



Coal River Wind

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Coal River Wind Press Packet

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Press Release – For Immediate Release

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Wind Power or Mountaintop Removal?

Landmark Wind Project Could Power More Than 150,000 Homes, Forever

On Coal River Mountain in West Virginia, community members are envisioning an exciting new energy option – the development of enough wind power to keep the lights on in 150,000 homes while preserving the mountain for future economic and community benefit.

Coal River Mountain is one of the last mountains still intact in the beautiful Coal River Valley of West Virginia. However, Massey Energy plans to strip-mine for coal nearly 6,600 acres of the mountain - almost 10 square miles – and construct 18 valley fills that would impact the residents along the Clear Fork River, including the communities of Colcord and Dorothy that were devastated by heavy flooding in 2001.

However, a strong new alternative to the proposed mountaintop removal coal mining exists. A 440-megawatt wind farm proposed by a coalition of community and environmental groups has the potential to preserve Coal River Mountain while providing energy and much needed jobs for the Coal River Valley communities, forever.

"We're optimistic about the potential for local leaders to support this project and put Raleigh County on the map. This would be the biggest wind farm proposed on the East Coast, and could provide a model for other counties in West Virginia looking to develop affordable, clean energy and create safe, healthy jobs in their own communities," said Matt Noerpel of Coal River Mountain Watch.

In 2006, a study showing the wind potential on Coal River Mountain was conducted by WindLogics, a nationally recognized firm, and it indicates that Coal River Mountain is an ideal location for developing utility-scale wind. "Coal River Mountain can accommodate 220 two-megawatt wind turbines--enough energy to power over 150,000 homes," says Rory McIlmoil of Coal River Mountain Watch, "and you can't put wind power on a strip mine, because the wind patterns are impacted, and the land is rendered unstable for supporting utility-scale wind turbines."

Permit data shows that the mountaintop removal operation will only provide jobs and energy for 14 years, and will eliminate any potential for alternative economic development, such as wind energy. A wind farm, by comparison, would allow for other uses of the land that would benefit the local communities, like sustainable forestry, tourism, and the harvesting of ginseng and other wild plants.

(Wind or Mountaintop Removal Press Release cont...)

"I live in the west end of the county, which has been heavily impacted by coal mining," Lorelei Scarbro of Rock Creek said. "Our concern today is our homes, our environment and the sustainability of the environment. The house I live in and raised my children in, which my husband built and he is buried in the family cemetery next door, would be in danger from this mine. The wind farm would preserve the mountain."

"Economic development is of the utmost importance, but concern for the well-being of citizens is a priority. This wind farm could save local communities, people's lives, and our way of life, while also bringing new economic development to the area. This idea is an excellent alternative, and maybe the only alternative for our lands which are being permanently destroyed," said local resident and former coal miner Chuck Nelson.

The proposed wind farm would generate over \$20 million per year in direct local spending during construction and \$2 million per year during the operational period. It would create 200-plus construction related jobs over the first two years, and 40-50 permanent on-site operation and maintenance jobs that would last as long as the wind farm exists. The project would also provide a minimum of \$400,000 in State Tax Revenues, and between \$750,000 and \$3,000,000 in County Tax Revenues annually. Also, this wind farm could potentially provide the city of Beckley and the whole of Raleigh County with clean wind energy.

"The national conversation on energy and global warming makes it clear that America needs to start investing heavily in renewable energy, as well as get ourselves off foreign sources of energy. Carbon taxes could make coal more expensive in coming years, and West Virginia needs to prepare itself by developing innovative, affordable, new sources of domestic energy before that happens," adds Rory McIlmoil.

The purpose of the wind campaign is to spread awareness about the potential for wind development on Coal River Mountain, and to generate comments and letters directed at Governor Joe Manchin in order to ask him to rescind the mountaintop removal permits for Coal River Mountain, and lend his support for the development of clean energy and green jobs through the construction of a wind farm.

The Coal River Wind Project is a joint effort between Coal River Mountain Watch, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Appalachian Voices and the Student Environmental Action Coalition. Coal River Mountain Watch has been working for community preservation in the Coal River Valley for over 10 years. To learn more about the Coal River Mountain Wind campaign, please visit www.coalriverwind.org.

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About The Coal River Wind Project

The Coal River Mountain Wind Project is being led by concerned citizens residing in the Coal River Valley of West Virginia. Work is based out of [Coal River Mountain Watch](#) in Raleigh and Boone County, WV. Partners include [Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition](#), [Appalachian Voices](#), and the [Student Environmental Action Coalition](#).

