

Fact Sheet: Comparative Economic Analysis for Raleigh County

“Coal River Mountain: Mountaintop Removal vs. Wind Power”

Significant Quotes from the Downstream Strategies Economic Study:

Based on the findings of this report, state and local leaders should reconsider their singular focus on the extraction of coal resources in southern West Virginia and chart a common path forward with local citizens that not only preserves private profits, but also strives – as a central objective – to sustain the local economy over the long term.”

“As demonstrated by these calculations (in the report), a wind farm on Coal River Mountain combined with a new local wind industry would provide the greatest long-term economic benefits to the citizens of Raleigh County. In contrast, mountaintop removal coal mines would provide larger short-term economic output and greater profits to the landholding companies that own the coal and the mining company poised to begin mining. But these profits would come at the cost of generating human health and environmental externalities.”

“In short, the private interests of the landholding companies and the leaseholders suggest one course of action (MTR), while the long-term benefits to local citizens and the county suggest an alternative (wind).”

“As shown (in the study), should a local turbine manufacturing (plant) be available, the number of jobs and the associated earnings and economic output would be much more significant (than the proposed MTR) for the Coal River Mountain wind farm. In the long-term (five investment cycles), the wind farm will generate 28% more jobs than the mountaintop removal. Jobs in the local wind industry scenario will generate 314% more jobs than the mountaintop removal.”

The Full Report can be downloaded at www.CoalRiverWind.org

Significant Results from the Economic Study Conducted by Downstream Strategies...

Annual Tax Revenues for Raleigh County

<i>From a 328 Megawatt wind farm:</i>	\$1,743,000 per year
Available Time Period:	Potentially Forever
% Increase for Annual Revenue/Budget:	7.86%

<i>From a 6,450 acre Mountaintop Removal mine:</i>	\$36,000 per year
Available time period:	17 years
% Increase for Annual Revenue/Budget:	0.16%

Results:

The wind farm would generate nearly 50 times more annual tax revenue for Raleigh than the proposed mountaintop removal mining. It would also significantly increase the county's annual revenue fund. By doing so, this extra revenue would be valuable for stimulating additional economic development in Raleigh County and unlike coal, it would provide a reliable source of revenue for decades to come.

Annual Jobs Available for Raleigh County Citizens

<i>With a 328 MW wind farm:</i>	
Each Construction Period:	277 direct jobs 502 total jobs
Each 20-year Operation Period:	39 direct jobs 72 total jobs

<i>With a Wind Manufacturing Facility in Raleigh County:</i>	
Each Construction period:	1,750 direct jobs 3,831 total jobs
Each 20-year Operation period:	43 direct jobs 80 total jobs

Conclusion:

If a wind industry grows in southern West Virginia, and a wind manufacturing facility is cited in Raleigh County, then the 3,831 jobs associated with a construction-phase wind manufacturing facility as calculated in this report could end up serving as permanent jobs, as wind farm construction would be ongoing for a longer period of time.

To re-quote, from page 35 of the study: "As shown (in the study), should a local turbine manufacturing (plant) be available, the number of jobs and the associated earnings and economic output would be much more significant (than the proposed MTR) for the Coal River Mountain wind farm. In the long-term (five investment cycles), the wind farm will generate 28% more jobs than the mountaintop removal. Jobs in the local wind industry scenario will generate 314% more jobs than the mountaintop removal."

<i>Potential Underground Mining to be combined with the wind farm:</i>	15-year life span
Average Employment per million tons:	135 jobs
Annual Jobs available:	78 direct jobs (average, minimum) 177 total jobs (average, minimum)

<i>For the proposed Mountaintop Removal operation:</i>	17-year life span
Average Employment per million tons:	57 jobs
Annual Jobs available:	158 direct jobs (average) 552 total jobs (average)

Estimated Social Impacts of the Proposed Mountaintop Removal Operation

<i>Estimated Deaths due to proposed MTR operations:</i>	149 total
Economic Impact, annual:	\$30.5 Million
Total Economic Cost:	\$518.5 Million

<i>Estimated Deaths w/ proposed underground mining expansion:</i>	27 total
Economic Impact, annual:	\$6.4 Million
Total Economic Cost:	\$96 Million

Estimated Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Mountaintop Removal Operation

<i>Total Land/Forest Impacts related to proposed mining:</i>	6,450 acres (10 square miles)
% of Raleigh County land area:	1.65%

<i>Total Stream Impacts related to Valley Fills:</i>	47,374 feet (8.97 miles)
% Increase over Impacts from Existing Fills:	8.0%

<i>.....Stream Impacts for Clear Fork sub-watershed:</i>	37,671 feet
% of Clear Fork streams to be buried:	6.0%
% Increase in total historical stream impacts:	66%

<i>Economic Value of Local Environmental Costs, MTR scenario:</i>	\$36 Million (17-year total)
Water treatment:	\$1 Million
Fish/Wildlife/Recreational:	\$3 Million
Flooding:	\$3 Million
Land/Buildings:	\$19 Million
Aesthetic:	\$11 Million

Final quote: “The timing of these costs and benefits are important. The benefits of mountaintop removal mining would end after 17 years when the mining ends, but the costs of mountaintop removal mining are projected to continue due to the expected deaths and illnesses caused by the coal mining. In contrast, the benefits from the wind scenarios continue indefinitely.” (page 45)