News From U.S. Senator
Robert C. Byrd
West Virginia
Phone (202) 224-3904

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BYRD REACTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SPRUCE #1 MINE

Washington, DC – U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., issued the following reaction to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement that they will begin veto proceedings of Arch Coal's surface mining request at Spruce #1 Mine in Logan County:

"The announcement by the EPA today of its Proposed Determination to exercise its veto authority over the Spruce #1 Mine permit begins a process that enables the company and the public to comment on the matter in writing and at public hearings. I would strongly encourage all parties to seek a balanced, fair, reasonable compromise."

"EPA Administrator Jackson reiterated to me that more wide-ranging guidance is forthcoming in the near future, providing clarity relating to water quality issues and mining permits. I encouraged her to move forward as soon as possible so those seeking approval of permits can fully understand the parameters for acceptable activity under the Clean Water Act."

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