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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mr. Robert E. Murray's Statement Regarding the Stream Protection Rule

The following is the statement that Mr. Robert E. Murray, the Founder, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Murray Energy Corporation, will be giving today before the hearing conducted by the Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, regarding the national destruction being caused by their proposed Stream Protection Rule:

My name is Mr. Robert E. Murray, and I am the Founder, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Murray Energy Corporation ("Murray Energy"), which is the largest underground coal mining company in America. Our Company employs over 7,000 Americans and currently operates seventeen (17) active underground coal mines in five (5) states.

The Obama Administration's so-called Stream Protection Rule ("Rule") is the single greatest threat to the jobs and family livelihoods of our employees that I have seen in my fifty-eight (58) years of coal mining experience. This Rule bans underground coal mining by the longwall and other methods beneath dry ditches on the surface. In doing so, the Obama Administration, its radical bureaucrats and Democrat supporters, have, with this rule, yet again, acted illegally, and with the deliberant intent to destroy our nation's underground coal mines and put our nation's coal miners out of work.

With this intended destruction of America's coal industry, low cost, reliable coal-fired electricity will be eliminated (four cents per KWH compared to wind and solar at twenty-two cents per KWH at the bussbar). This will force huge electricity cost increases on our citizens and businesses and jeopardize the reliability of our power grid.

From personal experience, we know what President Obama, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and Director of the Office of Surface Mining ("OSM") Mr. Joseph Pizarchik, are up to with this Rule. You see Mr. Pizarchik, in conjunction with the current Democrat candidate to the United States Senate from Pennsylvania, Ms. Kathleen A. McGinty, did the exact same thing to Murray Energy, when they closed the Maple Creek Mining, Inc. High Quality Mine, in Bentleyville, Pennsylvania on November 10, 2004. At that time, Mr. Pizarchik, a lawyer, was acting as the Chief Enforcement Officer for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("PaDEP") and Ms. McGinty was the Secretary of the PaDEP. We received a full, legally binding permit from the PaDEP in 2001 to mine the entire Maple Creek reserve by the longwall

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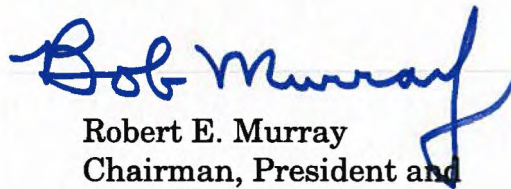
method over many years. Based on this permit from the PaDEP, we hired 550 employees and spent \$130 million in building the Mine.

But, on November 10, 2004, nearly four (4) years later, after mining four (4) longwall panels, at the direction of Mr. Pizarchik and Ms. McGinty, the PaDEP, through a telephone call to me, closed the Mine at the fifth (5th) longwall panel, the next to be mined, that they claimed was beneath an "ephemeral stream." It was really a dry ditch that seldom had water in it. We were forced to close the Mine and lay off the 550 employees, most of whom were older and never worked again. Further, we have been paying interest on every penny of the \$130 million that we borrowed to build the Mine since that call on November 10, 2004. In promulgating this Rule, Mr. Pizarchik, Interior Secretary Jewell, and Mr. Obama, along with Ms. McGinty, who have all demonstrated that they are job killers, are seeking to impose across the national coal industry what they did to my employees, Company, and me in Pennsylvania nearly eleven (11) years ago.

Beware America, this Rule is a radical attempt to close down all underground mining, particularly by the longwall method, in America. Underground longwall mining is the most environmentally acceptable way that there is to mine coal.

Sincerely,

MURRAY ENERGY CORPORATION



Robert E. Murray
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

A press conference will be held at 5:10 pm, EDT, today, in the Heinz Room at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh, 500 Mansfield Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205. Dial-in instructions for the press conference are as follows:

Toll-Free Access Number: 1-800-201-6800
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