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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

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May 14, 2009

Hon. Lisa Jackson, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

As you are aware from our conversations, there is a perception in the Appalachian coalfields that EPA has placed a moratorium on the issuance of coal mining permits, primarily for mountaintop removal operations, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

However, it is my understanding that out of a universe of 48 such permits reviewed by EPA, your agency expressed concerns with six, and that Corps is free to proceed with the issuance of the remaining 42 permits.

I would appreciate it if you would advise me whether this is your understanding as well. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,



NICK J. RAHALL, II
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources