



P.O. Box 482
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A nonprofit citizen's coalition working within the community to promote responsible economic development and sustainable environmental management.

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From the Chair

M Ehrnschwender

My wife and I just got back from 8 days in Cornwall, UK. Fortunately we visited and stayed with locals and had a brilliant time, gaining that local insight. And it was good in other ways regarding our ongoing efforts to develop stewardship, protect our special place and promote sustainable business.

There were the neat farms, fields, and narrow roads lined by hedgerows, there were windmill farms (I saw 3 in my travels about).

Prices were a bit higher than here and gas was much higher \$10/gallon. Then I tripped onto an eye opener, the pervious carpark. That led to some research when I got home. [see *Good to Get Outta the Hollar* pg 5].



Pervious Parking Lot



View From New Quay (Nukie)

Back on the local front, There is some good news, like the Hawk's Nest clean up [see *DAM Clean Up* pg 2], but mountain top mining (MTM), seems to be in the forefront. Some say PAN should be more involved in this issue. I say PAN

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worked hard on our 5 year plan and we are trying to use our available resources/capacity to stick to it. We have spent time developing a position paper [see *PAN's Position On MTM* pg 6], We have donated use of our mapping software, website, and now our newsletter to this effort. I am happy to see formation of a new group to carry the water [see *Mountain Health & Heritage Association* pg 2]. In addition we have 2 other related articles; the personal impression and thoughtfully researched information combined in Levi's article [see *Mountain Top Mining* pg 3] and Dr. Dan Doyle's letter to the DEP [see *Local Doctor Says No to MTM* pg 8].

I appreciate and encourage all who are putting their volunteer time and energy toward this effort.

Lobbying for Clean Water

Mark Lewis

On June 2nd, representatives from the New River Clean Water Alliance (NRCWA) joined the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) for a day of lobbying in Washington DC. Attending were Erin St. John and Heather Lukacs from the NPCA Oak Hill office, Ted and Calvert Armbrrecht who serve on the NPCA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Advisory Council, Yves Corbiere (Kula Yoga Studio), Mark Lewis (West Virginia Professional River Outfitters and PAN Board Member), and Jeremiah Johnson of the Beckley Sanitary Board.

We met with Congressman Rahall and his Chief of Staff Jim Zoia, Dan Casto (Congresswoman Capito's Legislative Director), Christoph Keller (Senator Manchin's Legislative Correspondent) and Patrick Bond and Ashley Lantz (Senator Rockefeller's Legislative Assistants).

We focused on three issues: support for National Park funding, the need for federal funding for wastewater infrastructure projects affecting the New River Gorge area, and the importance of protecting the environment and drinking water sources from possible threats from drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale. Unfortunately, the news on all three fronts is bad.

It doesn't look like National Park funding will be spared in the next round of budget cuts, even though the NPS has been underfunded with regard to operating expenses for several years and current funding for parks represents only one thirteenth of one percent of the federal budget. These cuts will occur in spite of studies that show that funding parks is a great investment. For every dollar spent in park funding, areas surrounding National Park units, receive on average four dollars in economic benefits.

In our request for federal funding for wastewater infrastructure projects, we emphasized that the deficiencies of our current systems are not only a matter of public health and safety, but that correcting those deficiencies and expanding capacity is crucial step in promoting economic development in the region. Improving our wastewater infrastructure will allow existing businesses to expand and will encourage

new businesses to locate here. Our arguments were received with a sympathetic ear for the most part, but we were told that the outlook for funding is bleak. It looks like the continuing stalemate in Congress over the budget and the current focus on cutting overall federal spending will impact funding of these projects through the next election cycle in 2012.

On an encouraging note, Senator Rockefeller's staff did request a list of the specific projects that are waiting to be funded, and indicated a willingness to look into the issue. We also received solid support for our efforts from Congressman Rahall, although his assessment of the chance for success was not positive.

In our discussions regarding the possible threats to groundwater from the process of hydraulic fracturing the Marcellus Shale, we were told that congress is not likely to act.

