

## Mountaintop Mining

["Appalachian Voices: Bringing People Together to Protect Our Mountain Heritage."](#) 2009. n.d.

Web. 14 Aug. 2009.

A website for a group of people advocating for the elimination of air pollution, stopping mountaintop removal and restoring Appalachian forests with links to current news, free videos, podcasts and more.

["Battle of the Mountain Tops."](#) *Economist* 26 May 2007: 32-. *Academic Search Complete*. Web.

25 June 2009.

Coal is West Virginia's primary resource but environmental concerns may bring an end to this type of mining because it increases carbon emissions and taxes.

Burns, Shirley Stewart. *Bringing Down the Mountains: The Impact of Mountaintop Removal*

*Surface Coal Mining on Southern West Virginia Communities, 1970-2004*. 5 Vol.

Morgantown, W.Va.: West Virginia UP, 2007. Print. HD9547.W4 B87 2007

Chapters of interest are: Open for business: the shameful legacy of natural resource extraction -- Making molehills out of mountains: power relationships and the rise of strip mining in southern West Virginia -- Solidarity forever? the UMWA and southern West Virginia --To dance with the devil: the social impact of MTR -- "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"; the political economy of coal -- Showdown in Charleston: the judicial system and MTR -- "Show me where to put my fishing pole": the environmental impact of MTR -- Appendix: 1. An excerpt from John D. Rockefeller's "citizens to abolish surface mining" speech -- 2. Coal impoundments found in the nine southern coalfield counties of West Virginia -- Coal-slurry spill information for the nine southern coalfield counties of West Virginia.; West Virginia and Appalachia.

Clark, Sara. "In the Shadow of the Fourth Circuit: Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition v. United States Army Corps of Engineers." *Ecology Law Quarterly* 35.1 (2008): 143-9. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 24 Apr. 2009.

["Coal Impoundment Location & Information System."](#) n.d. Web. 24 Apr. 2009.

A project of the National Technology Transfer Center, the National Energy Laboratory, the Office of Surface Mining and over 20 other organizations that have partnered to reduce the risks of impoundments and identify safe and efficient ways of disposing of coal wastes.

["End Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining -- Buffalo Mountain, WV."](#) *iLoveMountains.org*. n.d. Web. 27 Apr. 2009.

Videos about the mountains and interviews of survivors of the Buffalo Creek flood.

Gabriel, Margaret. "[Appalachian Catholics Tackle Divisive Mining Issue.](#)" *National Catholic Reporter* 30 July 2004: 8-9. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 20 June 2009.

The Catholic Committee of Appalachia and the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth blame mountaintop mining for severe flooding, global warming and urges more responsible methods of to extract coal in ways that are both socially and ecologically responsible.

House, Silas, et al. *Missing Mountains: We Went to the Mountaintop but It Wasn't There*.

Nicholasville, KY: Wind, 2005. Print. TD195.S75 M57 2005

Three photographers and 35 Kentuckians contributed to this book of essays, poetry, fiction and a song to protest against mountaintop removal.

House, Silas, and Jason Howard eds. *Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal*. Lexington, KY: UP Kentucky, 2009. Print. TD195.C58 H68 2009

Eleven activists in the fight against mountaintop mining tell their own stories. Jean Ritchie

describes how the mountains surrounded her as a child. Others tell their struggle, as activists, with the federal mining agencies, the intimidation, and the politics of the region.

House, Silas. "The Dirt on Coal." *Sierra* 94.1 (2009): 40-5. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 25 June 2009.

This article reports on the coal industry of the U.S. and the environmental effects of coal mining. Coal removal mines often require mountaintop removal which causes the destruction of trees and long-term effects for people who live in the vicinity through poisoned water supplies, fish kills, and floods. The article emphasizes that "clean coal" is a political term and does not exist, noting that coal pollutes the planet and causes global warming regardless of how it is obtained and processed. The article also presents facts about how many pounds of coal are required for everyday activities such as doing laundry or heating a home.

Isaacs, Barbara. "Pens Mightier than Earth-Moving Equipment." *Appalachian Journal* 34.1 (2006): 26 June 2009-11. *Humanities International Complete*. Web. 26 June 2009.

