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West Virginia Coal

“Shaping Public Opinion & Policy”



OUR NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM TAKES THE HELM

*President Trump and
Governor Morrisey will
lead West Virginia into
a new future where
coal is once again at
the forefront of our
nation's energy policy.*



New State, Federal Leadership Will Lead Coal's Charge Into the Future

A Note from the President's Desk

By Chris Hamilton

West Virginia - the heart of America's coal country - has found its ideal political leadership in incoming President Donald Trump, Governor Patrick Morrisey, Senators Capito and Justice and Congressional Representatives Miller and Moore. Add in our state legislative leadership of Hanshaw and Smith, their legislative colleagues and members of the Board of Public Works, together, they represent a bright new dawn for our state, one where the coal industry isn't just surviving but thriving. They bring a bold vision, unwavering commitment, and proven leadership that promises to elevate West Virginia's economy and protect its way of life. President Trump has consistently demonstrated his dedication to coal and the hard-

working men and women who mine it. His America First energy policies during his first term revitalized the industry, rolling back burdensome regulations, restoring fair treatment of coal in energy markets, and giving our miners the respect they deserve. His return to office promises to pick up where he left off, fostering an environment where coal is recognized as a vital national resource rather than an industry to be sidelined.

Governor Patrick Morrisey, a fierce advocate for coal and constitutional rights, has long been a stalwart champion of West Virginia's energy sector. As Attorney General, he stood up to the federal overreach of the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, leading the charge in the

landmark Supreme Court case *West Virginia v. EPA*. His leadership saved thousands of jobs and proved that West Virginia would not bow to misguided policies that threaten its economy and energy security.

The Trump-Morrisey partnership is one of shared priorities and mutual respect for the role coal plays in powering America and supporting our local communities. Their vision is clear: support coal jobs, invest in clean coal technologies, and ensure our miners have the tools and opportunities to succeed in the global marketplace.

They have an extraordinary supporting cast in place for critical assistance on every

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Randy Smith, Retired Coal Miner, is New Senate President

CHARLESTON, WV -- West Virginia senators officially selected Randy Smith, a retired coal miner, to lead the chamber.

"I'm just so overwhelmed today with the love and support that each of you have shown me," said Smith, R-Preston, who has said that before retiring he worked the nine years in coal mine safety after spending 22 years as a section foreman.

"I've never had a more humbling experience than I've had today. I'm a coal miner — well, I used to be. But coal miners always used to tell the guys, 'coal miners don't cry.' I guess I'm not a coal miner any more because I've cried quite a bit today, just being overwhelmed with joy."

The Senate's top leadership position was open because Craig Blair, who has held the position since 2021, was defeated in the Republican primary

election.

In the House of Delegates, Roger Hanshaw, R-Clay, was again selected to be speaker. Hanshaw has held that position since 2018.

Smith last month won the support of a majority of the Senate Republicans, making it clear that he would be the nominee. Today, his colleagues made it official. The new Senate majority leader, Patrick Martin, nominated Smith. Senator Rollan Roberts, R-Raleigh, seconded the nomination. Senate Minority Leader Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell, moved to close the nominations and for Smith to be elected by acclamation.

"Bringing the Senate together isn't a job for the faint of heart. It takes a passionate person, but if anyone has the passion, the tenacity and the sense of humor to do it, it's Randy," said Martin, R-Upshur.

Roberts described Smith as a man of faith.

"He places his faith in God to use him, direct him, empower him and use him to help the state of West Virginia make progress in the right areas," Roberts said. "Randy is a man of strong character. He is a man who is full of loyalty."

Smith, who has represented a sprawling district around Preston County, most recently has served as the Energy Chairman. He was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2012 and then won election to the Senate in 2016.

Today was an organizational day for both the House and Senate. The Legislature will gavel out until the 60-day regular session kicks off Feb. 12, giving Governor-elect Patrick Morrisey's new administration time to organize and produce its own agenda.

"Norfolk Southern's Coal Exports Top Domestic Volume

NORFOLK -- Norfolk Southern transported more coal for export last year than it did for domestic power production, according to the railroad's fourth quarter earnings report.

The Atlanta-based railroad hauled shy of 30 million tons of domestic coal in 2024 and 33 million tons of export coal. The railroad's coal domestic and export tons were about the same in 2023.

Historically domestic coal has dominated for Norfolk Southern and its

principal rival, CSX, but the years-long decline in coal as a fuel for U.S. electricity has flipped the order.

In another sign of the shift, Norfolk Southern's domestic coal haul fell 16% in the fourth quarter, while export tons increased 13%.

