2017 Archive of Coalfield Review

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This is the second edition of our new monthly e-newsletter, which will update you on our work, current action items, and upcoming events. If there is any other information you would like to see, please let us know.

Join CCJ for our annual Fall Fundraiser, “A Party in the Park”

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, CCJ will be hosting its third annual Fall Fundraiser, “A Party in the Park.” We will be at Washington Park Stone Pavilion from 6:00-9:00pm. Come support the Center for Coalfield Justice and increase access to environmental and economic justice for frontline communities. This year’s fundraiser will help us continue protecting our streams, homes, and communities from being sacrificed to corporate greed. Our organization is growing and we need your support to build more power in rural communities fighting for a better future. The cost of admission includes a pasta bar, entertainment, an entry into a door prize drawing, and one free drink (for those 21 years or older). To buy tickets for the Fall Fundraiser, see a CCJ staff member or board member, call 724-229-3550 or click the link below:


Governor Wolf Allows Unconstitutional Mining Law to Pass Without A Veto

Governor Wolf allowed Senate Bill 624 to pass into law on Friday, July 21st. The bill creates an exemption to an 80-year-old law that protects streams and water supplies and will allow mining companies to predictably damage or pollute streams based on a promise to clean them up later, instead of preventing the damage in the first place. To read more about SB 624, go here:


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Legal Updates on Protecting Streams in Ryerson

Our permit appeals before the Environmental Hearing Board are moving forward. Recently the Honorable Judge Beckman agreed with CCJ and denied both Consol's and DEP's motion to dismiss for permit revision 204. The Commonwealth Court agreed with CCJ and dismissed Consol's appeal of the supersede decision.


Upcoming Events

* Thursday, August 10, 2017 -- Washington United Meeting - Let's Fight for Fair Education!
* Saturday, September 16, 2017 -- Farm Aid
* Saturday, September 30, 2017 -- Fall Fundraiser: A Party in the Park
* Look for updates on CCJ's October training series -- announcement coming soon!
Coalfield Review: September 2017

Read our monthly e-newsletter, which will update you on our work, current action items, and upcoming events. If there is any other information you would like to see, please let us know.

Get Your Tickets - “A Party in the Park” is Almost Here!

We are less than one month away from our 3rd annual Fall Fundraiser! “A Party in the Park” will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at Washington Park in the stone pavilion from 6:00-9:00pm. To buy tickets for the Fall Fundraiser, visit our event page, see a CCJ staff member or board member, or call 724-229-3550.

The Environmental Hearing Board Rules in Favor of CCJ and S.C.
On Tuesday, August 15th Environmental Hearing Board Judges agreed with our community that impacts to Polen Run from the Bailey Mine Expansion in the 1L and 2L panels of the mine were illegal and, in the future, the Department of Environmental Protection should not approve the kind of damage that Polen Run suffered. Finally Consol Energy is being held accountable for destroying the very resources we depend upon for recreation.

Read a detailed breakdown of the judges opinion from our staff attorney here.

CCJ Introduces "Become a Community Advocate" Training Series

Have you been concerned about your rights being taken away and struggled to figure out how to get involved? The Center for Coalfield Justice is hosting a FREE training series that will teach you how to share your story, organize more people into a community action group, and implement a campaign to defend our environmental and human rights.

Click here for more information on the series and how to register

Upcoming Events

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*Sunday, September 10th - Protectors of Mingo Paint N Sip

*Saturday, September 16th - Farm Aid, Covered Bridge Festival

*Tuesday, September 19th - Oil and Gas Leases: The Basics

*Thursday, September 21st - Washington County United Meeting

*Saturday, September 30th - Fall Fundraiser: A Party in the Park

Support CCJ

Please consider donating to CCJ and/or becoming sustaining member. Your contribution support our efforts to protect people and the environment from coal mining, shale gas development, and other extractive activities.

Make a Donation Today
Coalfield Review: October 2017

Read our monthly e-newsletter, which will update you on our work, current action items, and upcoming events. If there is any other information you would like to see, please let us know.

A great party in the park!

We’d like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to everyone who attended our 3rd Annual Fall Fundraiser: A Party in the Park. This party was an unprecedented success...

Click here to read more about our Fall Fundraiser.

"Become a Community Advocate" Training Series Continues

Our training series, "Become a Community Advocate" has begun, but registration for the remaining sessions remains open. At the first session, attendees learned how to connect their own personal stories to issues they hope to champion; moving forward, we will discuss campaign planning, strategies for talking to media and decision makers, and fundraising for your group.

Click here to read more about the remaining training sessions and to register.
A permitting update on coal mining around Ryerson

Due to our recent legal win which made streambed lining illegal, Consol was forced to change their stream mitigation plan for proposed longwall mining under Polen Run. In response, on August 25th, Consol amended its pending permit revision seeking authorization for mining under Polen Run for the 4L and 5L panels of the Bailey Mine with a new stream mitigation plan that includes spraying the damaged streambed with a liquid plastic-type material to fill in cracks and attempt to fix predicted flow loss. In addition to being completely untested in streams, this is particularly concerning because the sections of Polen Run above these panels are inside Ryerson Station State Park.

