

Calling Hours:

A Theatrical Memorial for a Deceased Power Plant

Anne Cornell
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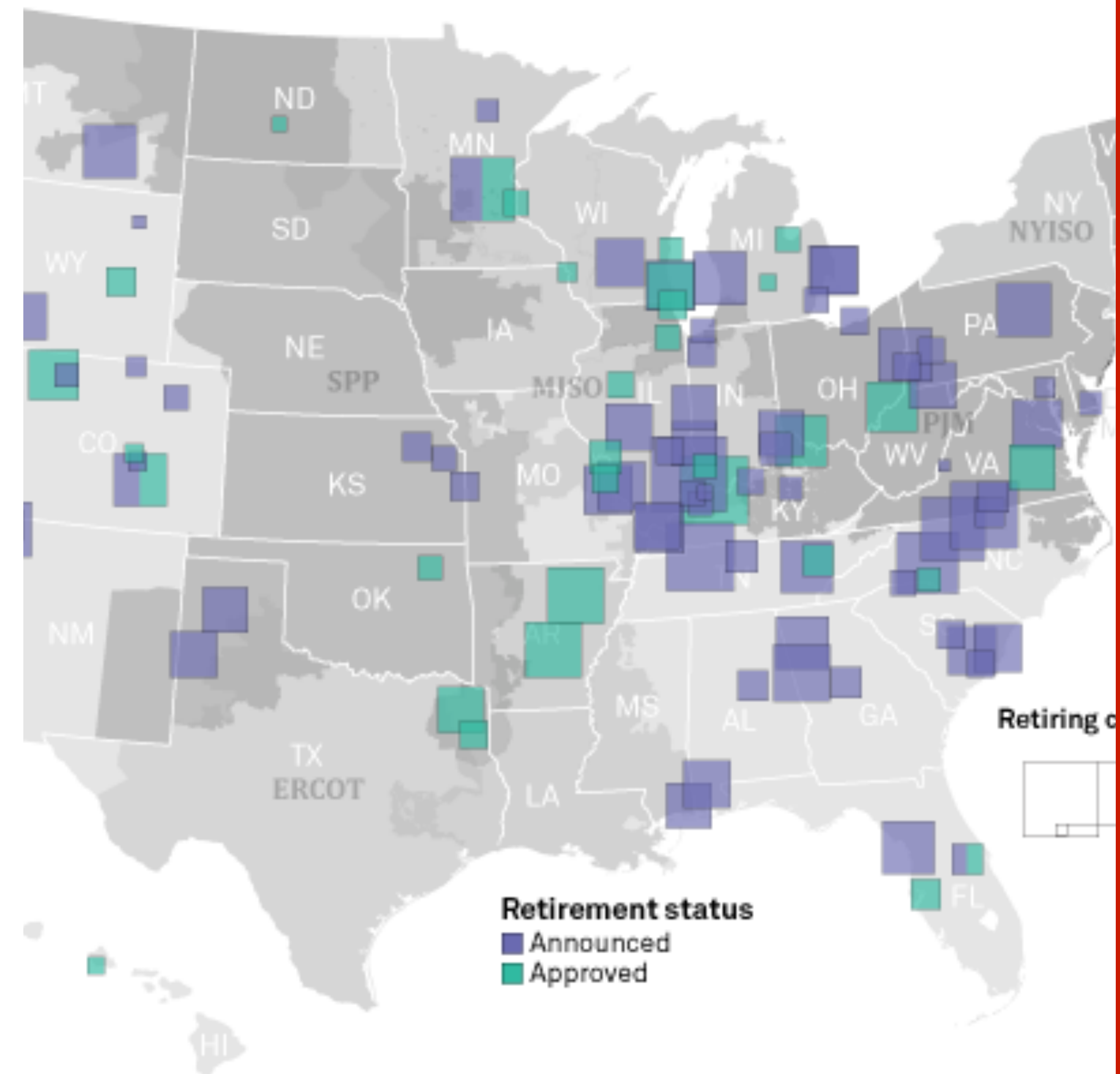
A black and white photograph of an industrial interior. Several tall, dark, vertical structures, possibly chimneys or shafts, rise from the floor. The ceiling is high and appears to be made of corrugated metal or a similar material. The floor is cluttered with various pipes, beams, and structural elements, suggesting a complex industrial environment. The lighting is somewhat dim, creating a sense of depth and shadow.

