

Shop now and get cashback on every purchase.

Live Search cashback  
Search that pays you back.

Microsoft

Search now for:  
LCD TV's

HOME DELIVERY | SUBSCRIBER SERVICES | CONTACT US | ABOUT US | SITE MAP | Buy a Classified | Thu, Jan 08 2009

**THE REGISTER-HERALD**

Fayette Tribune  
Montgomery Herald

2 weeks FREE!

Currently **27**  
H: 31 L: 19  
Click for more weather

**Beckley Auto Mall**  
Has It All!  
304-252-3300

Buy A Classified | Home Page | Obituaries | Local News | Police/Courts | Sports | Reunions | Classifieds | Monster Jobs | Wheels | Real Estate Today | Fayette Co  
Homes | Special Sections |  
Obituaries | Police/Courts | Wyoming Report |

Published: January 06, 2009 10:54 pm

## Wind project triggers defense of coal by Raleigh commissioner

By Mannix Porterfield  
Register-Herald Reporter

A proposed wind project on Coal Mountain as an alternative to mountaintop mining triggered a defense Tuesday of the coal industry in general by a Raleigh County commissioner.

In rebuttal, both Lorelei Scarbro and Rory McIlmoil, representing the Coal River mountain wind campaign, insisted the project would open the door to an expansion of underground mining, creating more good-paying mining jobs.

"We support your project, but I don't think the commission should be put in a position where we have to support one industry over another industry," Commissioner John Aliff said.

"This is very, very difficult for us to sit here as commissioners and do that. To be quite honest, the coal industry has been good for the commission."

Aliff pointed to \$700,000 the county took in during the past quarter in severance taxes.

"A lot of those monies have been spent down in our area, incidentally, on water projects and additional deputies," he said.

McIlmoil said his group has no opposition to the coal industry but opposes the surface method used by Massey Energy since it poses a threat to a mountain that could accommodate a wind power project in the area.

"We're not asking to choose between coal and wind," he told Aliff. "But there's going to come a time when there needs to be other opportunities in this area."

McIlmoil and Scarbro pointed to a study performed by Downstream Strategies of Morgantown which indicates wind development poses a superior economic land use option than extracting coal by the mountaintop practice.

To illustrate their point, the two carried two oversized, cardboard checks, one showing Massey's job site would translate into a mere \$36,000 benefit to the county while the wind project is worth a potential \$1.7 million.

If the mountain is destroyed, they maintained, there is no way to restructure the area into "a sustainable community."

Moreover, McIlmoil told the commission, coal reserves in Raleigh County are being exhausted rapidly by the mountaintop practice.

"Wind is a better option," he said. "When you look at the fact that mining is going to be gone in 17 years and you look at the impact surface mining has on wind resources, then the wind option is just the better option for this one mountain. That's all we're saying."

Scarbro challenged the commission to prove that it imposes an equal value on residents of Coal River as it does on other parts of Raleigh County, throwing Aliff and Commissioner John Humphrey on the defensive.

"I don't believe there's great validity in the fact that we are throwing you guys out to the wolves and don't care about the western part of the county," Aliff said.

"We hear that quite often from folks down there. I don't know to what extent we have to prove we value you as much as we do everyone else. The things we've done and money we've been putting down in that part of the county would prove otherwise."

Aliff said he had "no problem" supporting the wind project but added the commission has invested much time and money in the western part of Raleigh.

Humphrey alluded to a number of water projects in communities across the western side as evidence the commission hasn't neglected the region.

In other matters, the commission:

-- Approved a \$5 million loan from First Community Bank of

MID-STATE  
PILE-OWNED AUTO

Click Here For This Week's Ad

SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

Call (304) 252-7774

### Resources

Print this story  
E-mail this story

### More from the Local News section

- Sheriff: Old office should be torn down
- Greenbrier County sheriff finds unused equipment
- Pickup truck, tractor-trailer wreck on turnpike
- Rock House to host fundraiser for Lady D
- Greenbrier County introduces new sheriff's chief deputy

### Ads by Google

- Coal Power Plants
- Coal Mining
- Beckley Homes
- Mining Equipment

The Appointed Dog  
Grooming and Boarding  
Click for our site  
252-7387

monster  
Coast to Coast. Around the Corner  
Find your perfect car  
Select A Make Search

Find a business:  
Business name or type...  
Location:  
Beckley, WV  
SEARCH  
Maps, Menus, Store hours, Coupons, and more...

