

Good Morning. My name is Garrett Atwood and I work in the coal industry.

The energy industry is the industry that powers every other to improve human life. The more affordable, plentiful, and reliable energy we can produce, the more (and better) food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical care, sanitation, clean water, technology, and everything else we can have.

Unfortunately, because of backwards energy and environmental policies that are anti-development, not anti-pollution, we are squandering the opportunity of a generation, through blind opposition to one of our most potent sources of power, coal. (Source: "The Energy Liberation Plan" Forbes Magazine, contributor Alex Epstein)

In the scoping document sent out by the BLM in advance of this meeting, one of the stated objectives of this Programmatic review was to determine if the Leasing Program was providing an adequate return to the American Public for the use of Federal Coal. In addition, you also stated that you wanted to make sure that coal the leasing program accounted for the negative externalities associated with greenhouse gas emissions and manmade climate change from the burning of coal.

I'd like to show you a chart. This chart illustrates 102 different climate change prediction models that have been used to predict climate change since 1975. While they vary somewhat on how much, all of the models predict rapid increase in global temperatures. Now the line at the bottom shows what has actually occurred. Not even the most conservative of these 102 models got it right.

The only thing that climate scientist have proven over the last 40 years is that their climate prediction models are incapable of accurately predicting the climate. Nearly all of the models (102) used by manmade climate change alarmists over the last 40 years have predicted rapidly increasing global temperatures that would result in worldwide catastrophic climate events. Instead, these models have been proven false as we have actually witnessed a mild warming effect and an enormous climate protection effect from fossil fuel energy. (Source: Dr. John Christy of the University of Alabama Huntsville). We cannot accurately predict climate change at all, let alone how much of it is attributable to man or to a specific fuel source such as coal.

In the last 80 years, we have increased the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere from 0.03% to 0.04% (Scripps Institute of Oceanography merged ice core data), and the warming has been barely more than the natural warming that occurred in the 80 years before that, when there were virtually no CO₂ emissions (Source: UK Met Office Hadley Centre).

Now I'd like to show you another chart. This chart illustrates CO₂ emissions in China and India over the last 40 yrs and average life expectancy in China and India over the same period. While fossil fuel use has significantly increased in these countries, the average life expectancy has increased over 10 years!

Now I'd like to show you another chart. This chart illustrates climate related deaths in correlation to CO₂ emissions and ambient CO₂ in our atmosphere.

According to the international disaster database (Emergency Events Database EM-DAT), climate-related deaths are down 98 percent over the past 80 years. In 2013, there were 21,122 such deaths worldwide compared to a high of 3.7 million in 1931, when world population was less than a third of its current size. Why is the climate killing less people? Because while fossil-fuel use has only a mild warming impact, it has an enormous protecting impact. Nature doesn't give us a stable, safe climate that we