Lorelei Scarbro, lorelei@crmw.net, is a community organizer at Coal River Mountain Watch. Lorelei is the granddaughter, daughter, and widow of West Virginia coal miners. The home in which she lives was built by her late husband, who passed away due to black lung. He was an underground coal miner for 35 years. He is buried in the family cemetery which is adjacent to their home. Lorelei's land, home, the family cemetery, and surrounding environment are now faced with the threat of mountaintop removal coal mining on Coal River Mountain. The Coal River Wind project would preserve her family's land and history for generations to come.

Rory McIlmoil, rory@coalriverwind.org, is a recent graduate of American University, where he earned a Master of Arts in Global Environmental Politics. He wrote his thesis on Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia, entitled "One Step Back Towards Almost Heaven: A Production-Based Proposal for the Elimination of Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in West Virginia." In 2007, Rory worked as a Research Assistant with Appalachian Voices for 8 months, and is now working at Coal River Mountain Watch as a coordinator on the Coal River Wind Project in southern West Virginia.

About Coal River Mountain Watch

Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW) is a grassroots organization begun in 1998 in response to the fear and frustration of people living near or downstream from huge mountaintop removal sites. The small group of volunteers worked to organize the residents of southern West Virginia to fight for social, economic, and environmental justice. Since then, CRMW has become a major force in opposition to mountaintop removal. Co-director Julia Bonds was the 2003 Goldman Prize winner for North America. CRMW's efforts figure prominently in Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s book *Crimes against Nature*, Michael Shnayerson's *Coal River*, as well as dozens of documentaries, books, and articles. In addition to The Coal River Wind Project, CRMW has been active working for clean water in communities whose wells have been poisoned by coal processing, and working to protect Marsh Fork Elementary School from a coal slurry dam and coal preparation plant. Call (304) 546 8473 or visit www.crmw.net

Local and Regional Support for the Coal River Mountain Wind Project

Coal River Mountain Watch: “Coal River Mountain has excellent and significant commercial wind energy potential, but only if the mountain ridges remain. There is a clear choice: clean, renewable energy that would provide permanent jobs for the community while leaving the mountain's other resources relatively intact, or a short-term fossil fuel extraction operation that would render the mountain useless after a dozen years. The Coal River Mountain Wind Project aims to make the cleaner, more prosperous choice a reality.”

Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition: “As we work together to end mountaintop removal coal mining, we are often asked about the alternatives to coal. Only recently, under the leadership of CRMW, have we had the opportunity to promote a concrete example—a wind power project on Coal River Mountain. As of now, the mountain is slated to be strip-mined, destroying over 6,000 acres of the mountain, increasing the likelihood and severity of flooding of communities, and contaminating the water downstream of valley fills. A study conducted by Rory McIlmoil (CRMW staff), shows that most of the ridges exhibit Class 4 to Class 7 winds, Class 4 being the minimum speed for utility-scale wind development—a concrete and sustainable economic alternative. OVEC is already a committed partner in this effort.”

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy: “The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy applauds efforts to site wind facilities on land that would be sacrificed to mountaintop removal coal mining. To that end, we strongly support the effort to evaluate the development of a wind facility on Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County, West Virginia.”

West Virginia Environmental Council: “The West Virginia Environmental Council supports the effort to evaluate the development of a large utility-scale wind farm on Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County, West Virginia, instead of plans to strip-mine the mountain. It should be noted that while the potential economic returns from the wind project (to the landowner and the county and state) may not immediately exceed those from mining the coal, they would continue indefinitely while the coal would be a single, one-time income-- after which the land would be permanently scarred and of little use for future economic development.”

Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation: “I am writing in regard to the Coal River Mountain wind project we recently talked about. I would welcome discussions with a developer of this project and from the information you presented to me I know my organization would be very supportive of this project given the right set of conditions. The Affiliated Construction Trades Foundation has supported a number of wind projects in the state for a number of reasons including the quality of local union construction jobs they create, the related economic impact with local hiring, the permanent jobs created, the clean energy produces, and the diversification of our industrial base.”

Progressive Democrats of West Virginia: “PDWV offers its full support and endorsement of the Coal River Mountain Wind Project and the clean energy it would produce. By switching our economy away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy we can curb man-made global warming while providing energy and jobs well into the future. PDWV supports the Coal River Mountain Wind Project as a source of clean energy for our country. By continuing to exploit our environment through mountain-top removal and strip-mining we only continue to tether ourselves to the past rather than looking toward the future. Strip-mining at Coal River Mountain would provide a short-term source of energy, but would devastate future potential for renewable energy.

(Local and Regional Support, cont...)

WV Chapter of the Sierra Club: “Mountain Top Removal mining is one of our major issues that we are working in support of communities in Appalachia. We need to stop MTR and transition to a better way of generating and consuming energy in the US. The community impacts of mining are an essential element to the message about a new energy economy. What we need now instead of short-term strip-mining jobs are sustainable, good paying, union organized jobs for the coalfields of Appalachia. I believe that the Coal River Mountain Wind Project is a prototype of the type of development that can show to all that there is a better future in this area. For that reason, we are supportive of this project and hope to see it move forward.”

Appalachian Voices (Boone, NC): “One area with commercially viable wind potential in Central Appalachia is Coal River Mountain, located in the heart of the southern West Virginia coalfields. Massey Energy is pursuing a 6,000-acre mountaintop removal operation that would decimate this iconic mountain. The proposal for a commercial wind project that has been developed by Appalachian Voices, Coal River Mountain Watch, and other partners has the potential not only to save this mountain, but also to provide a powerful and compelling symbol of a clean energy future for our nation, in the heart of the Appalachian coalfields.”

Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy: I am writing to express my support for Coal River Wind. My organization, the Appalachian Institute for Renewable Energy (AIRE), promotes renewable energy and is focused primarily in the Southern Appalachians. It is time to consider wind power's great proven, but untapped potential. To liquidate Coal River Mountain for such a finite supply of electric power with its attendant costs would be foolhardy as compared with the proposal for wind being put forth here. I have reviewed the fact sheet and other documents that Coal River Wind has produced and believe that they have a well researched plan worthy of the strongest consideration at the state capital in Charleston, WV. Please do your part to support the work being done by Coal River Wind. AIRE strongly endorses this project!

Student Environmental Action Coalition: “The Student Environmental Action Coalition is solidly supportive of and excited about the ongoing campaign for a wind farm on Coal River Mountain. Our young generation is increasingly uniting for clean & just energy to combat global warming, and the Coal River Mountain Wind Campaign is a perfect example of a necessary step. The Mountaintop Removal (MTR) coal-mining permits that are currently proposed for Coal River Mountain are perfect examples of the wrong choice being made for our country's energy and economic development. This is a historic campaign that has come at a time when it's most needed. The excellent work that Coal River Mountain Watch is spear-heading is already changing the debate around ending MTR & showing our commitment to the creation of green jobs in Appalachia.”

Other Supporting Groups:

West Virginia Council of Churches
 Christians for the Mountains
 Appalachian Coalition for Just and Sustainable Communities
 Valley Watch
 Aurora Lights
 Co-Op America
 Southern Energy Network
 Charleston Area Youth Network
 West Virginia Young Democrats, Environmental Caucus

“Winning with the Wind: Hope for Coal River Mountain”

Personal Statement Written by Lorelei Scarbro

My name is Lorelei Scarbro. I was born and raised in West Virginia. My father, grandfather and husband were coal miners. My husband spent 35 years as an underground union coal miner. I say that to let you know that I am no stranger to the coal industry. I am the mother of four children who attended Marsh Fork Elementary. I live in Rock Creek and my property borders Coal River Mountain where Massey Energy has proposed the destruction of 6,600 acres of mountaintop removal.

The house I live in and raised my children in my husband built with his own two hands and he is buried in the family cemetery next door. I can sit in my living room and watch the deer cross the field below my house. I often stop my car to allow the wildlife to cross the road. My four-year-old granddaughter especially likes the deer and the turkey. A fresh mountain stream runs by my driveway. The air is free of coal and rock dust. When I married my husband and moved onto the property which was handed down to him by his parents, I thought this is where I would spend the rest of my life and maybe hand it down to my children. If mountaintop removal is allowed to continue, odds are none of us will be allowed to live here in peace.

I have sat quietly by for years and watched the destruction of this land that I love and did little more than the occasional letter to the editor. I have watched our communities depopulated, our schools closed, peoples' homes flooded and people die all for power, money and greed. Everyday as I drive Coal River Road I see more and more of the mountains destroyed. It is so strange to see the trees disappear along the ridge top and then the peaks disappear and then the top of the mountain is blown apart and pushed into the valley covering and killing everything in its path. From vegetation to wildlife. Animals are covered and killed by the waste the company can't use. Even mama bears with their cubs are covered up in their caves with no escape. Left to starve to death.

