

EPA'S "WAR ON COAL" CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM IN KENTUCKY, 3RD IN 23 DAYS

Jun 21, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, (KY-01), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Power, released the following statement today in response to the news Arch Coal plans to shut down some operations and lay off workers in Southeastern Kentucky. Arch Coal's announcement comes just two weeks after Alpha Natural Resources announced plans to cut back coal mining in its northern and southern Kentucky operations, and three weeks after AEP announced they may abandon operations at Big Sandy due to EPA's new permitting regulations.

"This is another sad example of the results of the Obama Administration's continued war on coal. It is troubling to me that President Obama continues to put our economy at risk at a time when it is most vulnerable by issuing regulations that cause companies to close plants, which will mean lost jobs and which will ultimately raise electricity prices on consumers.

"At a time of high unemployment rates, especially in some counties in Kentucky where unemployment remains at more than 10 percent, the Obama Administration and his EPA should be working with coal states to create and retain jobs, rather than thwarting economic growth and causing miners to lose their jobs.

"The EPA's outright assault on coal is already having a destructive effect on Kentucky's economy, and we will likely see more coal-fired power plants closed and more mining operations shut down due to EPA's outrageous expansion of regulations, not to mention the impact of lawsuits filed by environmental groups with the support of the Obama Administration.

"But it's not just the Kentucky economy that is taking a hit from EPA's new regulations. Of the approximately 500 coal-burning power plants, more than 100 (over 20%) are expected to close in the coming years. That is real jobs being lost, and real dollars being taken out of our economy."

"As Vice President Biden said on the campaign trail in 2008, under an Obama/Biden Administration there will be 'No coal plants here in America.' Well they are certainly well on their way to reaching that goal, at the expense of jobs and our economy."

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