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Appalachian Coal Mining:
Enhancing Our Nation's Energy Security

ENERGY SECURITY

- Coal is the single most abundant and secure source for domestic electricity generation.
- Coal plays a major role in reducing our dependence on foreign oil.
- About half of US electricity is generated from coal
- According to the Energy Information Administration, U.S. coal reserves constitute 28 percent of the entire world's coal supply.
- U.S. coal reserves are one and one half times greater than our nearest competitor, Russia, and over twice that of China.

ECONOMY

- Coal mining and production provide local communities in Appalachia with long-term, good-paying jobs.
- Coal employs 80,000 workers in Appalachia.
- The Obama administration's actions on Appalachian coal mining make the region less attractive to investment, threatening the long-term economic future of the region.
- Appalachian mining operations bring billions of dollars into the local economy through the purchase of equipment and supplies, payments for transportation on railroads, hiring engineers and consultants, and payment of taxes.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND TRANSPARENCY

- NWP 21 is a nationwide general permit designed to minimize mining impacts, and to help make the permitting process more efficient.
- NWP 21 helps supply affordable electricity to communities and businesses. Miners and workers rely on NWP 21 to maintain and create thousands of high-paying jobs.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to suspend the nationwide permitting program for coal mines, in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia.
- Suspending NWP 21 for Appalachian mines will harm our energy security and make the U.S. more dependent on foreign sources of energy.
- The Obama Administration should find the appropriate balance between economic and environmental concerns when considering the impacts of surface mining.



WEST VIRGINIA – 2nd in U.S. Coal Production

- Tax revenues from coal total $418 million.
- Over $6.7 billion worth of coal is mined in WV yearly.
- Nearly 35,000 direct and indirect jobs come from mining.
- Coal taxes fund schools and government services across the state.

KENTUCKY – 3rd in U.S. Coal Production

- Tax revenues from eastern Kentucky coal total over $183 million.
- Over $3.7 billion worth of coal is mined annually in eastern Kentucky.
- Eastern Kentucky employs over 84% of Kentucky's total coal mining work force.
- Mining in eastern Kentucky employs over 15, 000 people--surface mining alone directly employs over 5,000 workers.
- On average, eastern Kentucky miners earn $945 a week.

PENNSYLVANIA – 4th in U.S. Coal Production

- In Pennsylvania, 56 percent of all electricity is produced from coal.
- Pennsylvania mined 68 million tons of coal in 2008.
- The mining industry constitutes a major source of employment and tax revenue for Pennsylvania, creating 49,100 direct and indirect jobs in 2008, with a total payroll exceeding $2.2 billion.
- Taxes on these wages netted over $700 million to the coffers of federal, state and local governments.

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