I know people whose only source of water is the well near their house and when they turn on their faucets the water is black or brown. It didn't used to be that way until the mining operation moved in close to their house. These people can't afford to buy all of the water they need to drink, cook and bathe in. Nor should they. Therefore, these people are sick and dying. When a lot of people in the same community have the same life threatening illnesses after blasting, toxic sludge ponds and underground injections, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out why. When I think of what my future holds if mountaintop removal continues, I know this is what is in store for me.

We in the coal fields of WV are not to be sacrificed so the rest of the world can turn their lights on. We can get power from clean renewable sources of energy. I can live without electricity from coal fired power plants, but I cannot live without clean drinking water and neither can you. The destructive practices used in mountaintop removal and the chemicals used to clean the coal poisons our water. Not just the drinking water of my friends, but all of our water. We all live downstream.

(Personal Statement Written by Lorelei Scarbro cont...)

When I talk to people who don't live here and tell them what our government allows to happen they say "Why don't you just move". When people say that I always think, "What is home to you?" Appalachians have a strong sense of place. A sense of belonging to what surrounds you. It is not the value of the property or the things you are surrounded by. It is the memories you shared with the people you love and the things you experienced there. It is being connected to the land that, if need be, you can survive there just on the land. We don't want to loose that and we certainly don't want it stolen from us. WE DON'T LIVE WHERE THEY MINE COAL. THEY MINE COAL WHERE WE LIVE.

Coal River Mountain Watch, along with a lot of other very special people, is proposing that the destruction of Coal River Mountain be stopped. We are proposing the water no longer being poisoned and the wildlife and vegetation be left intact. We are proposing that the Appalachian culture be maintained with access to the mountains for gathering herbs and roots for medicines and food. We are proposing the Coal River Wind Farm. We hope you will support us in this effort.

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Raleigh County Mountain at Center of Coal vs. Wind Debate

Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County may soon become the center of an energy battle that pits fossil fuels against non-fossil renewable sources.

Story by Pam Kasey

Thursday, August 14, 2008

<http://statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=42554>

Coal River Mountain in Raleigh County may soon become the center of an energy battle that pits fossil fuels against non-fossil renewable sources. At issue is this: Should we develop coal resources now if that will destroy wind resources that can be harnessed forever?

North Carolina-based community organizers Appalachian Voices decided to raise this question. The group contracted national wind development consultants WindLogics to analyze some likely wind resources in southern West Virginia. They learned that Coal River Mountain northwest of Beckley offers a high-quality wind resource: Class 4, the lowest class considered by utility-scale developers, up through the very high quality Class 7.

Computer modeling also showed that previous surface mining on adjacent Cherry Pond Mountain had reduced its wind potential. "The wind rushes out of the valleys and as it hits the ridge, the higher the ridge, the more speed it gains as it goes up," explained Rory McIlmoil, who was hired from Appalachian Voices by Coal River Mountain Watch earlier this year to coordinate a wind energy campaign. "By reducing the ridge altitude by hundreds of feet you change the wind patterns and therefore impact the wind speed."

To get a measure of Coal River Mountain's wind energy potential, McIlmoil counted the number of 2-megawatt turbines that could be placed on the mountain's windiest ridges. "Taking the wind map in GIS software I placed the turbines along every part of the ridge at Class 4 or higher wind speeds," McIlmoil explained. "Using a spacing of three rotor diameters between turbines, I found that 220 turbines could fit along the ridges."

Maximized in that way, such a Coal River Mountain wind project would be the biggest in the east as far as McIlmoil knows. The Backbone Mountain Wind Farm in Tucker County, the first one operating in the state, has 44 1.5 MW turbines; Invenergy plans to install 124 1.5 MW turbines at its Beech Ridge development in Greenbrier County.

With the standard assumption that the wind would blow about a third of the time, a Coal River Mountain project could generate 1.16 million megawatt-hours per year: more than several of the state's operating coal-fired plants.

(Coal vs. Wind Debate, cont...)

But Not So Fast

Massey Energy leases mineral rights from land holding companies on the mountain. It has obtained permits for two coal mines and has applications for two others in the works, for what McIlmoil said totals more than 6,000 acres of mountaintop removal operations -- also on the highest ridges.

