

Reclamation project director honored

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Powell River Project Director Dr. Carl Zipper was honored for 27 years of service during the project's recent annual field visit and dinner.

More than 100 people attended the event, hosted by Virginia Tech's Powell River Education & Research Center and the Virginia Coal & Energy Alliance.

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Deputy Director Bradley "Butch" Lambert and Chief Randy Moore presented Zipper with a mine safety lamp for his dedication and commitment to fostering research that helped improve the coal industry through improved and more cost-effective environmental compliance; helped mine regulatory agencies by advising regulatory policies; and helped Virginia coalfield communities by contributing to science-based environmental management of mining-affected areas. These benefits were achieved through peer-reviewed scientific research and through Powell River Project's outreach and education programs.

Powell River Project, located on 1,100 acres in Wise County, was founded in 1980 and is the longest-running program of its kind in the nation. The project has had a major influence on mine reclamation and mined-land reclamation and post-mining management practices throughout the Appalachian coalfields.

Zipper has been a member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 1986. His activities address a variety of environmental issues, with an emphasis on the interface of environmental science with natural resource management and government policy.

As associate director of the Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research (1989-2003), he conducted research addressing policy issues associated with coal mining, electric power generation and transmission, and air quality.

Zipper currently advises the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as a member of the agency's Academic Advisory Committee; serves as co-chair of the U.S. Office of Surface Mining's Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Science Team, and as co-chair of the Clinch and Powell Clean Rivers Initiative Science Team.

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