Find a new or used car.  
Find a new home.  
Find a new job.

### Popular business directory searches

Find a Doctor

### Premium Jobs

**CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN - WELDER / PIPE FITTER**  
Certified Electrician. Power Mountain Coal, a coal preparation plant located in Drennen, WV is now accepting application...>MORE

**EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COORDINATOR**  
Employment and Training Coordinator . Full-time salaried position, with excellent benefit package. Experience Works is s...>MORE

**MINING JOB FAIR - MARFORK COAL JOB FAIR.** Marfork Coal Company, a subsidiary of Massey Energy is accepting experienced underground applicants. Our expa...>MORE

**UNDERGROUND MINERS - APPALACHIAN PREMIUM FUELS, LLC**  
Appalachian Premium Fuels, LLC. Employment Opportunity with great benefits and wages for experienced underground miners...>MORE

**EXPERIENCED ELECTRICAL LINEMAN**  
Pocahontas Coal Company is seeking applications for the following position: EXPERIENCED ELECTRICAL LINEMAN. We offer a c...>MORE

**MINING POSITIONS - KINGSTON MINING**  
We are looking for talent to produce...the power, behind the energy. Kingston Mining, Inc. is seeking experienced Contin...>MORE

**INSURANCE SALES ASSOCIATES**  
Insurance Sales Associates. TRG Insurance Solutions has the best local opportunity for

Add a link for \$

Add a link It's fast, and affordable

Add a link

\*Two-year significant

Beckley for construction of the judicial annex after no one appeared at a public hearing to speak either for or against it. The bank offered a fixed rate of 4.47 percent over 11 1/2 years with a 30-year amortization.

-- Accepted a grant of \$210,000 and a drawdown of \$6,250 for the county's homeland security mass project and \$4,589.78 for the emergency shelter.

-- Approved the lease of land from Beaver Coal Co. to the Recreation Authority that houses Burning Rock.

-- Named these individuals to boards: Margaret Agee, WRMS-EMS board of directors; Bill Roop, Recreation Authority; Dave Darnell, Planning and Zoning; John Sadowski, Building Code Appeals Board; Gerald Miller, Crab Orchard-MacArthur PSD; Bill Baldwin, Cool Ridge-Flat Top PSD; and Steve Wallen, Bradley PSD.

— E-mail: [mannix@register-herald.com](mailto:mannix@register-herald.com)



**Stop Mountain Top Removal**

Contact President-elect Obama today End mountaintop removal coal mining  
[www.SierraSportsmen.org](http://www.SierraSportsmen.org)

**Clean coal is a myth**

A new energy policy is necessary Sign the CLEAN Energy Act today!  
[www.TheClean.org](http://www.TheClean.org)

**Wind Power**

Energy that keeps CO2 in the dust. Learn more from Siemens.  
[usa.siemens.com/answers](http://usa.siemens.com/answers)



Ads by Google

inside insurance agents. We repre...>MORE

See all ads

**Premium Jobs**

See all ads

Our Partners  
Relish

© 2008 The Register-Herald  
P.O. Box 2398, Beckley, WV 25802  
Phone: (304) 255-4400; **Email news tips and feedback**



**Popular Business directory links** - [Beckley Apartments](#) | [Beckley Attorneys](#) | [Beckley Auto Dealers](#) | [Beckley Auto Parts](#) | [Beckley Auto Repair](#) | [Beckley Beauty Salons](#) | [Beckley Car Rental](#) | [Beckley Dentists](#) | [Beckley Doctors](#) | [Beckley Flowers](#) | [Beckley Hotels](#) | [Beckley Insurance](#) | [Beckley Loans](#) | [Beckley Mortgages](#) | [Beckley Movers](#) | [Beckley Pizza](#) | [Beckley Realtors](#) | [Beckley Restaurants](#) | [Beckley Storage](#) | [Beckley Tax Preparation](#) | [Beckley Travel](#) | [Beckley Featured](#) | [More...](#)

Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. • CNHI Classified Advertising Network • CNHI News Service  
Associated Press content © 2008. All rights reserved. AP content may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.  
Our site is powered by Zope and our Internet Yellow Pages site is powered by PremierGuide.  
Some parts of our site may require you to download the Flash Player Plugin.  
[View our Privacy Policy](#)  
[Advertiser index](#)