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Comments to ONRR-2012-0004, RIN 1012-AA13

1 message

Martha Guenett Simmons <rsimmons@provide.net>

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Reply-To: rsimmons@provide.net

To: armand.southall@onrr.gov

The federal government is currently giving away more than \$1 billion per year in taxpayer-funded subsidies, including low royalties and allowances for transportation, to coal companies to strip-mine America's public lands. We deserve a fair return for America's shared resources.

Currently, coal companies pay a royalty on the first sale of coal to a middleman or subsidiary, which is a hidden price that dramatically undervalues this publicly-owned resource. I urge the Department of the Interior and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue to end wasteful subsidies by requiring coal companies to pay royalties on the true market price of coal at its final point of sale, and to limit the transportation deductions claimed by coal companies to 50 percent of their costs. These changes could help the government collect a fair return for U.S. taxpayers and western states, increase government transparency and efficiency, and reduce corporate abuse.

Martha Guenett Simmons

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