



# The Coal Scoop

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FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF PA COAL

1200 Maronda Way, Suite 403A  
Monessen, PA 15062  
www.families4pacoal.org

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## Understanding Your Electric Bill

If you're like most people, you get your electric bill, open it, pay it and then file it away without ever analyzing how you spend your energy dollars. Understanding your electric bill could be an important tool in identifying energy and cost-saving opportunities, and to see how your energy usage compares to the national average. According to the EIA, the average U.S. household consumes 908 kilowatt-hours per month; here in Pennsylvania it is slightly less at 842 kilowatt hours.

Of course every bill has the standard items such as the electricity providers contact information as well as the customer's address, account number, and date of the billing cycle. The central part of your bill contains the amount of usage for the month. The basic unit of measure of electric power is the watt and your electric utility bills you by the kilowatt-hour (kWh). Typically, anything in your home that runs on electricity is rated on the number of watts it burns. A 60 watt light bulb burns 60 watts of electricity, or 60 kWh every hour it is lit. If the bulb is on for five hours, it use 300 kWh. One kilowatt equals 1,000 watts, so a kilowatt hour is a consumption of electricity of 1,000 watts over a 1 hour

period. The basic electric meter is a clock like device with dials that spin faster when you are using more electricity.

Additionally, various other charges comprise your bill besides your monthly usage. A portion of your bill that we are all familiar with is - taxes. Then there are some terms that are not so familiar such as the transmission charge and distribution charge. A transmission charge is the cost of delivering electricity over high voltage lines from the generation facility to your electric utility. The distribution charge is the cost of moving electricity over lower voltage lines from your electric utility to your home.

In these days of deregulated electricity, it's even more important than ever to review your utility bill in order to make smarter, energy efficient decisions and better manage your utility bills. With electricity costs expected to rise, it's crucial to keep domestic and affordable coal in the electric generation mix. According to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the cost to generate electricity from coal is 5.7 cents/kWh compared to gas at 7.20 cents/kWh; wind at 7.46 cents/kWh; nuclear at 7.50 cents/kWh; solar thermal units at \$2.76/kWh.



## 2011 F.O.R.C.E. Hurricane Classic

Our second fund raiser of the year was the eighth annual Hurricane Classic held on Friday, September 9, 2011 at Cedarbrook Golf course in Belle Vernon. This year, as in years past, our event was at full capacity thanks to the generous support of our sponsors whose participation enables F.O.R.C.E. to continue our outdoor advertising campaign. We appreciate all of our members who contributed and helped make the day a success.

The winners for the red course were the 18 Karat Inc, team consisting of Peter Magnotta, Todd Shumaker, Paul Pozonsky and Jim Manuel with the Amerikohl Mining team coming in at an extremely close 2nd. On the gold course the Alpha Natural Resources team made up of Lou Pianetti, Andrew Pianetti, Jeremy Vasilko and Dave Dunn came in 1st place with the KM Enterprises team coming in 2nd finishing only one shot off the leaders.



18 Karat Inc.  
Red Course Winners

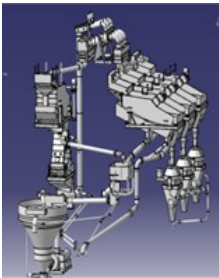


Alpha Natural Resources  
Gold Course Winners

## FEATURED COMPANY

# Farnham & Pfile

Farnham & Pfile Engineering, Inc. is a privately held corporation headquartered in Monessen, Pennsylvania. Along with Farnham & Pfile Construction, Inc., the two companies concentrate primarily on engineering / construction projects in the coal industry. Since their inception, they have continually expanded the services offered to their customers. A pivotal part of their success lies in the turnkey capabilities offered in engineering, procurement, design, and construction. These are all self-performed services by Farnham & Pfile employees.



Farnham & Pfile's engineering needs are supported by a fully integrated system that uses object-oriented plant modeling platform with knowledge based tools. The design base provides advanced 2-D and 3-D geometry creation and editing with parametric features including highly productive project set up capability, state-of-the-art viewing and view management, productive and open customization and development tools, and "workgroup computing" approach to production. Process piping, structure, platework and mechanical are completely modeled in 3-D in design phase virtually eliminating interferences and clashes during construction thus saving time and costly modifications

This top-of-the-line engineering system allows Farnham & Pfile to provide its customers with a quality product while staying on schedule and on budget. Farnham & Pfile's most current list of projects include:



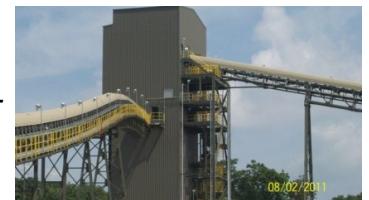
*The design, engineering, procurement and erection of a 1500 TPH preparation plant with 600 TPH sized bypass.*

*The completion of three gas processing plants. The project included all civil, mechanical, piping fabrication, installation, connection and erection and testing of all plant components and equipment.*



*Completion of a 22,000 ft., 72", 4,600 TPH overland raw coal conveyor system for CONSOL Energy from Crabapple portal to Bailey Prep Plant.*

*Near completion of a 7,600 ft., 48", 3,650 TPH refuse handling conveyor expansion with three (3) 400 TPH refuse storage/truck loadout bins for CONSOL's Bailey Prep Plant.*



*Undertaking of the BMX plant upgrade of existing Bailey Preparation Plant. The project upgrade includes new raw coal distribution, circuitry capacity increases and modifications and new plant operating PLC controls. This will increase the capacity of the plant from 6,500 TPH to 8,000 TPH plant feed.*

Thomas J. Porterfield, P.E., President of Farnham & Pfile Engineering, Inc. credits the success of the company to its ability to adapt to the needs of the customer and keep the customer totally involved from the design phase through completion of the project. As Farnham & Pfile has continued to improve with each project, we have maintained our original motto of "Building Your Future Ahead of Schedule".