The permitted mines are held up by U.S. District Judge Robert C. Chambers' 2007 decision that halted four U.S. Army Corps of Engineers valley fill permits granted to Massey. Chambers halted the permits because the Corps did not sufficiently consider the environmental impacts of the valley fill process. Those Corps permits are necessary for companies to engage in mountaintop removal mining. Massey's appeal will be heard Sept. 23 in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va.

The Case for Wind

Recognizing that a Massey victory would lead to the mining of Coal River Mountain and destruction of its wind resource, CRMW is making its case publicly for wind over coal. A wind farm would create 200 jobs during construction and 40 to 50 permanent jobs indefinitely, the group argues, while Massey's mines would last only 14 years. Wind's total job-years would exceed the mines' in 27 years and would continue to sustain the community after that.

For Raleigh County, McIlmoil estimates that the current high coal prices would bring on average \$1 million in severance taxes from Coal River Mountain for each of the 14 years. The wind farm, he said, could bring \$750,000 each year indefinitely.

A wind energy project would allow for concurrent uses of the mountain, the group notes, including harvesting of ginseng and other wild plants, sustainable forestry, and even deep mining of coal. And it would preserve local heritage, wildlife habitat and streams.

CRMW presented its idea at the Raleigh County Commission's June 3 meeting, and it has spoken with wind developers that recognize the appeal of a community that actually wants a wind project.

"A lot of developers are wary of West Virginia because most of the places where they propose wind aren't in the coal fields -- they're in the non-coal-producing counties where there's a lot of people with summer or winter homes or ski resorts and there's a lot of opposition," McIlmoil said. "They know what the alternative is here, and they know the community members would prefer a wind farm," he continued, "and at the same time they know that they have a lot of support on the ground if challenges do come about."

As this article went to print, CRMW learned that its Coal River Wind campaign has been chosen for Co-op America's Building Economic Alternatives award.

Obama: A Mighty Wind Awaits You on Coal River Mountain



Jeff Biggers

Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeff-biggers/obama-a-mighty-wind-await_b_111563.html

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If Senator Barack Obama ever needs a living symbol of change we can believe in, and a hopeful way to transcend the dirty politics of our failed energy policies, he should go and see the future of renewable energy in the Coal River Valley in West Virginia.

Yes, renewable energy in Appalachia.

Something historic is taking place in West Virginia this summer. Faced with an impending proposal to stripmine over 6,600 acres -- nearly 10 square miles -- in the Coal River Valley, including one of the last great mountains in that range, an extraordinary movement of local residents and coal mining families have come up with a counter proposal for an even more effective wind farm.

Mother Jones, the miners' angel, once declared: "Pray for the dead, and fight like hell for the living."

Having witnessed the destruction of over 470 mountains and their adjacent communities in Appalachia, the Coal River Valley citizens are doing just that. On the frontlines of one of the most tragic environmental and human rights scandals in modern American history, the community-wide Coal River wind advocates have devised a blueprint to get beyond the divisive regional politics and break the stranglehold of King Coal on the central Appalachian economies.

The [Coal River Wind Project](#) is the first bottom-up community-based full scale assessment to directly counter the nightmare of mountaintop removal with a renewable energy and economy alternative prior to the actual mining. We have a choice. It is not simply coal or no coal. Jobs or no jobs. The issue is how do we create jobs and clean energy forever, and begin the transition in Appalachia and America away from dirty coal.

And Barack Obama, and all Americans, have a chance to be part of Coal River Valley's landmark decision for our nation's dependence on renewable or nonrenewable energy sources. Either we continue to hand out permits for mountaintop removal (two permits in this area have already been granted), unleashing millions of tons of explosives, blasting local communities to Kingdom Come, provide less than 200 jobs for 14 years of coal mining, contributing the dirty coal firepower for continued carbon dioxide emissions and global warming, or, we can stake out a third way in renewable energy and economic development.

(Obama: A Mighty Wind cont...)

Consider this: The Coal River Mountain Wind Project would:

- Create 200 local employment opportunities during construction, and 50 permanent jobs during the life of the wind farm. It takes only 35 years for a wind farm to provide a greater number of one-year jobs than the proposed four surface mines combined.
- Provide a maximum of 440MW of electricity, or enough energy for 150,000 homes, indefinitely, as well as a sustained tax income that could be used for the construction of new schools for the county.
- Allow for concurrent uses of the mountain, including harvesting of wild ginseng and valuable forest plants, sustainable forestry, and mountain tourism, as Coal River Mountain is one of West Virginia's finest mountains.
- Preserve the historic Coal River Mountain heritage, and protect the land and communities from blasting, dusting, poisonous drinking water, increased flooding, damaged homes and personal property, and devastated wildlife habitat.

