



PITTSBURGH

My initial exposures to the field of environmental studies occurred as a young person growing up in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at a time when the area was in a state of great change. The steel mills and coal-mining industries which had been operating with limited amount of control and monitoring were experiencing a significant level of regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I recall the orange sunsets in Pittsburgh would last forever, not realizing that it was caused by the emissions from the steel mills that created heavy smog over the city. In a matter of few years, possibly four to five years as I can recollect, the environment significantly changed. Due to the regulations by the EPA to clean up the water and air emissions, many of the steelmills had to close down or retrofit their operations at major cost, or move. And move is what most of them did.

Despite the initial detrimental effect on the economy of Pittsburgh caused by the steelmills moving south, the long term effect resulted in a better environment in which all could live. The three rivers of Pittsburgh provided a means that allowed the steel making industry to move, steel, coal and other raw materials in and out of the city. Other water activities such as swimming, boating and fishing were unthinkable due to the high levels of contaminants in the water and sediment.

Now, since the EPA has implemented it regulations, Pittsburgh is one of the cities that hosts' a river boat regatta and championship speed boat racing. After experiencing this change first hand, I realized that there was an opportunity to play a role in continuing to improve our environment. If mankind was to play a major role in destroying the earth, why couldn't it also play a major role in saving it.