Norfolk Southern transports central Appalachian coal to the port of Norfolk, Virginia, and northern Appalachian coal to the port of Baltimore. Norfolk Southern operates the second-most miles of track in West

Virginia behind CSX.

CSX last week reported its fourth quarter results. The railroad's presentation showed that it, too, hauled more export coal than domestic coal in 2024.

On Tuesday, Norfolk Southern reached a \$22 million settlement with East Palestine, Ohio, over a 2023 derailment and fire that displaced residents and contaminated air, water and soil in the area with toxic chemicals.

Trump's Comments to Davos Audience Boost US Coal

BLOOMBER NEWS (JANUARY 23) -- US coal producers' shares climbed after President Donald Trump promoted the fuel as a power source during a video address Thursday to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Peabody Energy Corp., the top US coal miner, surged as much as 7.6%, the most intraday since the day following

the November presidential election. Core Natural Resources Inc. gained as much as 2.9% and the Russell 3000's coal subsector index rose as much as 4.2%.

Trump's support for fossil fuels is well known, but coal didn't receive as much attention during this campaign as it did in prior elections. The new

president is seeking to revamp US energy policy with an increased focus on oil and natural gas, and his comments Thursday demonstrated he also is keen to bolster the dirtiest fossil fuel. "Nothing can destroy coal. Not the weather, not a bomb," Trump told attendees at the economic conference. "It's a great backup."

West Virginia Coal Association in the News

WVCA on TalkLine

West Virginia Coal Association President Chris Hamilton was a guest on MetroNews Talkline radio show on January 21. His appearance started at the 1:20 mark of the show.

During his appearance Chris discussed the shortage of electricity as demand increases.

"There is no way that PJM could meet the demands of today if coal-fired power had been taken off line," Hamilton said, when asked about the continued need for coal in the energy mix."

"And we are very blessed here in West Virginia and really within the PJM to have the very best coal in the world," Hamilton said. "We are one of only two states in the PJM that produces enough electricity to export it to other states."

Hamilton said we wouldn't be worried about shortages of electricity during high-demand winter and summer months if the nation still had its baseload coal fleet, but for the past 20 years -- except for the four years of the first Trump Administration -- the Obama and then Biden administrations "did everything humanly possible to ratchet down coal use "through regulatory assaults.

Hamilton also pointed to the electric utilities whose new leadership continues to operate under the policies of the Obama and Biden administrations.

Other than that, Hamilton said, "There is no reason that these coal plants are not running year round at a much higher capacity level. And these utilities have to come to a new realization. These plants should be running more -- seven days a week -- to get the full benefit for our state and our state ratepayers."

West Virginians React to President Trump's Executive Orders on Energy

The WV Coal Association also discussed

their takeaways from President Trump's executive orders. Chris Hamilton, their president and CEO, said it's exciting to see Trump move forward so swiftly and boldly.

5 takeaways as Trump returns to power "We're just so pleased that President Trump is interested in moving coal, moving natural gas forward and that's not to say that we still shouldn't develop alternative energy sources because we should and we can," Hamilton said. "A strong energy industry and an energy-independent country also equates to national security and national defense. There's no way you can have either of those desired outcomes and programs without having a strong domestic energy production." Even though executive orders allow a president to wield power without the action of Congress, there are limits. The Associated Press says both Congress and the courts can potentially block executive orders.

West Virginia Coal Association supports Trump's plan to 'Make America Energy Dominant'

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WV News) — The West Virginia Coal Association is ready to assist President Donald Trump with his vision of making America "energy dominant again."

The organization looks forward to working with the new administration "to make West Virginia the energy capital of America and the world," President Chris Hamilton said.

"President Trump has consistently demonstrated his dedication to coal and the hardworking men and women who mine it. His America First energy policies during his first term revitalized the industry, rolling back burdensome regulations, restoring fair treatment of coal in energy markets, and giving our miners the respect they deserve," he said. "His return to office promises to pick up where he left

off, fostering an environment where coal is recognized as a vital national resource rather than an industry to be sidelined." Shortly after he took office Monday, the White House released a document outlining "President Trump's America First Priorities." It includes a section on the president's plans to "MAKE AMERICA AFFORDABLE AND ENERGY DOMINANT AGAIN."

The section outlines several actions Trump executed via executive order shortly after his inauguration ceremony:

- The president will unleash American energy by ending President Joe Biden's policies of climate extremism, streamlining permitting, and reviewing for rescission all regulations that impose undue burdens on energy production and use, including mining and processing of non-fuel minerals.
- Trump's energy actions will empower consumer choice in vehicles, show-ers, toilets, washing machines, lightbulbs, and dishwashers.
- Trump will declare an energy emergency and use all necessary resources to build critical infrastructure.
- Trump's energy policies will end leasing to massive wind farms that degrade natural landscapes and fail to serve American energy consumers.
- Trump will withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord.
- All agencies will take emergency measures to reduce the cost of living.
- Trump will announce the America First Trade Policy.
- America will no longer be beholden to foreign organizations for national tax policy, which punishes American businesses.