In 1892, in Barack Obama's adopted city, the *Chicago Tribune* wrote in an editorial: "How long can the earth sustain life," if we depend on the "wonderful power of coal?" The *Tribune* editors lambasted Americans for our lack of vision and our lack of energy conservation, and our need to "invent appliances to exhaust with over greater rapidity the hoard of coal." They declared:

"Doubtless the end of the coal, at least as an article of a mighty commerce, will arrive within a period brief in comparison with the ages of human existence. In the history of humanity, from first to last, the few centuries through which we are now passing will stand out prominently as the coal-burning period."

The *Tribune* editors in 1892 assumed Americans would move beyond coal and onto renewable energy sources.

We may be a hundred years late, but the realities of global warming and climate change, and the brutal process of extracting coal, should remind us that it is not too late for Barack Obama and the rest of the nation to be a part of this exciting new energy future for Appalachia, and the entire country.

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Coal River residents suggest wind farm over mining

Published: June 03, 2008
RALEIGH COUNTY COMMISSION
By Fred Pace
Register-Herald Reporter

Wind farming or strip mining? Which energy extraction method should be used on Coal River Mountain?

Residents of Clear Fork, Marsh Fork and other Raleigh County areas, with the support of environmental and community organizations such as Coal River Mountain Watch, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Appalachian Voices and the Sierra Club, asked the Raleigh County Commission Tuesday to support a proposed wind farm, which they say offers more long-term economic, social and environmental benefits to the county.

"I live in the west end of the county, which has been heavily impacted by coal mining," Lorelei Scarbro of Rock Creek said. "Our concern today is our homes, our environment and the sustainability of the environment."

Scarbro says she owns 10 acres that are at risk due to four massive strip mining permits for Coal River Mountain that would level 6,600 acres and lead to the construction of 19 valley fills, 14 of which would impact the Sycamore Creek watershed.

"These permits haven't been issued yet," she said. "These mines would be at the heads of Horse Creek, Dry Creek and Rock Creek, and will surround nearly the entire length of Sycamore Creek, which is considered to be the most pristine stream in the area."

Scarbro says many residents living in the proposed strip mining area favor an alternative — wind power.

"We want Raleigh County to be in the forefront of renewable energy sources," she said. "We are asking the Raleigh County Commission to support a proposed wind farm for Coal River Mountain."

Rory McIlmoil of Coal River Mountain Watch told commissioners that in the latter months of 2006, David Orr, a professor at Oberlin College in Ohio, worked with Appalachian Voice to commission a study of the wind potential on Coal River Mountain.

(Register Herald Coal River residents suggest wind farm cont...)

“The study was conducted by WindLogics, a nationally recognized wind modeling and development firm, and it showed that the ridges along Coal River Mountain exhibited strong Class 4 to Class 7 average annual wind speeds,” McIlmoil said. “It was found that Coal River Mountain has enough wind potential and land area to accommodate 220 two-megawatt wind turbines. Calculations showed that this was enough energy to power over 150,000 homes or over 90,000 total electricity customers, including residential, commercial and industrial units.”

McIlmoil claims production estimates in the strip mining permits show that mining operations will last for only 14 years.

“Once the coal is gone, there will be no more jobs available, the water will be contaminated, many of the residents will have moved out or been bought out, and the forest, another source of potential jobs and revenue, will be gone for decades to come, as will the possibility of producing clean wind energy on the scale that is currently available,” he said.

Commission president Pat Reed said the county is always interested in supporting viable economic development projects and suggested the residents and organizations interested in the wind farm proposal take it to the 4-C Economic Development Authority.

“They are an organization that may be able to help you with this proposal,” she said.

Commissioner John Humphrey asked if there were any wind development companies interested in the proposal.

“So far, we have been in contact with two interested companies, and it also would have the strong support of both local and national organizations interested in supporting sustainable community development initiatives in Appalachia,” McIlmoil said. “Not only would the development of a Coal River Mountain wind farm be more economically beneficial in the long term than the proposed strip mining would, it would result in the preservation of the mountain for the development of other economic alternatives, such as tourism, sustainable timber harvesting, hunting and fishing, and providing the resources for local craft and furniture production. Raleigh County could ultimately serve as a model for other counties in southern West Virginia facing a post-coal future.”