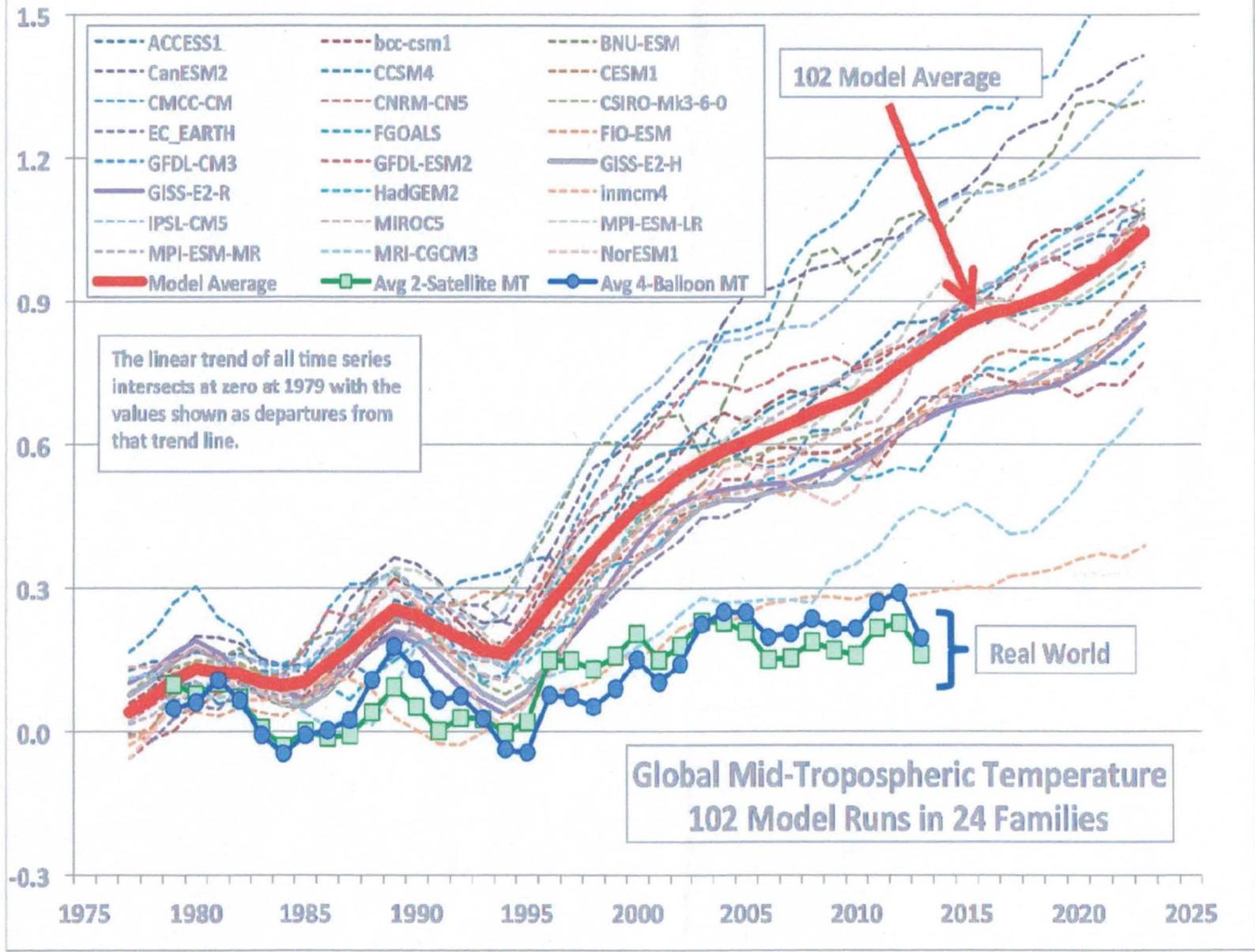
make dangerous. It gives us an ever-changing, dangerous climate that we need to make safe. And the driver behind sturdy buildings, affordable heating and air-conditioning, drought relief and everything else that keeps us safe from climate is cheap, plentiful, reliable energy, overwhelmingly from coal and other fossil fuels.