Background and Beginnings

The Coal Transition in the US and Ohio

- Historically, about 500 coal-fired power plants in the US, about have 300 retired since 2007. *In the Ohio Valley alone, 34 coal-burning facilities closed from 2009-2017*
- Of 200 remaining, half to close by 2030 and most by 2050, handful will remain
 - *7 coal-burning plants remain in Ohio – all to be decommissioned by 2030*
- Driving Factors:
 - Advanced age of coal-fired power plants
 - Low cost and abundance of Methane (and to much lesser extent renewables)
 - Corporate and Regulatory polices aimed at decarbonization

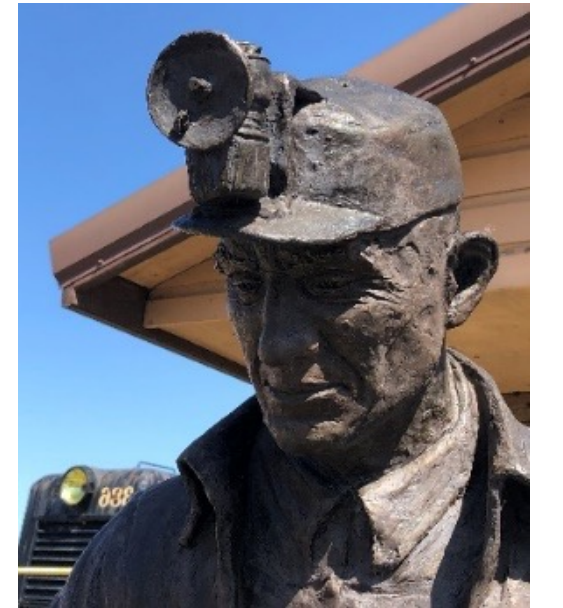
Future coal capacity retirements
Through 2035



Retiring capacity has been granted by regulatory bodies, and announced pending regulatory approval of broader coal capacity phaseouts, on a best-efforts basis.

The Ohio Coal Transition: Pathways for Community Resilience Research Team

- **Jeffrey B. Jacquet, PhD** | Associate Professor School of Environment and Natural Resources and The OSU Sustainability Institute
- **Gwynn Stewart, MS** | Community Development Educator IV, Ohio State Extension – Noble Co.
- **Max D. Woodworth, PhD** | Associate Professor Department of Geography
- **Jeffrey M. Bielicki, PhD** | Associate Professor Department of Civil, Environmental & Geodetic Engineering, OSU Sustainability Institute, and the OSU John Glenn College of Public Affairs
- **Thomas Dugdale, MFA** | Assistant Professor Department of Theatre, Film & Media Arts
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- **Katie Finneran** | Graduate Student, School of Environment & Natural Resources
- **Brian Capobianco, MEEP** | Graduate Student, School of Environment & Natural Resources
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- **William Sharp** | Graduate Student, School of Environment & Natural Resources



Memorial Coal Miner statue at the Byesville Village Park
Photo by: Gwynn Stewart

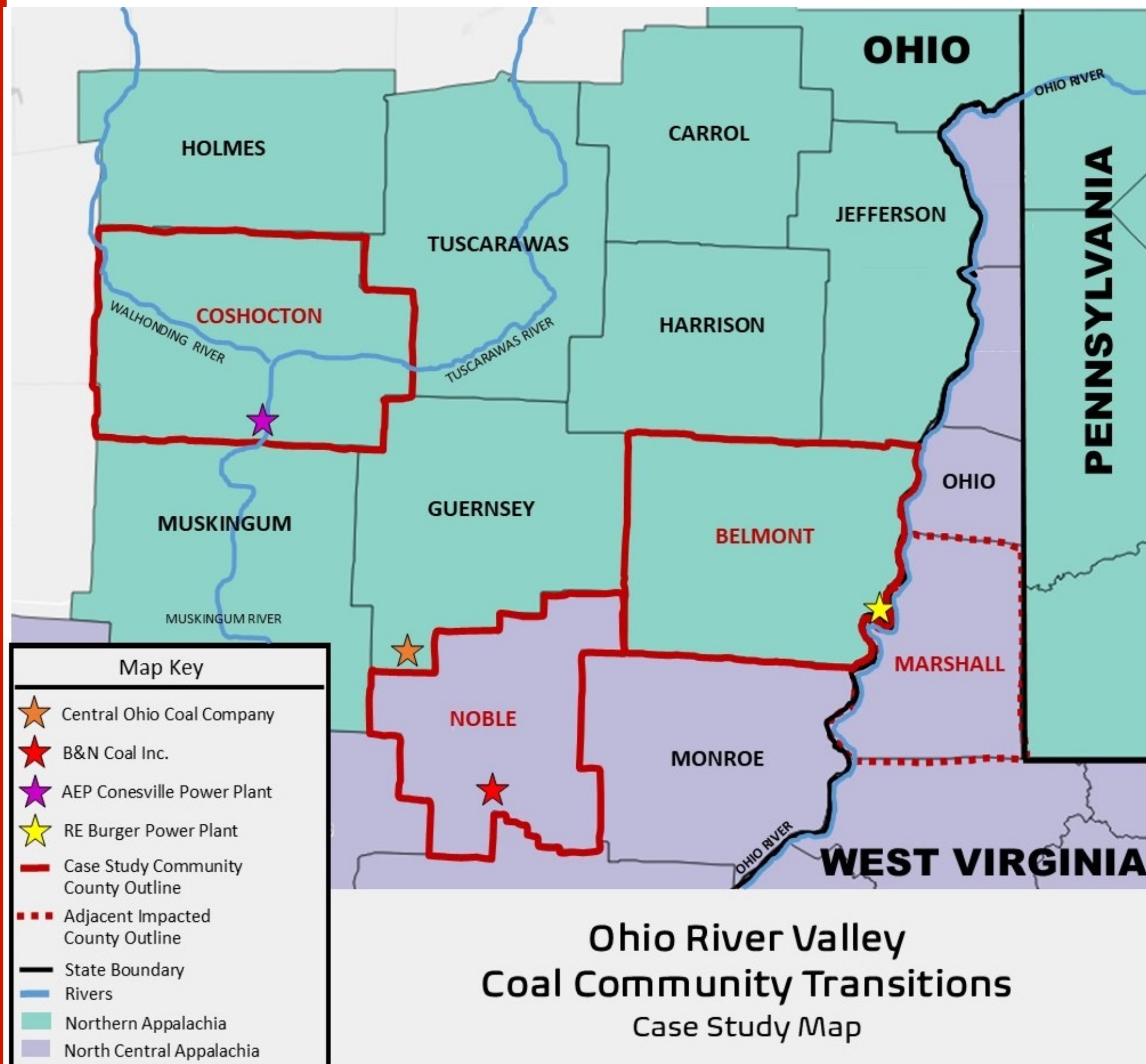


“Big Muskie” bucket in Morgan County at the ODNR Jesse Owens Park
Photo by: Gwynn Stewart

Methods & Deliverables

- Historical research, archival collection: local histories, private archives and collections of textual and visual materials
- Local site documentation through repeated field visits
- **Performing confidential “key informant” interviews** with community leaders, residents, workers and industry representatives in Ohio Communities (N = 49 as of 6/27/22), about the role coal mining, transportation, and use has and will play in communities

Deliverables: Library-Science Exhibition, Fine Arts Photography and Historical Archival Exhibitions, general audience and scholarly publications, theatrical performance



- **Belmont County – Shadyside, Ohio**
 - Loss of Berger (1st Energy) Power Plant
 - History of Surface & Underground Mining\
 - Still-operating Coal Plant nearby

- **Coshocton County – Conesville, Ohio**
 - Loss of Conesville (AEP) Power Plant
 - History of Surface & Underground Mining

- **Noble County – Caldwell, Ohio**
 - Loss of Central Ohio Coal Company
 - Current Site of B&N Coal Company

Gathering
&
Service

Live Music

Eulogies

Video
Projection

The Production

Local

Immersive



Cast

AEP Supervisor, male, 50-60, master of ceremonies type, physically substantial and present, loves to talk, big clear voice

Trucker, male, 60-70, thoughtful and measured, observant, able to see the big picture

School Administrator, female, 40-50, school administrator, pragmatic and efficient, overwhelmed by challenges of moving forward

Resident, male, 80s, community authority, full of memories, can tell stories over coffee for days

AEP Brother 1, male, 65, self-respecting and self-assured, confident, defends the plant and the way of life around it

AEP Brother 2, male, 50s, scrappy and full of pride for the plant and his own skills, has a chip on his shoulder

AEP Brother 3, male, 30s, young employee, fresh, raw, bitter about closing of plant

Pastor, male, 40-50, generous, empathetic, focused on inspiring and consoling, a healer

5 children, male or female, elementary-aged, sharing their memories of the demolition of the plant

Musicians



Part 1: Gathering



Part 1: Gathering



Eulogy 1: "A History of the Plant" - Trucker



Eulogy 2: "The Great Work of the Plant" - AEP Supervisor

Eulogy 3B: "What the Plant Meant to Us - School" - School Administrator



Eulogy 3A: "What the Plant Meant to Us - Community" - A Resident

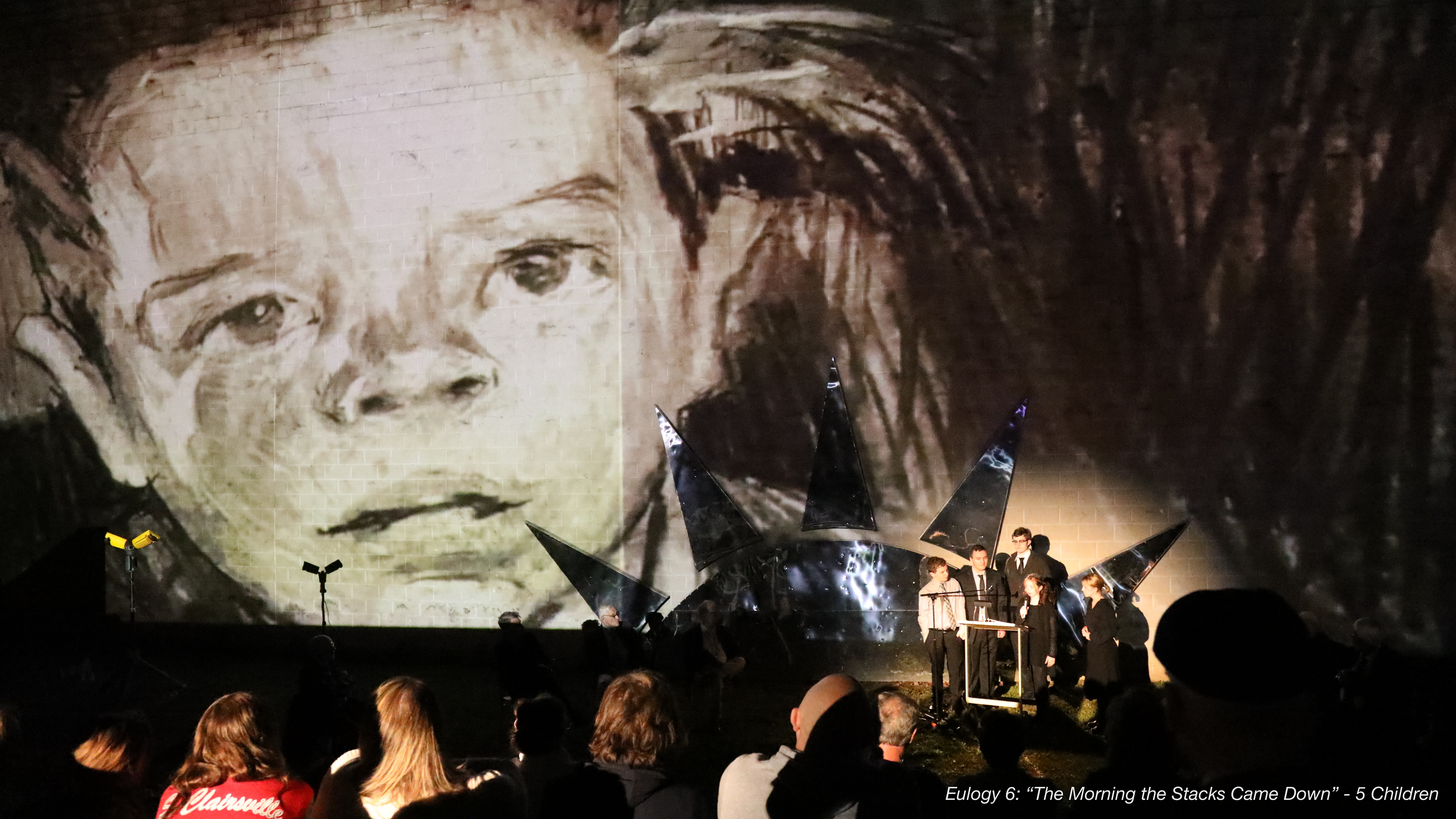


Eulogy 4: "Band of Brothers" - Three former plant employees

Eulogy 6: "The Morning the Stacks Came Down" - 5 Children



Eulogy 5: "Acknowledgement of Grief and Exhortation" - Pastor



Eulogy 6: "The Morning the Stacks Came Down" - 5 Children





Production Excerpts



"Power," by Michael Schmidt



"Labor," by Michael Schmidt

Calling Hours

Text Anne Cornell

Direction Tom Dugdale

Animations Michael Schmidt

Projections Oblsk

Research Jeffrey Jacquet, Katie Finneran, Brian Capobianco, William Sharp

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Impact