A bill was introduced in both the House and the Senate that would address some basic issues regarding this practice. It is formally called the "Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act", or FRAC Act. We were told that this bill will never make it out of committee.

Mountain Health & Heritage Association

Aimee Rist, Founding Member

New Group Calls Press Conference Against Mountaintop Mining in Fayette County.

The Mountain Health & Heritage Association is a group of concerned citizens working to protect the health of Appalachian people, our mountains, and the heritage we all love.

Charleston, WV – Members of the newly formed Mountain Health & Heritage Association expressed their opposition of Frasure Creek Mining Open Fork #2 Permit this morning during a press conference outside the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Kanawha City Office. Addressing a crowd of citizens, the group spoke specifically about the detrimental effects of mountaintop mining to the health, economy, and heritage of Fayette County.

Maura Kistler, co-owner of Water Stone Outdoors, spoke about the impact to the NRG region's economy. "MTR threatens the economic viability of tourism-based businesses here in Fayette County, not only because of the environmental and aesthetic degradation of the natural resources, but also because of the associated stigma that deems resource extraction-based areas as unfit vacation destinations."

Fayette County resident Eric Autenreith spoke about West Virginia's government failing to protect its citizens from MTR. "The government has a primary duty to protect citizens from harm caused by industrial activity and a secondary duty to facilitate economic prosperity."

Mr. Autenreith went on to say, "A lack of decent regulations or adequate enforcement of Federal law has prompted many of us to believe the State is working in concert with coal companies to harm its citizens. The overwhelming evidence is clear: mountaintop removal coal mining is an economic, community and environmental disaster."

The India-based company called Essar Group owns Frasure Creek Mining, a subsidiary of Trinity Coal. With current operations near Page, Kincaid and Beards Fork, the company plans to prospect several coal seams into central Fayette County. Four permits have been approved and five new surface mining permits are pending approval.

Bob Kincaid, Board President of Coal River Mountain Watch, pointed out that "Coal being mined by Frasure Creek is primarily going to India."

Dr. Dan Doyle, Fayette County family practitioner, was the next to the last speaker who passionately told of his experience as a doctor in the coalfields. "I am a coal miners doctor. I am a dues paying member of the United Miner Workers of America and proud of it. For over 30 years I have treated coal miners and their families at New River Clinic in Fayette County. It is clear to me that one of the most important things I can do to protect the health of coal miners and their families is to help end mountaintop removal. It destroys everything we need to be healthy: land, air, water, the very ground we walk on." He added, "The science is in. Coal mining and mountain top removal are dangerous not just to miners but to their families and entire communities. Living in a coal mining county is associated with lower health status, more heart disease, lung disease, and kidney disease. And counties with MTR mining have recently been shown to have higher rates of birth defects."

Aimee Rist, moderator for the event, closed by mentioning that immediately following the press conference, a group of Appalachian delegates (to include members from the Mountain Health and Heritage Association) will travel to Washington, DC, to urge the EPA to take stronger enforcement against mountaintop removal.

Citizens and community leaders are encouraged to take action by contacting their congressmen and telling them to stop MTR.

For more information contact John Petretich
john@fayettevikkewv.net

DAM Clean Up

Keri Conte

On April 11, 2011 over 60 volunteers, ranging in age from 6 to 81, participated in the Hawks Nest Dam Litter Clean Up this was PAN's largest and most diverse turnout yet for a local clean-up effort.



The area below the dam is a natural collection point for trash that enters the river further upstream, but it is also a popular destination for climbers, boaters and hikers. Volunteers scoured the embankments, climbing over boulders and sorting through driftwood to pull out well over 100 bags of garbage weighing 1.4 tons.

The most significant trash included; plastic

bottles, dip cans, styrofoam, propane fuel cans, shoes, motor oil containers and fishing bobbers. Of those, the most challenging to remove is the styrofoam as it breaks down into very small pieces. Removal of this trash is important not only because it is unsightly, but also damaging to our local fish and wildlife.

