

Good Morning!

My name is Mike Fidel.

I've been in mining for 41 years, with the majority of that time in the coal industry.

Make no mistake, this latest effort by the BLM is another outrageous attempt by this failed administration to ensure that the mandate made on November 5, 2008, to bankrupt the coal industry, is carried out.

72,000 megawatts of responsible affordable coal generated electricity has been or is scheduled to be eliminated by overreaching government regulations based on the zealot religion of Climate Change, formerly known as Global Cooling, formerly known as Global Warming.

Carbon reduction, lease moratorium, fair market value, but probably the **most outlandish** governmental scheme is the Regional Haze Rule. Project Mohave was a 20 year EPA study to evaluate the haze impact of the Grand Canyon from alleged emissions by the Mohave Power Station near Laughlin, NV. As a result of this study, in 1998, the EPA pressured by the **'sue & settle' hypocritical environmental primitives** ordered Mohave to install BART to reduce haze in the Grand Canyon. Mohave and their customers could not afford the \$1b price tag. The plant shutdown in 2005. In 2010, an independent post mortem study by Berkeley Economic Consulting & the San Francisco State University was conducted to determine the haze reduction with the Mohave shutdown. The results of this study concluded that: "Mean visibility (deciview) and light extinction in the Grand Canyon National Park **did not respond to the plant closure in a statistically significant fashion.**

Really!!?

Four hundred direct plant jobs lost; 400 direct mining jobs lost; countless supporting jobs lost; millions of revenue dollars lost for **"no evidence that the Mohave Power Plant closure improved visibility in the Grand Canyon"**! Oh by the way, electricity prices in that region increased over 15%.

Bottom line; The EPA's science was wrong, their engineering was wrong, their modeling was wrong. Their decision was made on wrong data and wrong data is no data. **A decision made on no data is nothing more than arbitrary and capricious.**

What is even more outrageous is that the same modelling software (CALPUFF) EPA used on Mohave was used for the pending 2017 closure of Units 2 & 3 at the San Juan Generating Station near Farmington, NM. Which last week was responsible for the loss of over 100 mining jobs. Here again, another community devastated, families devastated, charity organizations devastated, numerous support jobs devastated **And now**, the EPA will, again, use their reckless process by ordering implementation of BART on the Hunter and Huntington Plants in Utah!

We the coal miners, we the coal industry; don't want handouts or subsidies as with the renewable industry. All we want is to compete in a fair and open market. Let the market dictate our fate and that of our competition. **That is the Real America and that is what will make America Great, Again!**

Nobody opposes clean air.....reality is.... **we already have it!**

To my coal mining brothers & sisters, take the high road, stay the course, continue to work hard, continue to provide affordable energy without handouts or subsidies. **And rest assured**, this mandate on killing coal is short lived, only 212 days left, but its resulting negative impacts will be felt for a generation or more.

That's all.