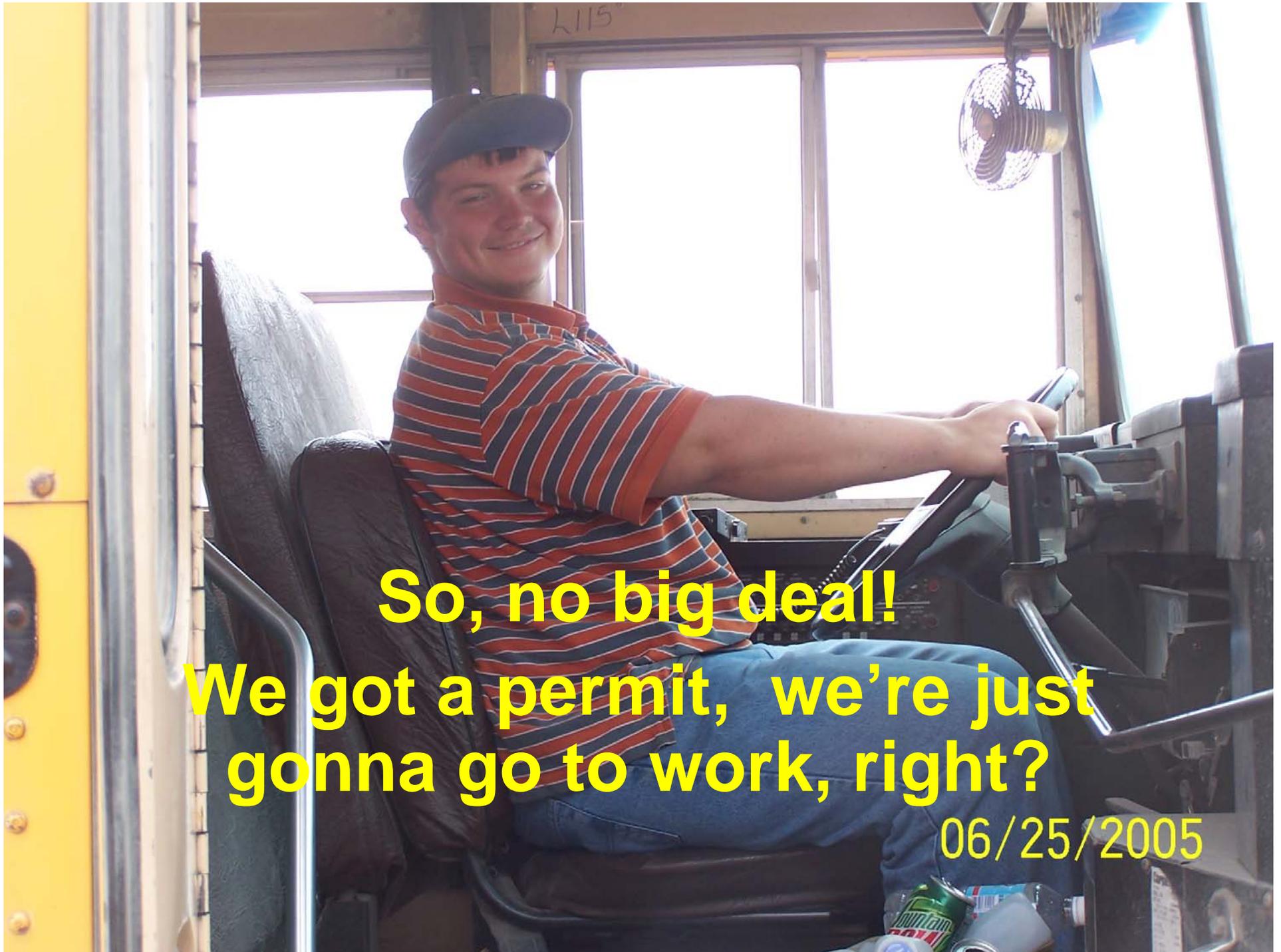
- Commitment to the process because of long term bond release requirements
- Increased costs in permit planning, uphill hauling and different planting plans