Special thanks to organizer Kerren Hall for her work to make this event such a success. Aleah Denny provided PR for the event. Brookfield Power, represented by Jerry and Cecilia Backus, provided support and lunch for all the volunteers. Chris Pennington and BJ and Katie Johnson donated beverages to keep volunteers hydrated. Adventures on the Gorge lent coolers, radios and medkits. Other supporting local businesses and organizations included: Fayette County Green Advisory "Green Team", New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC), Weld, WaterStone Outdoors, The Virginia Tech Climbing Club, and DEP's "Make it Shine Program".



60 People, 4 Hours, 1.4 Tons

Thanks to all for making the Hawks Nest Dam Litter Clean Up an overwhelming success!

NRCWA

Heather Lukacs

Hello Clean Water Alliance and supporters,

I am pleased to announce that on July 27, we released the New River State of the Watershed report to the public. It is available online for you to forward on to your contacts and supporters and link to from your websites and blogs: www.npca.org/newrivercleanwater

It is my hope that this report will continue to be a tool that we can all use to further our individual and collective efforts for clean water in the region. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Thank you for all the hard work over the past months, from drafting report sections, thoughtfully reviewing the details of each map, and considering ways to present the information, to developing recommendations that build on and add energy to your work, to raising funds to cover printing and report costs, to your insightful and dedicated discussions at our meetings. I feel privileged to be part of the New River Clean Water Alliance and am proud of the report that we have produced.

Thank-you! Heather

We look forward to our final State of the River trips of the summer on August 15 and August 16 with National Committee for the New River.

Fayette County Farmers Market

Meredith Gregg

Fayette County Farmers Market has a new Fayetteville location - You'll find them Between Diogi's and the Fayetteville Convention & Visitors Center on Saturdays from 7:30 - 11:30 am. The Oak Hill Market is still between BB&T Bank and the Bellann Building on Main.



NRB&NC

Rachel Davis, Marketing Director Wolf Creek Park - Fayette County



The New River Nature Center is sorry to announce the New River Fall Birding Weekend, October 7-9 and the 2nd Annual New River Hummingbird Festival at Hawks Nest State Park, August 12 - 14 have been canceled due to an unforeseen medical emergency. \$250 of that registration fee was a tax deductible donation going to the Bill Thompson, Jr. Memorial Gazebo, which will be constructed on the NRB&NC wetlands boardwalk's teaching platform.

For information and updates go to www.birding-wv.com/fall-birding-weekend.html or contact Dave Pollard at goshawk@birding-wv.com or 304.574.4258 or www.wolfcreekparkwv.com/events.html

Reservations for the New River Birding and Nature Festival, April 30 - May 5, 2012 are now being accepted. Celebrating the Festival's 10th Anniversary! For more information go to www.birding-wv.com

Sharing the secrets of science and nature in the New River watershed with West Virginians and their friends.

Look for us on Face Book at Wolf Creek Park, WV.

www.wolfcreekparkwv.com and www.birding-wv.com

Mountain Top Mining

Levi Rose, PAN - Watershed Coordinator

"These landscapes look foreign to me" - this thought entered my head driving north on 61 towards Kincaid, West Virginia after witnessing a massive valley fill for the first time. The Open Fork No. 1 surface mining operation is easily visible from Route 61 and can be reached from Oak Hill in a few minutes. As the crow flies these operations are less than five miles from my home in Fayetteville. I have seen pictures and watched documentaries, but nothing wipes away the naive childhood innocence that someone is looking after the environment faster, than the presence of mountaintop removal.

