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Comments:

Arch Coal permit for Sunset Roadless Area

On Jan 15, 2016, at 5:34 PM, Chris Crosby <chris Crosby2@icloud.com  
<mailto:chris Crosby2@icloud.com> > wrote:

To Whom it may concern:

Please accept my comments regarding the Arch Coal permit process to develop a new coal mine in the Sunset Roadless Area adjacent to the West Elk Wilderness area in SW Colorado near Gunnison.

Eight reasons to not develop Arch coal mine in Sunset Roadless Area:

- 1- It is counter to Pres Obama's Clean Power Plan, public health and habitability of Planet
- 2- It would double Colorado's GHG emissions
- 3- There is no need for this coal deposit to be extracted. Coal demand is way down, other countries have plenty of their own, 70-80 % of all fossils need to be left in the ground to lessen Climate Chaos
- 4- There are much better jobs in this area than coal mines which cause Black Lung deaths. Dean Richard Wobbekind of Univ. Colo Leeds School of Business said at Gd Jct Chamber of Commerce that coal is on "Death's Door" while real estate and construction is "strong". And most likely Arch will just bring in out state experienced coal workers from the glut of unemployed coal workers laid off elsewhere.
- 5- The loophole exemption was denied by Federal Judge R. Brooke Jackson and subsequent FS and/or BLM investigations revealed that this mine would release huge amounts of GHG including fugitive methane.
- 6- Arch Coal is financially unstable, is in bankruptcy, has massive debt, is operating deep in the red, may not be able to meet it's reclamation and pension obligations in Wyoming (see Denver Post 1/12/16 Arch Coal files for Bankruptcy for best recent press coverage). Will taxpayers be left with another clean up ?
- 7- The entire US coal industry is on the ropes. Common stocks down 90+ %. Many bankruptcies with rest "restructuring". Production at 1986 levels. Much on Google.
- 8- Times have changed in the last 5-10 years: GHG is 405 PPM and no leveling yet. The fossil divest movement is stronger and growing faster than expected. The Paris Accord shows worldwide concern about Climate Change higher than ever. The international refugee migrations driven by food-water-safety problems are escalating dramatically. Land ice melt is accelerating. Ocean temperature and currents are changing. The world's weather patterns of tropical storms, EL Ninos, tornados, floods, droughts, are being destabilized alarmingly. Wind and solar energies are getting cheaper rapidly. Crude oil prices are down by 2/3 rd. Coal projects which may have been acceptable 5-10 years ago do not make sense now.

Respectfully Submitted by

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