Writers, including Wendell Berry, Bobbie Ann Mason and Mary Ann Taylor Hall and musicians have joined to fight against mountaintop removal mining. In 2005 the group Comments from many of the writers are included in the article.

Kovarik, Bill. "[Stone's Throw](#)." *Earth Island Journal* 09 2007: 48-50. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 30 June 2009

The impact of mountaintop removal (MTR) for coal mining projects in West Virginia has destroyed more than 300,000 acres and buried over 1,200 miles of headwater streams. Some believe underground mining would be a better solution and are advocating for enforcement of the 1977 Clean Water Act.

Loeb, Penny. *Moving Mountains: How One Woman and Her Community Won Justice from Big Coal*. Lexington: UP Kentucky, 2007. Print. KF228.B733 L64 2007

Patricia Bragg's first experienced her well water drying up because of a deep mine. She then became an activist, first to save the drinking water in the community and eventually in a suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bragg v. Robertson. The book covers nine years of the difficult struggles accompanied by health problems and a determination to complete a college education.

M., J. "[The Myth of Clean Coal](#)." *E - The Environmental Magazine* 2007: 38-9. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 26 June 2009.

The article focuses on the promotion of clean coal in the U.S. by politicians in context with a proposed legislation by Congressman Nick Rahall to subsidize clean coal. Rahall envisions \$35-a-barrel oil produced from a homegrown resource buried in West Virginia's ancient mountains and carbon dioxide sequestering so that it never reaches the atmosphere. Coal executives speculate that fossil fuel in Western Virginia may last up to 450 years while the National Academy of Sciences states that they will last 100 years. It argues that technology to sequester carbon is largely theoretical and coal mining requires vast amount of water, a concern in the parched West. It emphasizes that mountaintop removal mining leaves shattered lives, permanently destroyed environments and polluted groundwater. (Publisher's abstract)

McQuaid, John. "[Mining the Mountains](#)." *Smithsonian* Jan. 2009: 74-85. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 16 June 2009.

Examines the environmental and economic impact of mountain top removal coal mining in West Virginia. Many disagree about mining jobs vs. low paying tourist industry jobs. The article also describes biotic diversity in Southern Appalachian forests and groundwater contamination created when valleys are filled with waste from the mining process

Motavalli, Jim. "[Once There Was a Mountain.](#)" *E - The Environmental Magazine* Nov./Dec.

2007: 34-9. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 30 June 2009.

The article discusses the effect of coal mining and mountain top removal on the landscape, environment and people of the Kayford Mountains of Western Virginia. It states that the green mountains have been replaced by bare, flat, and terraced plateaus and only 50 acres owned by Larry Gibson and shaded by ancient trees and dotted with the cabins are left. Gibson shows pictures of Kayford when it had homes, schools, five churches and a movie theater and states that mining destroyed a whole culture. It informs that elevation is not included in the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and all students in the Marsh Fork Elementary School are having traces of black dust. Also discussed are the various lawsuits and legislations for and against coal mining in the region.

"[Mountaintop Coal Miners, Your Loan has been Refused.](#)" *New Scientist* 13 Dec. 2008: 6-.

*Academic Search Complete*. Web. 25 June 2009.

Bank of America Corp. has refused to give loans to coal mining companies which remove mountaintops to dig out coal in the U.S. of harm to ecosystems and polluting rivers.

*Mountain Top Removal*. Dir. O'Connell, Michael Cusack, Augusta Brown Holland, Gill Holland, et al. Haw River Films, 2007. DVD, 74 min. Reserves TD195.C58 M68 2007

A look at the coal mining practice of mountaintop removal, and the involvement of Appalachian citizens to stop this practice in the Coal River valley of West Virginia. Ed Wiley, especially, is portrayed as the grandfather who walks to Washington and leads protests against West Virginia's governor in order to get help build a new school to replace the one directly below a slurry pond. Music included adds a magic touch: "This World is Getting Mean," "There Must Be," "Like This," "Johnson Boys," "All My Tears," and "New River Overture."

Ohio Citizen Action. "[Mountaintop Removal Coal](#)." 10 Sep. 2009. Web. 12 Sep. 2009.