The coal company, Frasure Creek Mining, a subsidiary of Trinity Coal which is owned by India based Essar Group, has been operating in the western portion of Fayette County, WV under state-issued permits since 2004. Currently four surface mining permits have been approved and five permits are pending review, bringing the total expansion to 3,300 + acres¹. A major concern is the encroachment of the Open Fork No. 2 surface

mining operation within the Source Water Protection Area of the Page/Kincaid water system. The Page/Kincaid Public Service District supplies drinking water to 1800 nearby residents. Source Water Assessment reports completed in 2003 and 2010 define mining as a “moderate” source of potential surface water contamination.² Why is the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) even considering approving this permit? Why risk contaminating the drinking water that serves 1800 people? To add more bearing to this situation, groundwater contamination has already been documented by local residents living below Open Fork No. 1. On February 11th, local lawyer, Tom Rist, filed an appeal to the West Virginia Surface Mine Board in an attempt to stop this permit. An official court date has been scheduled for July 12th, 9:00 am at DEP headquarters in Charleston. I have agreed to be a Water Quality Expert during the testimony. Aerial imagery of the mining complex, maps, reports, studies and news article links can be found on our website at www.plateauactionnetwork.org.

Coal mining in West Virginia has provided an economic staple for the last two hundred years, and helped power the United States through the Industrial Revolution into the global icon we are today. Coal burning power plants supply 45% of the Nation’s energy and 10% of that coal comes from West Virginia.³ In most states where mountaintop removal coal is used to generate electricity, the

actual mining is not taking place. The connection between flipping on a light switch and mountaintop removal is not something many consumers think about. To learn more about your connection with mountaintop removal and where your energy comes from, simply enter your zip code at this website: <http://www.ilovemountains.org/my-connection>.

Mountaintop removal has been practiced since the 1960s. Increased demand for coal in the United States, sparked by the 1973 and 1979 petroleum crises, created incentives for a more economical form of coal mining than the traditional underground mining methods. Its prevalence expanded further in the 1990s to retrieve relatively low-sulfur coal, a cleaner-burning form, which became desirable as a result of amendments to the U.S. Clean Air Act that tightened emissions limits on high-sulfur coal processing. In 2002, the Bush Administration changed the definition of “fill material” under the Clean Water Act and opened the door for coal companies to place rock material taken off the top of mountains into nearby valleys coursed by rivers and streams. Additionally, in 2008 the Bush Administration removed the Stream Buffer Zone protection provision from SM-CRA, allowing coal companies to place mining waste rock and dirt directly into headwater systems. These changes, along with stream-lined Nationwide 21 permits from the Army Corps, has allowed the destruction of over 500 mountains and nearly 2000 miles of precious headwater streams. The last nine years have provided many important lessons, and debatably the most important being how the government protects our environment. Previous administrations have created the need for “citizen watchdogs.” Environmental Justice groups, like Joe Lovett who started the Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment, that seek

1. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection - <http://www.dep.wv.gov/insidedep/Pages/endingminingapplicationssearch.aspx>
2. Source Water Assessment and Wellhead Protection Program - <http://www.wvdhhr.org/oehs/eed/swap/get.cfm?id=3301036>
3. U.S. Energy Information Administration - http://www.eia.gov/energy_in_brief/role_coal_us.cfm



Foreign Manscapes

fundamental changes in compliance, implementation and enforcement of major environmental laws in Central Appalachia. I Love Mountains, Appalachian Voices, The Alliance for Appalachia, SouthWings – the list is long. You can become a citizen watchdog and learn more about what is happening locally. The DEP issues permits for water discharges, air emissions and natural resource extraction. The permits outline pollution limits, all of which are open to public review and comment before they are finalized. To get email notices from the DEP on mining permits in Fayette County sign up at this web address: <http://www.dep.wv.gov/insidedep/Pages/DEPMailingLists.aspx>. Don't take the New River Gorge for granted – get informed, get involved and support local efforts.

Coal mining employs fewer people today than it did at the turn of the last century, while at the same time coal production has dramatically increased. West Virginia, which once employed over 130,000 people in the mining industry, now has a coal mining workforce of about 20,000 miners. The change in employment has been a shift from deep mining to surface mining. Mountaintop removal mining is designed to remove the miner from the process, replacing manpower with machinery, and lowering the coal companies' overhead cost. Mountaintop removal not only whittles away underground mining jobs, it also creates enormous barriers to economic development and diversification, by making the area less attractive for other industries, due to the pollution of the land, air and water. Downstream Strategies, an environmental firm based in Morgantown, WV, has produced a series of studies on Central Appalachian economics. "The Decline of Central Appalachian Coal and the Need for Economic Diversification" was produced in 2010 and

the report analyzes how the decline of Central Appalachian coal will impact the regional economy⁴.