Read our blog post for more details.

Upcoming Events

* October 16 - "Become a Community Advocate" Training Series: Session #2
* October 23 - "Become a Community Advocate" Training Series: Session #3
* October 30 - "Become a Community Advocate" Training Series: Session #4
* November 16th - Yough Defense Party
* November 17 to 20th - People vs Oil and Gas Summit

Support CCJ

We could not do this work without the continued support of our members and supporters. Please help us to continue our work to protect Ryerson and fight for environmental justice in

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southwestern Pennsylvania by making a donation to CCJ. Any gift made to the Center for Coalfield Justice is 100% tax-deductible.

Donate Today
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The People vs. Oil and Gas

The People vs. Oil and Natural Gas Summit will be held from Friday, November 17 - Monday, November 20 at the Omni William Penn in Pittsburgh. This Summit is an opportunity for communities who are fighting back against fossil fuels to gather to share stories, strategies, and skills, as well as to collaborate with other communities who are doing the same kinds of work across the country. Most exciting, on Monday we will taking action at energy companies’ headquarters to make it clear we will not stop fighting for our homes, water, and air.

Hotel rooms in Pittsburgh for the weekend are sold out, but if you’d like to attend the conference and are able to make it into the city, click here to register.
Emerging Leaders against the climate crisis

Fourteen hundred concerned community members came to Pittsburgh from October 17-19 for the Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps training at the David L Lawrence Convention Center. Throughout the three days, participants heard from scientists and other experts about the current science on climate change and the crisis that will happen if we don’t act now. CCJ staff members Veronica Coptis and Sarah Martik and board member Lois Bower-Bjornson joined hundreds of others specifically from the Pittsburgh region to learn more about the reality of our environment and ways to create progress.

To read more about the Climate Reality Project and CCJ’s participation, click here.
On Friday, November 3, 2017, the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) issued Permit Revision No. 209 to Coal Mining Activity Permit 30841316. Permit Revision No. 209 authorizes Consol to conduct longwall mining in the 6L – 8L panels of the Bailey Mine. Read more..

Ongoing Fundraisers

Tickets for an Andy Russell Signed Football (benefits CCJ), click here
Texas Roadhouse Bread, Butter, and Giftcards (benefits Protectors of Mingo), click here

Upcoming Events

*November 16 - Yough Defense Party
*November 30 - Legal Services Cafe, Greensburg (Connections Cafe - 112 N. Main Street, 5:00-7:30)
*December 2 - Power Pittsburgh Forward Rally
*December 7 - Legal Services Cafe, Washington (The Washington Brewing Co - 28 E. Maident Street, 5:00-7:30pm)
*December 19 - CCJ Holiday Party

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Bailey Mine Permitting Update

On Friday, November 3, 2017, the Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) issued Permit Revision No. 209 to Coal Mining Activity Permit 30841316. Permit Revision No. 209 authorizes Consol to conduct longwall mining in the 6L – 8L panels of the Bailey Mine. There has been some confusion about whether Permit Revision No. 209 authorizes longwall mining beneath Polen Run in the 4L and 5L panels of the Bailey Mine. It does not. Instead, it authorizes longwall mining in three panels (6L-8L) that are located in an area south-east of Ryerson Station State Park. Read more -->

Why CCJ Participated in Action Holding Fossil Fuel Companies Accountable

On Monday, November 20th people held energy companies at Southpointe accountable. The action had two parts: a pre-approved march throughout Southpointe, which organizer Sarah participated in, and a blockade of a major road within Southpointe. In our communities fossil fuel extraction disrupts our lives every day. The noise produced from fracking can be stressful to the point of being

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unbearable, and no one likes being hounded by persistent and aggressive land agents to sign leases. When we’ve stood up for our rights in the past, we’ve done so where we live, and in many of those cases we were ignored because the people in the industry who make the calls that affect us so drastically do not live in our communities. The goal of this action was to show those in the fossil fuel industry what it’s like to spend your daily life in a place with constant disturbance. On this one Monday morning the people working for these energy companies felt the same traffic impacts those of us on the frontlines of fracking and mining feel everyday. Read more --->

Parent’s Know Your Rights Training

Our friends at Washington County United are hosting a training that will help you learn what rights you have as a parent, what rights your child has, and how you can use these legal protections to help make sure your child has the resources they need to succeed. Read more --->

Upcoming Events

*December 7 - Legal Services Cafe, Washington
*December 8 - Parent’s Know Your Rights Training
*December 19 - CCJ Holiday Party

Support CCJ

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We could not do this work without the continued support of our members and supporters. Please help us to continue our work to protect Ryerson and fight for environmental justice in southwestern Pennsylvania by making a donation to CCJ. Any gift made to the Center for Coalfield Justice is 100% tax-deductible.

Donate Today