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Coal River Mountain Wind Project, Fact Sheet

Calculated and Compiled by Rory McIlmoil, Coal River Mountain Watch

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Wind Farm: Development and Economics

Faceplate Generation:	440 Megawatts
No. of Turbines:	220, 2.0 MW wind turbines
Rotor Diameter @ hub height:	80 meters (264 feet)
Wind Resource:	Class 4 to Class 7
Estimated Capacity Factor:	30%
Acreage Needed for Development:	200 acres, max.
Linear Ridge Distance of Class 4-7 Winds:	31 miles
Spacing Between Turbines:	3 rotor diameters (@ 800 feet)
<u>No. of Turbines Situated on:</u>	
Class 4 sites:	96
Class 5 sites:	70
Class 6 sites:	53
Class 7 sites:	1
Cost of Development:	\$750 Million to \$1 Billion
Avg. Cost of Energy (w/ Production Tax Credit):	6.5-7.5 cents/kWh¹
Avg. Cost of Energy (w/o Production Tax Credit):	8.5-9.5 cents/kWh

Potential Energy Production, Wind:

Annual Net Electricity Generation:	1.16 Million Megawatt-hours (MWh)
% of Annual WV Electricity Generation:	1.2%
% Annual WV Electricity Consumption:	3.5%
No. of WV Households powered by CRM wind:	150,000
No. of Total WV Customers powered by wind:	90,000
Life-Span of Energy Production:	Forever

Job Creation, Wind:

Direct Construction Jobs, 2-year period:	200+
Indirect Construction Jobs, 2-year period:	130+
Total Construction-Related Jobs:	330+
Direct, Permanent Operation & Maintenance Jobs:	40-50
Indirect, Permanent O&M Jobs:	20-30
Income Potential:	\$30,000-\$35,000/year

Life-Span of Operation & Maintenance Jobs: Forever

Other Economic Benefitⁱⁱ

Direct Local Spending, Construction Period:	\$20 Million/year
Direct Local Spending, Operation Period:	\$2 Million/year (minimum)
County Tax Revenues, Annual:	\$750,000-\$3,000,000
State Tax Revenues, Annual:	\$400,000, minimum

Carbon “Sequestration”

Tons of Coal left in the ground:	21 million ⁱⁱⁱ
Tons of CO2 equivalent, Un-mined Coal:	60 million
Tons of Coal Prevented by Wind Power:	460,000/year
Tons of CO2 equivalent:	1.32 million/year
Total CO2 Emissions Prevented, first 20 years:	86 million tons
Economic Value @ \$50/ton of carbon:	\$4.3 Billion

The Sacrifice of Coal River Mountain (CRM) – Energy Perspective

Estimated Tons of CRM Coal Production:	52 million tons
Estimated Tons of CRM Coal to be Exported:	42 million tons
% of CRM coal exported (based on state avg.):	80% (68% domestic, 12% foreign)
Tons of CRM Coal for Electricity Generation in WV:	10 million tons
Potential WV Electricity Gen. from CRM Coal:	1.8 Million MWh annually
% of Annual WV Electricity Generation:	2%

**Potential WV Electricity Gen. from CRM WIND:	1.2 Million MWh annually
**% of Annual WV Electricity Generation:	1.3%

Estimated Export of CRM Coal-MWh from WV plants:	1.2 Million MWh annually 17 Million MWh, 14-year total
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<i>Tons of coal equivalent, 14-year Total:</i>	6.8 Million tons
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Total CRM Coal Exported, by land or wire:	48.8 Million tons
% of Total CRM Coal Production to be Exported:	94%

of Hours of U.S. Electricity Consumption Provided by Coal River Mountain:

<i>From Strip-Mined, Mountaintop Removal Coal:</i>	
Avg. Annual:	20 hours
% of Annual U.S. Electricity Consumption:	0.23%

<i>From Wind Power and Underground Coal:</i>	
Avg. Annual:	12.5 hours
% of Annual U.S. Electricity Consumption:	0.14%

Conclusion: Only 6%, or approximately 1 out of every 16 tons of coal to be produced from Coal River Mountain, or any mountain in West Virginia, will actually be used for energy consumption by West Virginia residents, commercial units or industry. Further, coal produced from the strip-mines proposed for Coal River Mountain will provide the U.S. with only 0.23% of its annual electricity ‘needs,’ and this contribution will last for only 14 years.

