

Blankenship, Johni

From: grammybeluga@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 12:14 PM
To: Carey, Dave
Cc: pa12gary@hotmail.com; psprague@acsalaska.net; akjfischer@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; cpierce@gci.net; bsmith@xyz.net; gsuperman@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; millimom@xyz.net; Assembly/Clerk, Office
Subject: Patriot Coal Fined \$6.5M for Damage to West Virginia Streams

Mayor Carey and Assembly members,

Please read this article, notice how long the coal company was in violation and how many violation they had against them. These types of problems are a very big concern for people in the Tyonek/Beluga area. We do not want the West Side of Cook Inlet to end up another West Virginia.....

Hope to be at the Feb 17 th meeting, weather permitting...
Judy and Lawrence Heilman

Patriot Coal Fined \$6.5M for Damage to West Virginia Streams

Date: February 12, 2009

Original URL

One of the largest coal mining companies in the United States has agreed to pay a \$6.5 million civil penalty to settle violations of the Clean Water Act, federal and West Virginia agencies have announced. The consent decree signed by Patriot Coal includes the third largest penalty ever paid in a federal Clean Water Act case for discharge permit violations.

In a joint complaint filed with the consent decree, the United States and the State of West Virginia alleged that Patriot Coal violated its Clean Water Act permits more than 1,400 times - representing over 22,000 days of violations between January 2003 and December 2007 at its mining complexes in West Virginia.

During this time, Patriot and its subsidiaries allegedly discharged excess amounts of metals, sediment, and other pollutants into dozens of rivers and streams in West Virginia.

Excess discharges of these pollutants can significantly harm water quality and aquatic life in West Virginia's streams, said William Wisniewski, acting Regional Administrator for the U.S. EPA's mid-Atlantic region.

"This settlement continues to set the bar high for the coal industry and Clean Water Act enforcement in general. Today's settlement reiterates EPA's commitment to maintaining clean and healthy waterways," said Wisniewski.

In addition, Patriot has agreed to extensive measures designed to ensure Clean Water Act compliance at its mines in West Virginia. The settlement includes what Wisniewski calls "innovative and heightened operating standards" which should serve as a model for the coal mining industry in Central Appalachia.

2/13/2009

As part of the settlement, Patriot Coal has agreed to implement extensive measures to prevent future violations and to perform environmental projects, at a total estimated cost of \$6 million.

Patriot will develop and implement a company-wide compliance-focused environmental management system including creating a database to track information relevant to compliance efforts; conduct regular internal and third-party environmental compliance audits; implement a system of tiered response actions for any possible future violations; and conduct annual training for all employees and contractors with environmental responsibilities.

The company also will perform five stream restoration projects in local watersheds and perform assessments of mining impacts on aquatic life.

"Consistent with our corporate mission to be a good steward of the environment and our philosophy of maintaining a constructive dialogue with federal and state regulatory authorities, we entered into good faith negotiations which resulted in this settlement," said Patriot Chief Executive Officer Richard Whiting.

"We believe the consent decree is a fair and reasonable resolution of issues relating to former Magnum properties acquired by Patriot in 2008, and serves the interests of both the public and our stockholders," he said. Patriot completed the acquisition of Magnum in July 2008.

The consent decree, lodged in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court.

With corporate headquarters in St. Louis, Patriot owns and operates 16 mining complexes in West Virginia and Kentucky.

"This settlement represents a very important step in making sure that the coal mining industry is in compliance with the Clean Water Act," said John Cruden, acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "It will benefit the citizens of West Virginia and helps make sure that the Mountain State's streams and rivers are not damaged."

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Blankenship, Johni

From: Elizabeth Standifer [aknative82@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 1:41 PM
To: Assembly/Clerk, Office; Carey, Dave; pa12gary@hotmail.com; psprague@acsalaska.net; akjfisher@hotmail.com; hvsmalley@yahoo.com; cpierce@gci.net; bsmith@xyz.net; gsuperman@gci.net; rlms@ptialaska.net; millimom@xyz.net
Subject: Chuitna Coal Project

I have lived in Tyonek all my life with my children. I have heard many people talk about the Future of our children, well this is a topic that will change their futures, and if the Chuitna Coal Mine is built it will change their life as they know it of subsistence lifestyle. Some people say "The West Side of the Cook Inlet is a piece of Paradise." I agree because once you live or even visit in the cities you miss the less traffic, less noise, beautiful scenery and most of all clean air on this side of the inlet. When you visit the West Side of the Cook Inlet you will enjoy the lifestyle of a Village, not a city, not the food of cities, you can ride down the road and see animals, and you can enjoy the stars at night. We would like to keep this side of the inlet the same, we don't want to see it turned into another city and lose our cultures, sceneries, wildlife, most of all our freedom of village life. If the coal mine is built I see this as a door opening to other ideas that may not help us live over here in the village lifestyle. When you live off the land the way we do you would realize you have to protect the fish and game. If the coal mine moves in there is no guarantee the moose won't be scared off from the noise, the fish will still run in the Chuitna River, Beluga Whales will visit the Northern parts of the Cook Inlet, and there is no guarantee for clean air. Now tell me if the coal mine is built, my children and grand-children will still be able to live off the fish & game, you can't because there is no guarantee it will stay the same. There is also no guarantee the coal mine can be cleaned up and the land restored, because ponds, lakes, and rivers will already be polluted, the land and animals will be disturbed, you cannot put the land back from where you got it and in the same shape it was before. Why change the land? It didn't do anything to us but feed us and keep u s all on the West Side of the Cook Inlet Alive! Why change the future for our children to the worst case scenario of compromising their subsistence lifestyle?

Elizabeth J. Standifer
Tyonek Resident

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