WVCA on Inside West Virginia Politics

West Virginia Coal Association President Chris Hamilton also appeared on Inside West Virginia Politics on January 2.



Coal Facts 2024 in Brief

West Virginia is the:

- Largest underground mining state.
- Second largest coal producing state.
- Largest producer of metallurgical coal in the nation.
- Largest supplier of metallurgical coal to the U.S. iron and steel industry.
- Leading coal export state accounting for over 40% of nations total coal exports & ½ of the state’s total export product.
- West Virginia coal is shipped to electric plants, industrial facilities and steel making operations in 30 states and 40 foreign destinations. West Virginia currently has 130 operating coal mines. The majority, or 80%,

are underground operations and 20% (55) are surface mines.

West Virginia mining companies employ 13,000 miners and other 43,000 individuals work at the 833 companies that are registered with the West Virginia Offices of Miners’ Health, Safety & Training as registered contractors at mining operations in various occupations ranging from mine maintenance, reclamation, equipment repairs, machine shops, etc.,

The states leading economist John Deskins authored a study three years ago on the economic impact of West Virginias Coal Fleet. The coal industry represents an incredible number of jobs, taxes and economic activity for the state. Coal severance collections

are at a record high and are distributed to all 55 counties to fund important education and government services. The Deskins study assessed the total value of the West Virginia coal industry at nearly \$14 billion or one out of every 6 dollars generated within the state.

West Virginia coal represents major employers that have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in our state and in our people. They’re responsible for billions of dollars in working capital, wages, and taxes. These dollars are recirculated throughout our state in a variety of ways on the retail level. .

Friends of Coal Social Media Report 2024

Performance Summary

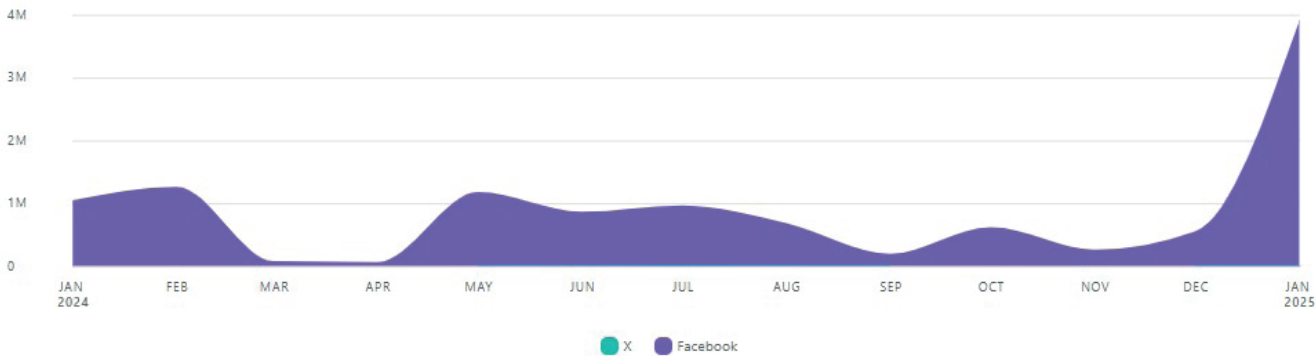
View your key profile performance metrics accrued during the selected time period.



Impressions	Engagements	Post Link Clicks	Engagement Rate (per Impression)
11,628,794	919,354	39,615	7.9%

Impressions

Review how your content was seen across networks during the selected time period.



PRESIDENT (cont.)

level and it’s hard to see how this lineup could possibly fail. West Virginia’s coal families deserve leaders who fight for them, not against them. Trump and Morrisey understand that coal is more than just an industry, it’s a lifeline for thousands of families, a pillar of our state’s identity, and a foundation of America’s energy independence. With President Trump in the White House

and Governor Morrisey in Charleston, West Virginia has the leadership it needs to protect its proud heritage, create new opportunities, and show the world that coal country is here to stay. Together, this dream team is poised to make West Virginia’s bright future a reality. With world coal use on the rise and West Virginia’s coal desired around the globe, our best years could very well be ahead of

us as new markets emerge and opportunities multiply. The West Virginia Coal Association welcomes our political leadership in the White House, Congress, the Governor’s mansion and Statehouse. We look forward to working with them to make West Virginia the energy capital of America and the world.