



## THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S COAL CONNECTIONS

### CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS: COAL CASH\*

During the 2000 presidential elections, the Bush-Cheney campaign received a total of **\$2,872,473** from energy and extractive interests. Of this amount, **\$422,739** was contributed by electric utilities, including several of those well-known for running some of the nation's oldest and dirtiest coal-burning power plants: Southern Company, First Energy, and Reliant Energy. Another contributor was the powerful utility trade group, Edison Electric Institute. The coal mining industry gave **\$107,821** to the campaign, with Lehman Brothers (owners of Peabody Coal) and Arch Coal listed as top contributors. The combined total of contributions from electric utilities and the coal mining industry was **\$530,560**.

Arch Coal is one of the high-profile coal mining companies responsible for the environmentally disastrous practice of mountaintop removal mining. Arch made PAC contributions to the Bush-Cheney campaign totaling **\$5,000**. PACs of the National Mining Association—of which Arch and another major supporter of mountain top removal mining, Massey Energy Company, are both members—gave a total of **\$5,000** to the campaign. Individual contributions from Arch Coal and its then-affiliate, Ashland Inc., amounted to **\$6,994**.

CSX, a transportation giant with interests in railroads and transportation, also has a vested interest in supporting the practice of mountaintop removal because they ship the mined coal. CSX Corp.'s PAC contributed **\$5,000** to the Bush-Cheney campaign, while individual contributions were at **\$15,000**.

Several high-ranking representatives of energy interests became "Pioneers" during the 2000 campaign. Each member of this exclusive group of Bush-supporters raised at least **\$100,000** for the Republican presidential election effort. Among those on the roster were CSX executives A.R. Carpenter (who later gave **\$5,000** to the Florida recount fund) and T.M. Fiorentino. Also on the Pioneer roll are top executives from coal-burning utilities and their trade group: Reliant Energy, First Energy, Texas Utilities (TXU) and the powerful Edison Electric Institute.

Soft money contributions from the coal mining industry to the Republican National Committee during the 2000 election cycle were **\$767,825**. The world's largest coal mining company, Peabody Coal, made a soft money contribution of **\$25,000** for the "2001 President's Dinner." Electric utilities gave **\$2,018,336** in soft money to the RNC during this time for a grand total of **\$2,786,161** in soft money contributions from the coal mining and electric utility industries to the RNC during the 2000 election cycle. CSX contributed **\$156,500** in soft money contributions to the RNC during the 2000 election cycle.

<b>COAL MINING CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUSH-CHENEY 2000</b>	<b>\$107,821</b>	<b>SOFT \$\$\$ TO RNC (COAL MINING)</b>	<b>\$767,825</b>
<b>ELECTRIC UTILITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUSH-CHENEY 2000</b>	<b>\$422, 739</b>	<b>SOFT \$\$\$ TO PRES. DINNER (PEABODY)</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>CSX CORP CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUSH-CHENEY 2000</b>	<b>+ \$20, 000</b>	<b>SOFT \$\$\$ TO RNC (ELECTRIC UTILITIES)</b>	<b>\$2,018,336</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$550,560</b>	<b>SOFT \$\$\$ TO RNC (CSX)</b>	<b>+ \$156, 500</b>
			<b>\$2,967,661</b>

\*Information on campaign contributions obtained from the Center for Responsive Politics, [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

## **KEY APPOINTMENTS: STACKING THE DECK**

The Bush administration's pattern of appointing lawyers and lobbyists from corporate special interests to high-level government jobs includes placing advocates for the coal mining and related industries into some of our nation's most critical environmental positions in the federal government. This has resulted in a situation where the deck has been stacked against the protection of our precious and limited natural resources and the nation's public health in favor of the coal industry's profits.

Now, three agencies—the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency—are considering making a change to a key Clean Water Act regulation to allow the coal mining industry to blow the tops off of mountains and bury surrounding streams in mining waste.

Below are listed some of the ties between the coal industry and related companies and key environmental officials at the White House, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of the Interior.

### **MIKE PARKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, OFFICE OF CIVIL WORKS,**

- During his ten-year tenure as a member of Congress, Parker had a dismal environmental record. In 2000, Parker started a lobbying firm whose clients include CSX Corp., a giant railroad and transportation company. CSX transports much of the coal mined in Appalachia from mountaintop removal and other forms of mining, and the company reports actively working to weaken Clean Water Act restrictions on waste dumps from mountaintop removal coal mining.

### **J. STEVEN GRILES, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)**

- During his tenure with the Reagan administration as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Surface Mining, the OSM's budget was slashed and enforcement of mining regulations fell drastically. After leaving the Reagan administration, Griles served as a lobbyist for the coal and oil industry. Among his clients were the National Mining Association and the Edison Electric Institute. The National Mining Association expressed support for Griles's nomination in the *Denver Post*, saying: "He's an ally of the industry...[t]his will hopefully be a breath of fresh air."

### **ANN KLEE, COUNSELOR TO THE SECRETARY, DOI**

- Lobbied on behalf of the American Mining Congress for revisions to the Clean Water Act.

### **JEFF JARRETT, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING, DOI**

- Recommended by Steven Griles for this post, Jarrett was a former executive at Cravat Coal and Drummond Coal, later going on to serve at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management.

### **ANOTHER COAL CONNECTION: DICK CHENEY, VICE PRESIDENT**

- *Time.com* recently reported that Peabody Coal was among the corporate giants that had special access to Cheney's energy task force. It is not yet clear how many other coal and utility heavyweights may have influenced the industry-friendly plan, as Cheney has repeatedly refused to release this information to Congress or the public and is currently facing a lawsuit filed by the Government Accounting Office to obtain that information.

**For more information, contact Maria Weidner or Joan Mulhern at (202) 667-4500.**

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**Earthjustice** is the nonprofit law firm for the environment representing—without charge—hundreds of public interest clients, large and small. Earthjustice works through the courts to safeguard public lands, national forests, parks and wilderness areas; to reduce air and water pollution; to prevent toxic contamination; to preserve endangered species and wildlife habitat; and to achieve environmental justice.

**White House Watch**, a project of Earthjustice, monitors administrative actions and reveals attempts to weaken our nation's existing environmental and public health safeguards.

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