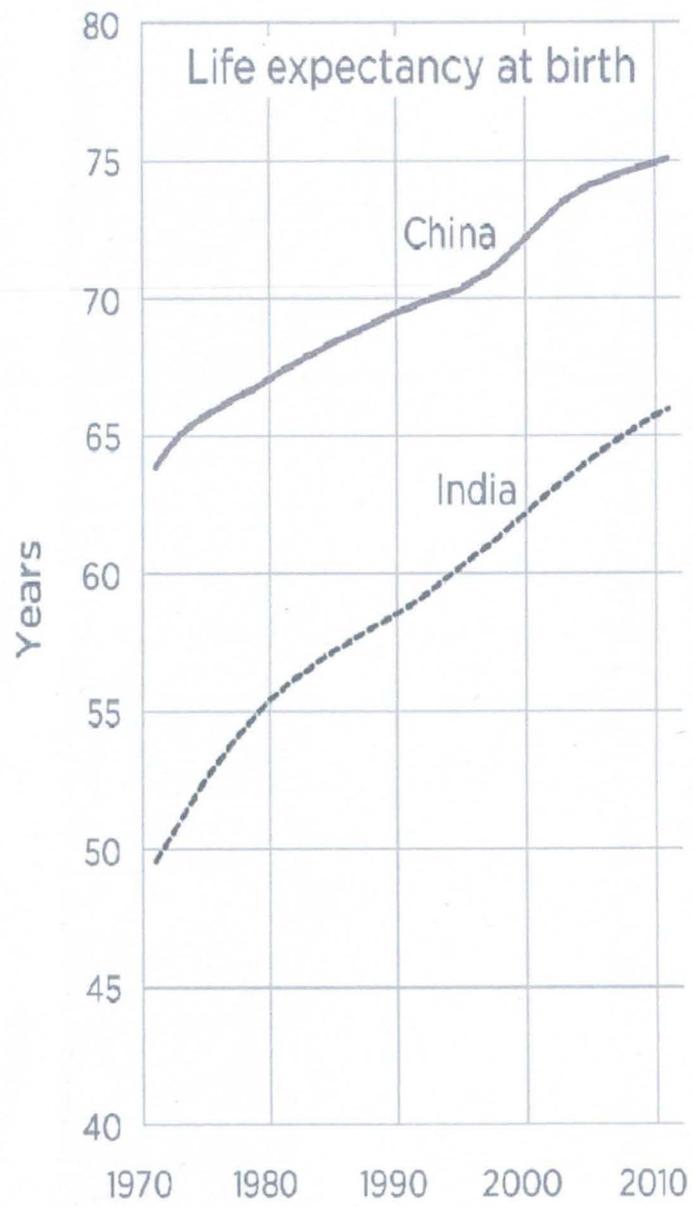
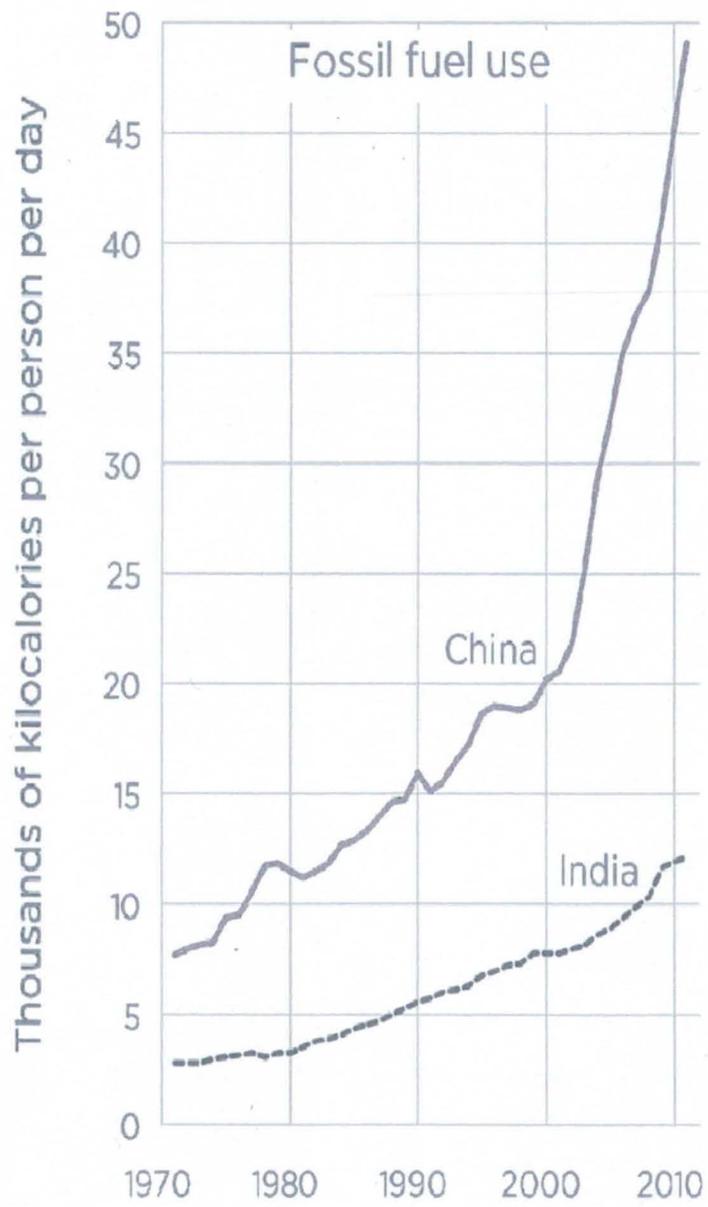
Since 1980, the world has increased its use of coal, oil, and natural gas by over 80 percent —because that is the most cost-effective way to produce energy. At the same time, the average life expectancy of our world's 7 billion people has gone up 7 years—that's 7 years of precious life! Every other metric of human well-being has also improved, from income to access to health care to nourishment to clean water access. The most growth has been among the poorest people in the world. (Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy, Historical data workbook World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI)).