The debate doesn't have to be over jobs. Our society can create new jobs while creating a more sustainable energy sector that is environmentally compatible with the earth and its inhabitants. It is the 21st century and the United States is an advanced technological society. It's time to transition from 17th century technology of burning rocks to long-term sustainable solutions. The sun shines every day and with it the wind blows...

Good to Get Outta the Hollar

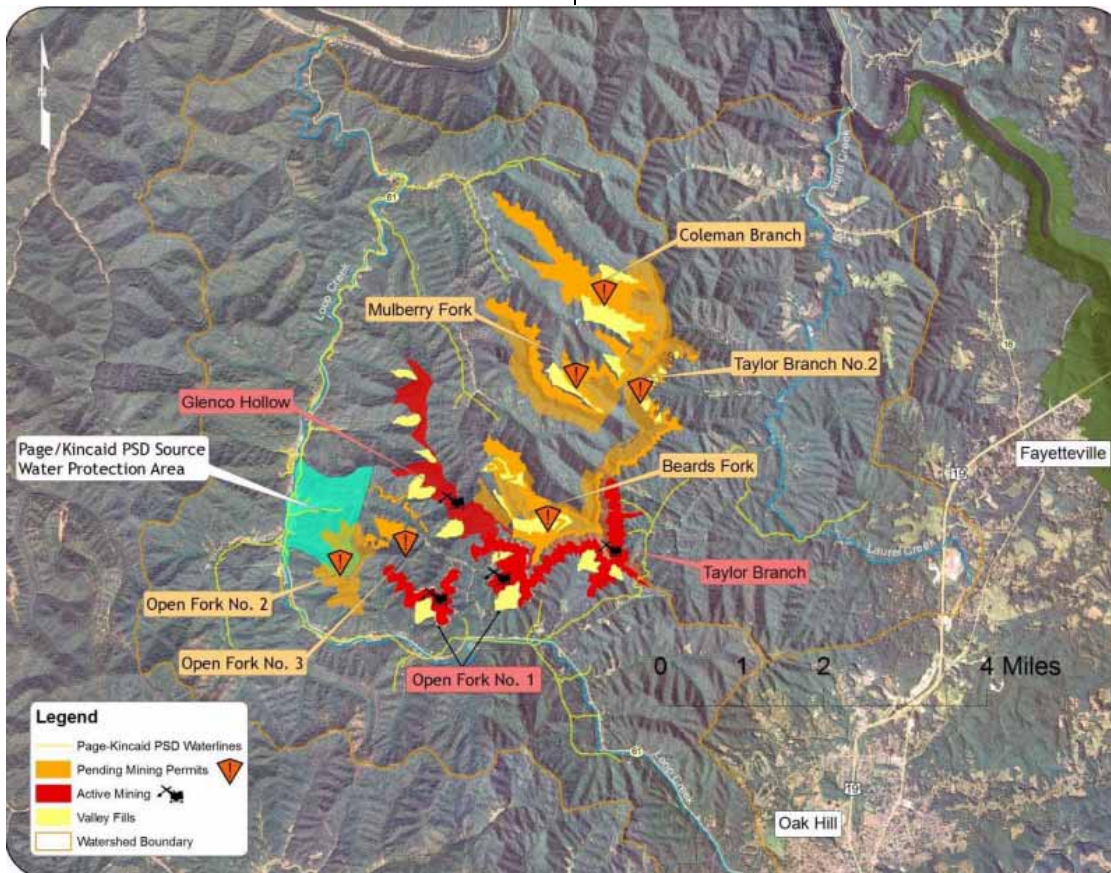
M Ehrnschwender

Hey, you know how it is you read about stuff, you get interested and then life gets in the way. Sometimes it's good to get out of the hollar and look around.

