

## Met Coal Makes Steel



*Ben Beakes, President, MCPA Says Met Coal Makes Steel*

Ben Beakes, President, Metallurgical Coal Producers Association (MCPA) gave a presentation **Met Coal Makes Steel** (presentation [here](#)) to the Bluefield Coal Symposium held at the Chuck Mathena Center in Princeton, August 12-14 presented by the Chamber of Commerce of the Two Virginias and CoalZoom.com. The event was chaired by Bill Reid, managing Editor of *CoalZoom*.

Beakes said that part of the decrease in coal-fired electricity since 2008 is attributable to a 29% decrease in coal-fired generating capacity. Another factor is lower utilization of the remaining coal power plants. The combined effects led coal-fired electricity generation to fall 61% since 2008 and to fall lower than nuclear in 2020.

EIA projects coal capacity will decrease in its *Annual Energy Outlook 2023*. By 2050, the high zero-carbon technology cost case forecasts coal generating capacity will be reduced to 100 gigawatts, the reference case 75 gigawatts, and the low zero-carbon technology cost case 25 gigawatts, respectively.

The Metallurgical Coal Producers Association (MCPA), a regional association of leading U.S. metallurgical (met) coal producers in Appalachia, estimates that it now represents the majority of met coal produced on an annual basis in the U.S. Its coal producing members are: Alpha Metallurgical Resources, Blackhawk Mining, Coronado, Metinvest, Ramaco Resources and Robindale Energy. MCPA producing members account for roughly 55% of met coal produced in the U.S. – all mined within a four-state region of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

There are 95 coal mines operated by MCPA members with 10,000 + people directly employed. The average salary of those is \$86,335 and 35 million tons of met coal were produced by MCPA members in 2023. This represents 52% of total U.S. met coal production. There are 125 companies and organizations that are associate members of MCPA.

In 2023, total U.S. met coal production was 67.1 million tons with 15.8 million going to the domestic market and 51.3 million tons being exported. Last year, the top met coal export ports were Norfolk, VA 56%, Baltimore, MD 18%, and Mobile, AL 16%. The major steel-producing countries of the world are China, India, Japan, United States and Russia.