This advocacy group raises money for environmental causes and tracks and publishes news about money in politics. You do not have to contribute to view the latest news of the politics and people involved in the mountaintop removal issues.

Phillips, Jonathan D. "Impacts of Surface Mine Valley Fills on Headwater Floods in Eastern Kentucky." *Environmental Geology* 45.3 (2004): 367-80. *Environment Complete*. Web. 26 June 2009.

This study showed that there is a clear risk of increased flooding (greater runoff production and less surface flow detention) following mountaintop removal.

*The Buffalo Creek Flood: An Act of Man and Buffalo Creek Revisited*. Dir. Mimi Pickering.

Appalshop, 2006. Reserves TC557.W42 B84 2006

Focuses on the Pittston Coal Company, and the disaster which occurred in 1972 when a coal waste dam burst, leaving 125 dead and 4,000 homeless. The first part discusses the disaster through interviews with survivors, union leaders, citizens, and company officials. The second part, filmed ten years later, explores survivors' efforts to rebuild the communities and the difficulties they faced from the government and the Company. DVD 40 min.

*Buffalo Creek Revisited* Filmed 10 years after the flood and explores the survivors' efforts to rebuild. 1985. DVD, 31 min.

Popovich, Luke. "[Sheriff Obama Rides to Town](#)." *Coal Age* Dec. 2008: 14-29. *Business Source Complete*. Web. 26 June 2006.

The article offers news briefs related to the coal industry in the U.S. District Judge Robert C. Chambers blocked an Army Corps of Engineers permit for a FOLA Coal Co. mountaintop surface mine in West Virginia. According to a poll by Mark Blankenship Enterprises for the West Virginia Coal Association, coal is the biggest economic drive in West Virginia. The

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement announced its plans to publish a new Federal rule for the disposal of coal mine waste. (Publisher's abstract)

["Protesters Cited at Massey Mine."](#) *Coal Age* Feb. 2009: 4-23. *Business Source Complete*. Web. 25 June 2009.

The article offers news briefs related to the mining industry in the U.S. West Virginia state troopers cited 14 people in early February 2009 in two separate protests against Massey Energy Co's mountaintop mining operations in southern West Virginia. Patriot Coal Corp. announced a broad initiative to reconfigure certain of its Central Appalachian mining complexes. Natural Resource Partners (NRP) has announced that it had acquired coal reserves from Macoupin Energy LLC.

Reece, Erik. *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness: Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia*. New York: Riverhead, 2006. Print. TD195.S75 R43 2006  
Reece spent a year observing, hiking and recording the devastation to Lost Mountain in Perry Count, eastern Kentucky. He interviewed people, and recorded how a diverse forest became an arid lunar landscape. He establishes the environmental effects the mountaintop mining. Wendell Berry wrote the foreword to the book.

Scott, Rebecca R. ["Dependent Masculinity and Political Culture in Pro-Mountaintop Removal Discourse: Or, how I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Dragline."](#) *Feminist Studies* 33.3 (2007): 484-509. *Academic Search Complete*. Web. 30 June 2009.

As mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR) in West Virginia destroys forests, redefines the job of coal mining as well as reduce the demand for workers through increasing mechanization, the political culture is shaped by intersecting race, class, and gender formations. A gendered understanding of work, embodied in the heterosexual white male

breadwinner, gives shape to the configuration of masculinity that gains moral worth from family-wage employment. (Publisher's abstract).

Shnayerson, Michael. "[The Rape of Appalachia](#)." *Vanity Fair* May 2006: 140-57. *MasterFILE Premier*. Web. 27 Apr. 2009

In spite of the destruction from mountain top removal, the coal mining business and Massey Energy still operate within 300 feet of a school, even though federal law prohibits it. Parents live in fear for their children.

Shnayerson, Michael. *Coal River*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. Print.

TN805.W4 S56 2008

West Virginia is the scene for an environmental crisis. Mountain tops have been decapitated and forests and towns are disappearing. Portraits of activists participating in lawsuits are Joe Lovett, a lawyer, Judy Bonds the local environmentalist, and Don Blankenship, chairman of Massey Energy.