I noticed a lack of rubbish bins in and around London area. The Irish or rather IRA got the blame for that, however I saw very little litter. Waste receptacles increased as we made our way by train to Truro. I guess the Cornish weren't in that fray.



4. Downstream Strategies - <http://www.downstreamstrategies.com/projects.html>



Being attuned to it, I saw the remnants and effects of mining (coal, tin and clay for bone china). The “Cornish Highlands” were a huge barren white pile of clay fines (waste) rising far above the terrain and stretching for miles. Recently the council started a program to re-vegetate it using matting and plantings to reduce runoff and visual impact and hopefully open it up to farming, hiking, and other uses. The initial efforts look like a vast improvement and I apologize for no photo.



I found it refreshing to see the public paths and people walking on them. There were notices for community involvement. The majority by the Land Trust, which is government funded and appears to do great work.

I've read, written, and edited stuff on low impact design (LID), storm-water runoff -

its impacts and controls. But this is the first time I actually saw pervious pavement.



It was in the carpark in Bos Castle and I loved it. It's a plastic grid pattern about 1-1/2 inches high, laid in with gravel and planted with grass. The plastic provides the

structural or load bearing capacity and the gravel/grass is the drainage conduit. They even had plastic caps to use for marking the spaces. Upon my return I Googled 'pervious pavement' — check it out for yourself. They even have pervious concrete now.

PAN's Position On MTM

The surface coal mining practice known as Mountaintop Mining (MTM) is expanding significantly in central Fayette County. The coal company, Frasure Creek Mining, a subsidiary of Trinity Coal which is owned by India based Essar Group, is operating in the western portion of Fayette County, WV under state issued permits. Since 2004, four permits have been approved and five new surface mining permits are pending approval. The company has continued to prospect several coal seams into central Fayette County.

PAN is opposed to this expansion. We have looked at many different sources of information relating to Mountaintop Removal (MTR) and MTM and the preponderance of evidence suggests that the short term and long term costs associated with MTM outweigh the benefits. Per our mission statement, it is our view that MTM, as a form of economic development, is neither responsible nor sustainable, and therefore incompatible with the kind of economic growth we support for this area. In addition, we feel that the unavoidable environmental degradation resulting from this mining practice will have a negative impact on human health and tourism, an important economic activity that is both responsible and sustainable.

Much has been written about the negative impacts of MTM on the ecosystem. In addition to burying miles of streams and associated wildlife, the effects on the water downstream of these projects are also negative. On September 28th of 2010, the independent Science Advisory Board of the EPA released a review of the EPA's⁵ research into the water quality impacts of valley fills associated with MTR. Their findings support the EPA's research and agree with their conclusion that Valley fills are associated with conditions in downstream waters that threaten stream life. Their draft stated "A growing body of scientific literature, including previous and new studies performed by EPA, show significant damage to local streams that are polluted with the mining runoff from mountaintop removal." An article in the January 8th 2010 edition of Science Magazine⁶ titled "Mountaintop Mining Consequences" summarized it this way: "Mining permits are being issued despite the preponderance of scientific evidence that impacts are pervasive and irreversible and that mitigation cannot compensate for the losses." Attempts to mitigate these impacts are often unsuccessful. In October of 2010, Appalachian Voices, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, Kentucky Riverkeeper, Waterkeeper Alliance and private citizens filed a legal action⁷ against two of

5. U.S. EPA. A Field-Based Aquatic Life Benchmark for Conductivity in Central Appalachian Streams (External Review Draft). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-10/023A, 2010.

6. M. A. Palmer, E. S. Bernhardt, W. H. Schlesinger, K. N. Eshleman, E. Fouloua-Georgiou, M. S. Hendryx, A. D. Lemly, G. E. Likens, O. L. Loucks, M. E. Power, P. S. White and P. R. Wilcock. 2010. Mountaintop Mining Consequences. Science Vol. 327 no. 5962 pp. 148-149.

7. Clean water advocates bring legal action against Kentucky Coal companies: <http://appvoices.org/waterwatch/ky-legal-action/>

the largest mountaintop removal coal mining companies in Kentucky-ICG and Frasure Creek.