09/15/2004

# What did it mean for operations?

- Detailed planning for overburden & topsoil storage, movement and final placement
- Supervisory training in overburden management
- Operator re-education in new reclamation techniques

09/15/2004



**So, no big deal!  
We got a permit, we're just  
gonna go to work, right?**

**06/25/2005**

A group of approximately 15 people, mostly men wearing hard hats and work clothes, are walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The path leads through a field of tall grass and some scattered debris. In the background, there are rolling hills under a cloudy sky. The overall scene suggests a field inspection or a site visit.

**Right!**

**The learning curve was & is the  
same for regulatory agencies!**

**07/13/2005**

**Let's make sure we all have  
this straight;**



**First, gotta dump  
black shale, white sandstone  
and brown sandstone**



Then we're gonna mix all  
this stuff together...



Then we have to cover it with topsoil we already hauled up the hill and stored,.....  
back when?

**TOP SOIL  
STORAGE  
AREA**

**We're gonna wear it out!**



**We know buck huntin' but what  
is buck dumpin'?**



A yellow Caterpillar bulldozer is positioned on a dirt path, facing away from the camera. The bulldozer is surrounded by a large pile of dirt and rocks. The background shows a clear blue sky and a line of trees on a hillside. The text "No more than two passes and leave the rocks?" is overlaid in yellow on the image.

**No more than two passes and  
leave the rocks?**

**We gotta leave that stuff in  
there?**

**09/23/2005**

**Finally, land forming! WVDEP is gonna love us when we get it all done, right?**



**RIGHT!**



A group of approximately 15 people, including men, women, and children, are posing for a photo. They are all wearing bright green t-shirts. They are standing in front of a large, rusted metal bucket from a Caterpillar bulldozer. The bulldozer is yellow and has "CATERPILLAR" written on its front. The scene is outdoors, with a grassy hillside and trees in the background. The ground is dirt and gravel.

Ok , so we took on a big load of changes. How's it doin' so far?

06/25/2005

A photograph of a grassy hillside with large rocks under a clear blue sky. The grass is tall and golden-brown, suggesting a dry or late summer season. The rocks are light-colored and appear to be part of a larger geological formation. The sky is a uniform, clear blue.

**Well, we've done some land  
forming;**

**06/27/2005**



**Including some nifty  
wetlands;**

A wide-angle photograph of a landscape. The foreground is a grassy field with several large, light-colored rocks. The middle ground is filled with numerous small, young green trees planted in a regular grid pattern across a field. The background shows a flat horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The text "We've planted lots of trees;" is overlaid in yellow at the bottom of the image.

**We've planted lots of trees;**

**Including 8 different species  
of hardwoods**



**We've been sampled;**



and toured (or tortured, HA!)



07/13/2005

**Trees are doing well;**



**Critters dig the setting;**



**06/25/2005**





**and, WVDEP gave us an award for  
excellence in our Reforestation  
efforts, right?**

**06/27/2005**

Right!



Any questions so far?  
(there is a story behind this)



So, when it comes to Forestry, are we gettin' in or gettin' out?





**What are the major issues still  
out there? Can everyone,  
anywhere, use this PMLU?**

**06/05/2007**

# Topsoil & Topsoil Substitutes;

- How much topsoil is available?
- Is brown sandstone the ONLY viable substitute?
- Is white sandstone appropriate?

06/08/2006

# Contemporaneous Reclamation;

- When is best time to plant trees?
- When is best time to plant grass?
- What is sufficient ground cover?
- Does planting of grasses first inhibit tree growth?
- When can areas be counted as reclaimed?
- Can it be after planting trees only?
- If so, would sediment control be a problem?
- Do regulations need tweaked?

04/25/2005

Do we have our poop in a group?



07/13/2005

# Contusions; oops, Conclusions



07/13/2005



Some days all you can do is smile and wait for some kind soul to come pull your   out of the bind you've gotten yourself into.