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 Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust

Comment On: MSHA-2014-0031-0076
 Exposure of Underground Miners to Diesel Exhaust: Request for Information; Reopening of Rulemaking Record; Extension of Comment Period

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 Comment from c c, NA

Submitter Information

Name: c c
Organization: NA

General Comment

Each year the wind industry is responsible for killing some 440,000 birds, including golden and bald eagles. According to estimates by the American Bird Conservancy, Even though many of these birds are protected by laws such as the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, in a congress 2015 report, Bureaucrats in Obama Administration routinely applied laws differently, often giving a pass to their allies while vigorously prosecuting businesses and individuals who do not share their far-left political ideals. A prime example of this can be found in the clearly differential treatment towards the protection of animals. In those years renewable energy companies had enjoyed preferential treatment, including the ability to avoid compliance with laws as well as generous tax breaks, government loans, and subsidies unavailable to oil and gas companies, despite the inherent risk and financial loss repeatedly presented.

A congress report outlined, while administration agencies In September 2014, were actively blocking oil and natural gas development claiming to be protecting endangered species, it developed a plan intended to "create a framework to streamline renewable energy permitting...on more than 22 million acres" of public and private land in the California desert full of endangered animals. The 8,000 page plan, which encompassed nearly one-quarter of the state, had been in the works for five years under President Obama to avoid "typically long, complicated environmental reviews," which are in place because of these environmentalists themselves. There serves perhaps no greater example of preferential treatment Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System project near the California and Nevada border. In addition to the clear cronyism displayed on this project, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System project

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serves as a textbook example of how far this Administration is willing to bend over backwards for its friends at the expense of others. Owners were granted federal money to build the Ivanpah project in an area that "served as prime desert tortoise habitat," which resulted in tortoise casualties. The tortoises, which are federally listed as threatened, are not the only casualties of Ivanpah as project biologists reported the killing of 76 birds in the final three months of last year alone. In addition, the Ivanpah project had been labeled a risk to air safety due to an unsafe glare coming from the thousands of billboard-sized mirrors "nearly blinding" pilots. As if killing animals, endangering the lives of aircraft passengers, and perpetuating the revolving door of cronyism with this project was not enough, Ivanpah owners successfully got the agency to delay the repayment of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal loans only to astonishingly apply for a \$539 million grant from the U.S. Treasury to pay off their debt to agency. These are just fraction of efforts by past Administration to play favorites, picking their far-left environmentalist friends as winners while attacking hydraulic fracturing and subsequently the oil and gas industries all at the expense of the American people.

Wind turbines are over two times as tall as the skyboxes at a Stadium and taller than the Statue of Liberty. And the blades on windmills can be as long as a football field and their blinking lights can be seen for twenty miles.

Solar panels pose major risks to firefighters who are struggling to find ways to safely put out blazes caused by the alternative energy source. For example, in 2013 it took more than 300 firefighters over 72 hours to put out an 11-alarm fire at a massive distribution center in South New Jersey, which ultimately destroyed the entire building. The roof of the almost 300,000 square foot facility was lined with more than 7,000 solar panels. One of the major concerns for firefighters is the risk of electrocution from solar panels because most cannot be turned off, leaving the wiring hot and dangerous. These dangers have forced firefighters to extinguish fires from a distance and focus merely on containing solar panel fires rather than trying to save the actual building.

Solar panels and wind turbines cannot be made without fossil fuels. A wind turbine is comprised of primarily steel (89.1%) and fiberglass (5.8%). Steel is made from iron ore through a process using coal or natural gas, and fiberglass is made from petroleum-based chemicals. In fact, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) listed as a disadvantage of wind power, "The consumption of fossil fuels and water during construction and decommissioning can be significant."

Solar panels rely on photovoltaic cells to capture sunlight that are composed of rare metals. These metals are acquired through mining, and at least one of the primary metals is made "from ash derived from burning coal for the production of energy."