Their review of Clean Water Act records (also known as discharge monitoring reports or DMRs), found these two companies had more than 20,000 violations of the Clean Water Act, with maximum potential fines of \$740 million.

Not only is mountaintop removal irreversible, MTR operations directly affect residents living near and around the site. A recently published study by Hendryx and Hitt released in the 2010 October edition of *EcoHealth*⁸, demonstrated that poor stream health (biological integrity) is more likely to occur in areas of high coal production and is inversely related to the risk of cancer in nearby residents. The equation is simple, the less abundant a stream is with life (biological integrity score), the higher the rates of breast, respiratory, digestive, and urinary cancers in that area. In addition, their study also found that cancer clusters correspond to areas of high coal mining intensity. A series of peer-reviewed studies suggest that the associated monetary costs to the health care system exceed the financial benefits obtained by mining the coal.^{9 10}

With regard to sustainability, extractive industries are by definition unsustainable. As strip-mining increases and underground mining decreases, areas with heavy mining have the highest unemployment rates in the region, contrary to common perception that mining means jobs.¹¹ Once the coal is gone, it is gone, and the negative effects of its removal process will last long after the last miner has cashed and spent their last paycheck. Those negative impacts may also include damage to a viable and sustainable tourism industry which is based on a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and the scenic beauty of the surrounding area.¹²

Like many who stand against mountaintop removal, we stand for our right to clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment. We stand for preserving viable local communities through sustainable economic development. We stand for protecting public health. We stand for the basic principles that people matter and should have a real say in what happens to their community.

The Plateau Action Network, along with many other groups, seeks to end this environmental neglect by creating awareness and leadership in our communities.

8. Hitt, Nathaniel and Hendryx, Michael. 2010. Ecological integrity of streams related to human cancer mortality rates. *EcoHealth* 7, 91-104, 2010.

9. Hendryx, M. and M.M. Ahern. 2008. Relations between health indicators and residential proximity to coal mining in West Virginia. *American Journal of Public Health*. 98(4).

10. Hendryx, M. 2008. Mortality rates in Appalachian coal mining counties: 24 years being the nation. *Environmental Justice*. 1(1).

11. McIlmoil Rory, Hansen, Evan, Boettner, Ted and Miller, Paul. 2010. Coal and Renewables in Central Appalachia: The impact of Coal on the West Virginia State Budget. Morgantown, West Virginia: Downstream Strategies.

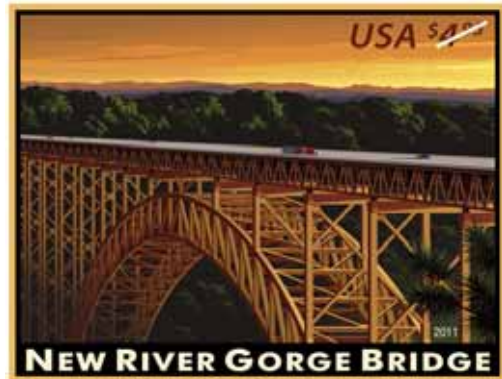
12. McIlmoil, Rory and Hansen, Evan. 2010. The decline of Central Appalachian coal and the need for economic diversification. Morgantown, West Virginia: Downstream Strategies.

Ed's Notes

There's some serious reading to be done here. Even had to drop the Schedule of Events to make room.

I feel obligated to talk about the NRG Bridge stamp. Maybe since I live nearby and drive across it regularly, maybe since one might, over time take it for granted, or maybe since many people don't know how different life here would be without it. So here are a few other views.

And now there's talk about lighting it, I guess coal will keep those lights on.



Local Doctor Says No to MTM

Daniel Doyle M.D.

Dr. Doyle sent the following letter to the Division of Mining and Reclamation Region 3 in Oak Hill as Public Comment for SMA# S300411 (Open Fork No.3 Surface Mine Permit)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in opposition to SMA# S300411 (Open Fork No.3 Surface Mine Permit).