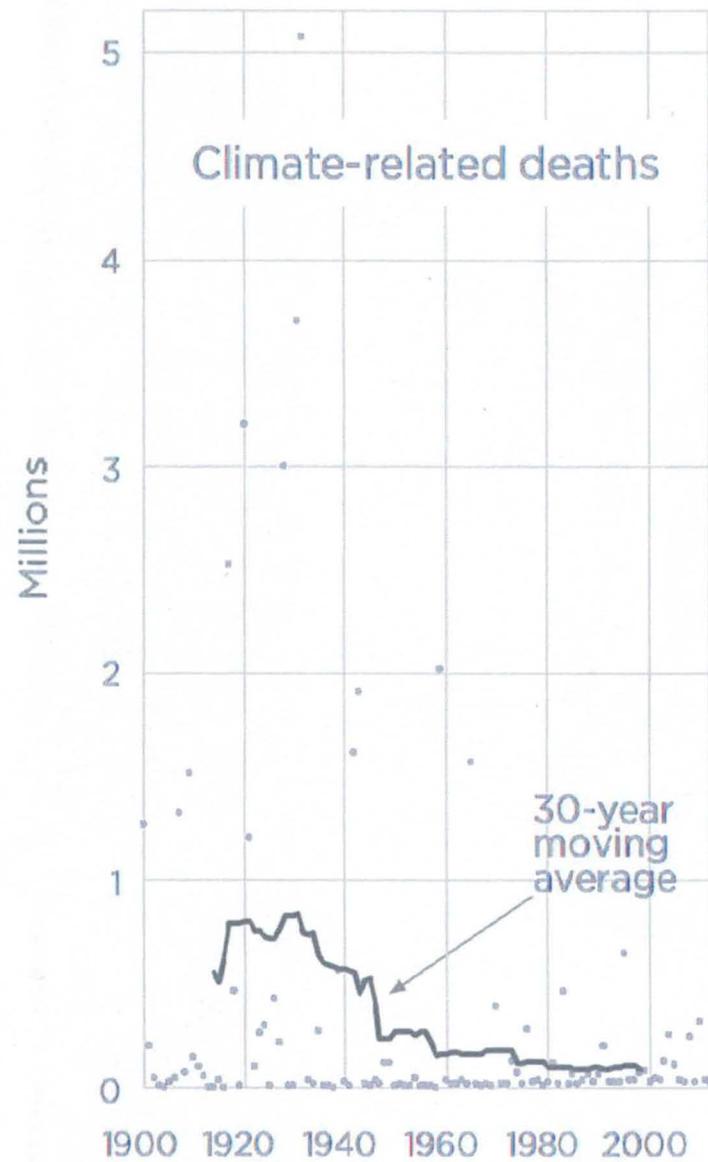
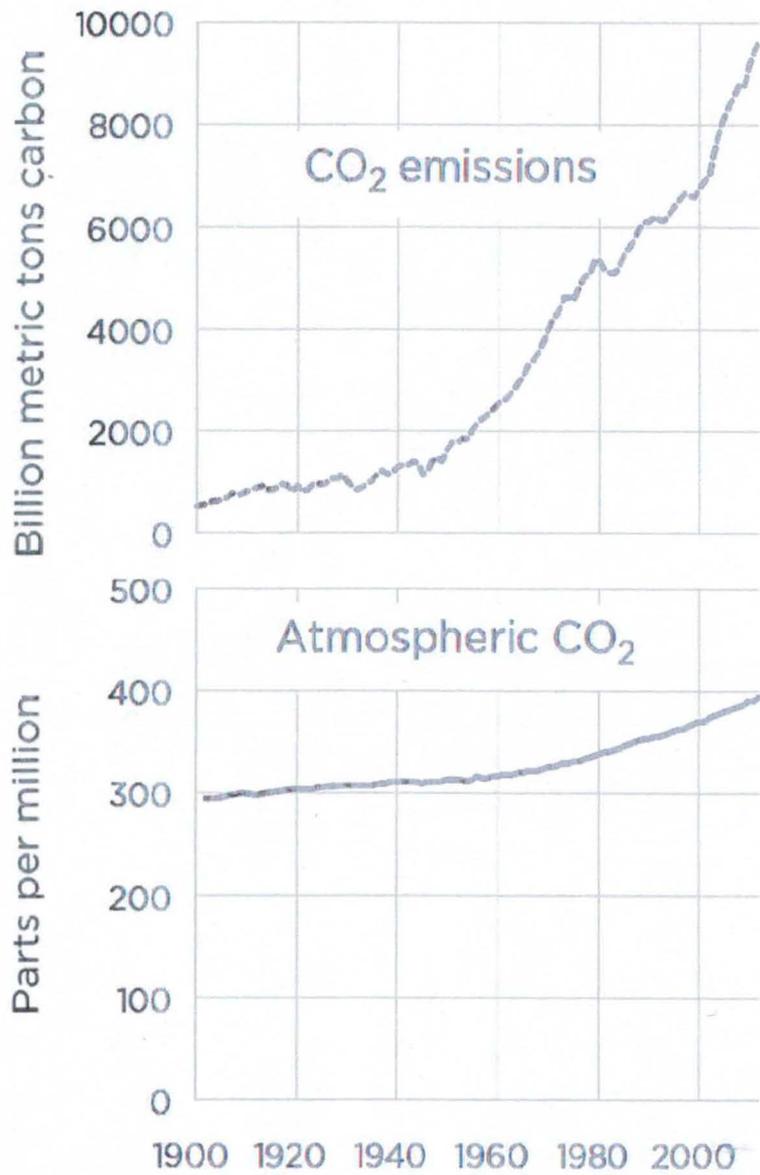
When it comes to a fair return for the use of federal coal, in addition to the approximately 40 cents on the dollar that coal companies pay back to tax payers, the coal mined has enabled Americans to live longer more productive lives. How much would you pay to increase the life expectancy of your loved ones 7 years?

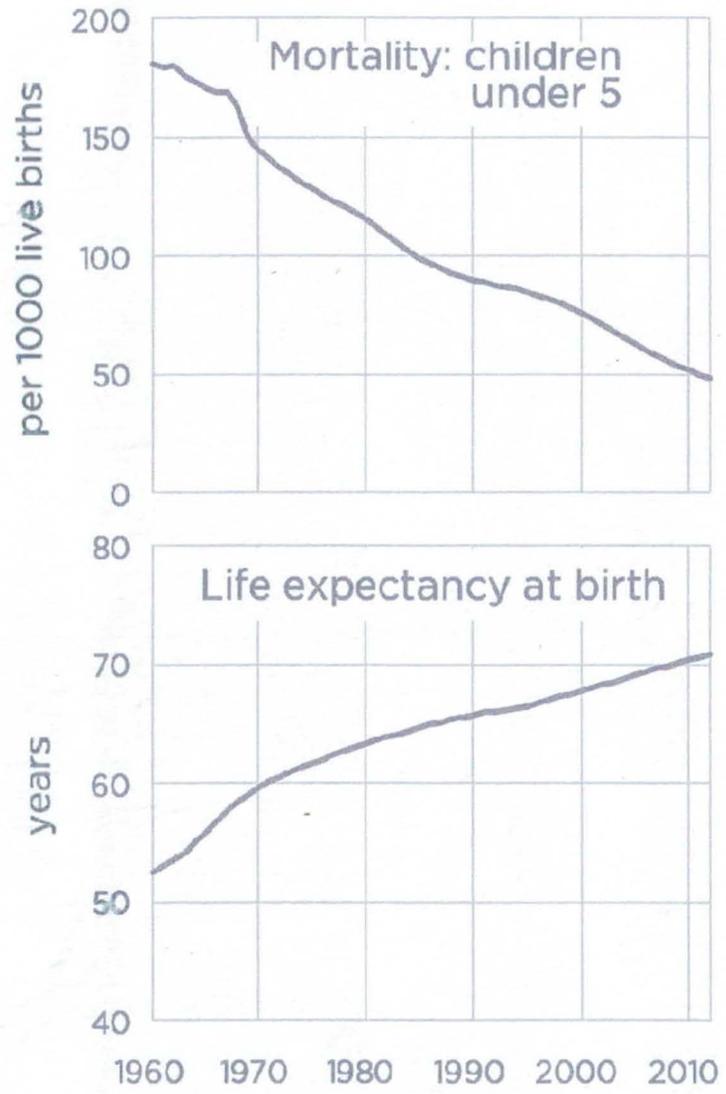
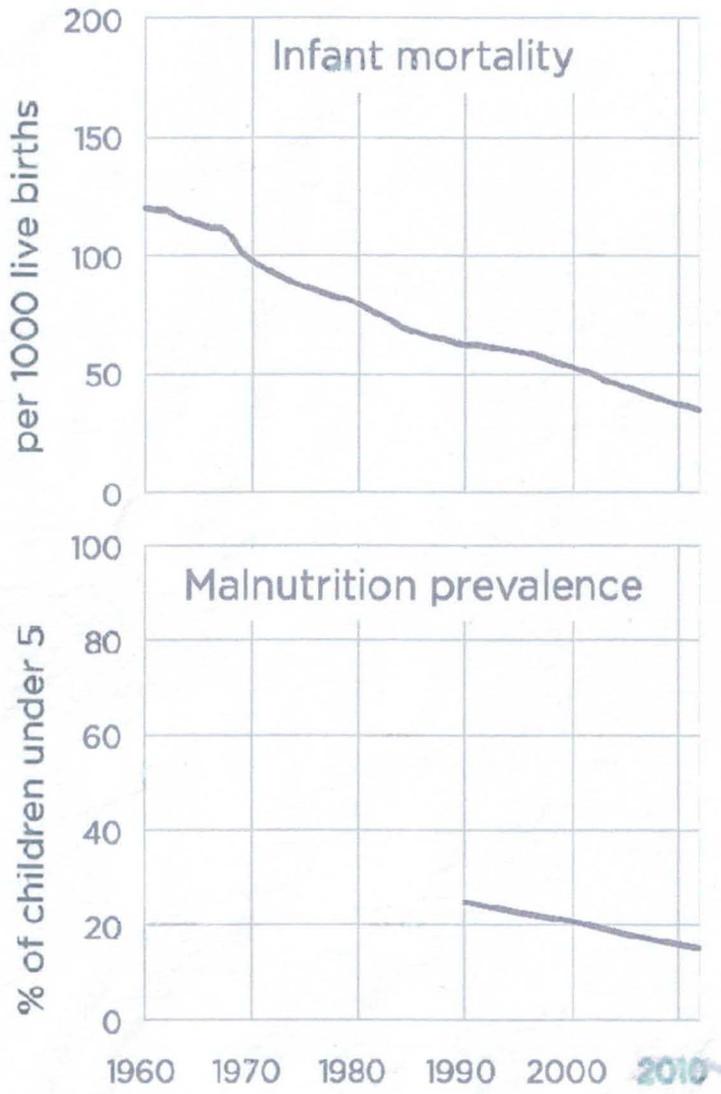
If this Programmatic EIS review intends to try to ascribe a per ton "adder" to be paid to reflect a perceived cost of harm to the public from the negative externalities from coal development than an equal effort should be made to acknowledge and assess the benefits afforded to the public from the positive externalities of coal development and use. I believe that the benefits of reliable and affordable energy far outweigh the associated risks and, if anything, trying to value externalities of coal mining should result in a reduction in the cost of leases and royalties. At a minimum, a simple thank you to the hard working men and women of the coal industry for improving all of our lives is in order.

Thank you for your time.









Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators (WDI)