## Legislative Update

Remarks by George Ellis, President of the PCA  
At the 25th Annual St. Barnabas CEO Leadership Conference

Pennsylvania is the fourth leading coal producing state – our 2010 production totaled 66 million tons. Most of this output, about 59 million tons or 90 percent of the total production, came from bituminous mines located in western Pennsylvania; including 36 underground mines and 300 surface mines and reprocessing sites.

Coal is our largest indigenous fossil fuel. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates the demonstrated U.S. coal reserve base at 496 billion tons distributed geographically among 31 states; with 27 billion tons remaining in Pennsylvania (of the 27 billion tons of Pennsylvania's coal reserves, almost 19 million tons, about 71 percent, are located in southwestern Pennsylvania). At current production and consumption levels, coal supplies will be available for at least the next 250 years. In fact, on an energy equivalent basis, the 5,441 quadrillion BTUs of U.S. coal surpasses the 4,446 quadrillion BTUs of Middle East oil.

Most of our coal is primarily used for electric generation – about 80 percent of what we mine each year is used for this purpose. Our other markets include industrial production (particularly in the steel making process) and foreign exports.

Coal's cost and abundance are the reasons for its dominance of the electric generating market. Coal is the least expensive fuel for electric generation. Based on information from the Pennsylvania PUC, the cost to generate electricity from coal is 5.7 cents/kWh. By comparison gas costs 7.20 cents/kWh; wind is 7.46 cents/kWh; nuclear is 7.5 cents/kWh; solar thermal units \$2.76/kWh and solar PVs is \$4.12/kWh.

The mining industry is a significant contributor to Pennsylvania's economy. In 2008, its annual worth to the Commonwealth, based on employment, compensation, output and the impact of industry's supply chain, was valued at over \$7 billion.

In addition, it was responsible for the creation of 41,500 direct and indirect jobs with a payroll totaling over \$2.2 billion. Taxes on these wages alone netted more than \$700 million to the coffers of federal, state and local governments.

Advancements in technology combined with strict regulatory standards and a rigorous permitting process have allowed mining to proceed without posing long-term environmental offsets.

Post mining discharges from newly permitted mine sites have been virtually eliminated and the active mining industry has taken the lead in reclaiming abandoned mine lands and abating old acid mine drainage at no cost to the Commonwealth.

Most importantly, Pennsylvania operators individually and collectively have an excellent record of compliance with the mining laws and regulations. According to OSM's yearly annual review of DEP's coal mine regulatory program, operators achieved a compliance rate of 94 percent in 2010; OSM's objective is 88 percent.

Pennsylvania DEP data indicate that coal is becoming an increasingly cleaner source of electricity for the state's power plants. From 2000 – 2010, electric generating units in Pennsylvania have reduced their emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> by 58 percent and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 41 percent. In addition, according to EPA figures, newer plants emit 90 percent fewer pollutants per unit of electricity.

These sizeable reductions result from the application of existing pollution control technologies and not esoteric technology barely off the drawing board.

Despite these clear benefits the road ahead for coal, or any fossil fuel, is daunting. Perhaps the biggest impediment to our continued reliance on fossil fuels to generate electricity is federal policies designed to transform America's energy use away from these sources.

Frankly, EPA's heightened scrutiny and overzealous regulation of coal mining in the past two years threaten the future economic viability of our industry. These policies attack both the mineral extraction process through protracted federal review of mining permits heretofore reserved to the states, and the end use process through establishing unreasonable and unjustifiable emission reduction standards for greenhouse gases, mercury, coal waste, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and a plethora of other alleged pollutants.

The consequences of enacting these proposals would be devastating. They would add a heavy burden on consumers through massive rate hikes, destabilize Pennsylvania's electric grid by replacing reliable forms of energy with intermittent sources and derail an already fragile economy. Our supply vulnerability is not mere conjecture. The PJM estimates that 20,000 MW of coal-fired capacity within its system is at risk of retirement from EPA's rules and both the Pennsylvania PUC and DEP have questioned the reliability assessments performed by the federal agency for these rules, maintaining that they could present serious local reliability issues.

At the risk of sounding overly dramatic, how these issues are addressed will not only impact the future role of coal as an energy source but also alter our nation's ability to secure its energy future and restore economic stability.

Everyone wants a sound environment, but this goal has to be and can be balanced by the need for cheap and reliable electricity in quantities that only coal can reliably deliver at costs that only coal can reliably promise.

This is the true path towards energy security and economic prosperity and it is a route that runs through southwestern Pennsylvania.



**Fighting for the Future of PA Coal**

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## **COAL** Generating Power For America And Jobs For PA



A recent study by Management Information Systems Inc. estimates that the Clean Coal Research and Development program will return a 13 to 1 benefit for the Department of Energy by 2020.



One reason to be skeptical of “Global Warming” is that the 0.7° increase in temperatures over the last century is entirely consistent with well-established, long-term, natural climate trends.

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca)



Energy Efficiency Tip: Proper furnace maintenance is a must as a safety measure but it could also mean big savings. Having your furnace serviced could save up to \$400 off of your winter heating costs and replacing the filters when necessary could save an addition \$60 per year.

[chiff.com](http://chiff.com)



## **Fighting for the Future of PA Coal**