I am writing as a family physician with serious concerns about adverse health impacts to surrounding communities that are already occurring and will worsen with approval of this permit.

Since 2004, I have been staffing a rural medical clinic once a month at the Beards Fork Community Center. I did this as part of my regular duties as a family physician with New River Health Association, a federally qualified health center, which serves all of Fayette County. During this time, I have treated patients with asthma and black lung worsened by dust and blasting from the Frasure Creek mine. I have heard complaints of "bad drinking water". And I am aware of at least one car crash fatality involving a coal truck on SR 61 in 2010.

My concerns about community health hazards arising from the Trinity-Frasure Creek-Essar mining operation fall in two categories: First, concerns related to this specific permit; Second, general concerns about the impacts of large scale blasting and surface mine operations of this type. I understand that Frasure Creek and the DEP are emphasizing that this mine is not a "mountain top removal" (MTR) operation but rather high wall contour mining and that no valley-fills are involved. But seen from SR 61 or from the air this seems like splitting hairs.

First are my concerns about health impacts from this specific permit. Granting this permit creates further encroachment of Trinity-Frasure Creek mine into the protected water source area of the Page-Kincaid Public Service District. As you know, this is the public water supply of over 2000 people. These are my patients! What is more important to public health and community health than clean, safe drinking water? The blasting and cleaning of this coal involves release of arsenic, mercury, lead. We have just learned that Frasure Creek has already drilled a well into the same aquifer supplying the PSD. What is to prevent toxic slurry from being pumped down or leaking down this well? In addition, this permit is for an area close to SR 61 and populated areas. Par-

ticulate matter including toxins is already a health issue along SR61. This permit will allow it to get worse.

Second are my concerns about MTR in general. As you are well aware, a recent study (Ahern M, Hendryx M et al. Environmental Research (2011), doi:10.1016/j.envres.2011.05.019) demonstrated a 63% increase in birth defects in Appalachian coal mining counties with MTR compared to Appalachian counties with no coal mining. After adjusting for multiple co-variants, there was still a 26% increase which is highly significant. I have read this study carefully. It is not "junk science" or "bogus research" as the National Mining Association and its apologists claim. This study was performed carefully, logically, using very large numbers, nearly 2 million live births from 1996-2003. Another well-conducted, peer-reviewed study this year (Zulig K, Hendryx M. Health-Related Quality of Life Among Central Appalachian Residents in Mountaintop Mining Counties AmJPubHealth. 2011; 101, 849-53) shows poorer quality of life, by multiple measures, among residents in MTR communities compared to other Appalachian mining and non-mining communities. There are many other concerns including polluted water, fly rock from blasting, particulate matter from blasting, transporting, and cleaning coal extracted at these sites. The deterioration of SR61 especially between the Trinity Mine entrance and Deepwater is well known. This increases the danger to community residents who must travel these roads every day.

It is time to put the people's health first and corporate wealth second. Deny this permit.

Sincerely, Daniel Doyle M.D.

Check Us Out

PAN meets first Tuesday of the month 6:00 pm, at River Rock Hostel, in Lansing. For more information call our Office at 304 574-4726 or a board member.

PAN Board of Directors	
Mark Ehrnschwender – Chair	304.574.1993
Mark Lewis – Co-chair	
Eric Autenreith – Secretary	304.574.1067
Joy Marr – Treasurer	304.574.0394
Gene Kistler – WCET Trustee	304.663.2521
Chris Darrow	304.573.4991

Levi Rose – Watershed Coordinator	
levidrose@gmail.com	740.591.1750

Membership Form

PAN POB 482 Fayetteville WV 25840

Please Print

Name _____

Phone () - _____

Address _____

Email _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Yes, I would like to support PAN at this membership level _____

Individual @ \$20

Senior @ \$15

Family @ \$35 +

Student @ \$10

I do not want PAN to use my personal information to contact me for activities of related groups.

Enclosed is an additional contribution of _____

memform5.fm

13.2

8/23/11

Or go to www.plateauactionnetwork.org to sign up & donate.