The Sacrifice of Coal River Mountain – Social and Ecological Perspective

Major Creeks and Watersheds Impacted and/or Contaminated:

Marsh Fork, Horse Creek, Rock Creek, Dry Creek, Workman's Creek
 Clear Fork, Sycamore Creek (incl. Right Fork, Stover Fork), Boyd's Branch

Area of Biodiverse Hardwood Forest and Habitat Destroyed:	6,000+ acres (10 square miles)
Est'd Volume of Rich, Productive Soil Dumped Into Valleys:	15 Million cub. m.
Number of Years to Re-generate 2.5cm (1 inch) of Topsoil:	100, minimum
Number of Valley Fills:	18
Est'd Miles of Streams Buried by Valley Fills:	6
Est'd Miles of Streams Buried and/or Contaminated:	18-24

Communities Impacted by Blasting, Dust, Major Floods, Destruction of their Homeplace

Clear Fork: Dorothy, Colcord, Ameagle, other Clear Fork Residents
 Marsh Fork: Horse Creek, Dry Creek, Rock Creek, other Marsh Fork Residents

All of this and more for only 14 years of mining...what happens when the coal is gone???

Meaning and Importance of the Wind Farm

This wind project will save one mountain and the surrounding communities from the decimation and contamination of the land, resources and residents that results from the blowing up of mountains and the filling of valleys with mining waste. It would exist as a symbol of hope and change and the breaking of the oppressive coal stranglehold on southern West Virginia's economy and its communities who have suffered for so long.

The Coal River Mountain wind project, if successful, would preserve the mountain and its many resources for the continuation of traditional uses, and for the development of other sustainable economic initiatives for the surrounding area. The social and economic utilization of Coal River Mountain in this manner could serve as a model of change and economic diversification for other counties and communities, one that calls for the development of renewable energy, the creation of green jobs, and the preservation of the environment for improving the quality of life for both current and future generations

Coal River Mountain Land Ownership and Proposed Turbine Location

Bee Tree Surface Mine: (104 turbines)	Western Pocahontas Properties, LLC (Minerals) Black King Mine Development Co. (Surface) Rowland Land Company (Surface and Minerals)
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***Of the 104 turbines in this area, Black King Mine owns/leases the land on which only 93 of these turbines would be sited. The other 11 would be sited on lands under ownership by Rowland Land Co.*

Eagle II Surface Mine: (79 turbines)	Rowland Land Company (Surface and Minerals)
Eagle III Surface Mine: (37 turbines)	Rowland Land Company (Surface and Minerals) (Possibly other owners, no map available)

The Threat: Mountaintop Removal

Operating Companies:

Subsidiaries of AT Massey:
 Clear Fork Coal Company
 Marfork Coal Company

No. of Permits:

Four, Two So-Far Approved

Total Acreage:

Bee Tree:	6,000+ acres
Eagle II:	1352 acres
Eagle III:	2040 acres
Collins Fork/Eagle IV:	2490 acres
	831 acres

No. of Proposed Valley Fills:

18

Estimated Job Production/Time Span:

One mine in operation only:	65 jobs/year for 4 years
Two mines in operation:	130 jobs for 5 years
Three mines in operation:	195 jobs for 5 years

Total Estimated Operating Life of Strip-Mining:

14 years

...of Jobs: 14 years

...of Energy: 14 Years

Total Coal and Jobs Available after 14 years:

0

Potential Energy Production and Jobs from Wind after Strip-Mining: 0 jobs, 0 energy

Active Underground Mining – 2007

Coal Production:	2.1 million tons
Net Energy Equivalent:	5.25 million Megawatt-hours
Employment:	211 miners

Annual Job and Energy Provision: Underground Coal and Wind Combined Total

Energy Production:	6.4 million Megawatt-hours
No. of WV Homes Powered:	840,000
No. of WV Customers Powered:	415,000
Number of Direct Jobs:	250
Number of Indirect Jobs:	450

End-Notes:

ⁱ This COE compares favorably to a rate increase to 7.39 cents/kWh that Appalachian Power has recently requested in West Virginia:
<http://www.appalachianpower.com/news/releases/viewrelease.asp?releaseID=479>

ⁱⁱ It is also common practice by socially-responsible wind power developers to donate additional money to community-based organizations, and to even invest money into local pilot development projects. This would be an additional boost for economic development around Coal River Mountain.

ⁱⁱⁱ Underground mining will continue, producing an estimated 50-60% of proposed surface mine production.