

CONCOURS BLANC ANGLAIS - MAI 2023

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PCSI 1 - MPSI

Rédigez en anglais en 400 mots une synthèse des documents proposés. Vous indiquerez avec précision à la fin de votre travail le nombre de mots (titre compris) qu'elle comporte et mettez une barre tous les vingt mots. Un écart de 10% en plus ou en moins sera toléré. Votre synthèse comportera un titre comptabilisé dans le nombre de mots. Faites une marge de chaque côté.

DOCUMENT 1 'My friends were lied to': will coalminers stand by Trump as jobs disappear?
The Guardian Thu 24 Sep 2020 Oliver Milman

Art Sullivan is considered something of a political heretic by other coalminers in south-western Pennsylvania, where a wave of support for Donald Trump based upon his flamboyant promises of a resurgence in coal helped propel the Republican to the US presidency.

"Many of my coalminer friends voted for him," said Sullivan, who spent 54 years as a coalminer. "They were deceived. Trump had no plan, no concept of how to resurrect the coal industry. My friends were lied to."

Sullivan's friends may disagree with this assessment but the coal comeback promised by Trump in the 2016 election campaign has failed to materialize, with his first term studded with bankruptcies and closures of mines and coal-fired power plants.

There are now about 5,000 fewer miners than when Trump strode into the White House. And so far this year US coal production has collapsed by more than 25% compared with the same period in 2019.

It has been a bruising few years rather than the glorious new dawn promised when Trump excoriated Barack Obama's "war on coal" on the campaign trail four years ago. One of Trump's first executive orders removed a ban on coalmining on federal land and dumped Obama's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. "Come on, fellas," said Trump to beaming miners. "You know what this means? You're going back to work."

McLoughlin, a former mine inspector who trains new miners, said he would vote for the president again because Trump was the only candidate prepared to stand up for coal workers. "My business won't go under if he's re-elected," he added.

The Trump administration has set about weakening or scrapping a slew of environmental rules that bound the industry, such as requirements that new coal-fired power plants capture their carbon emissions and that coal firms do not release wastewater laced with dangerous pollutants, such as lead and arsenic, into rivers.

Bob Murray, a major Trump donor and founder of the largest private coal company in the US, has boasted of an "action plan" he gave the administration to undo what he called "eight years of pure hell" under Obama. Much of Murray's three-and-a-half-page wishlist has been ticked off, including the US withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement.

"The social devastation in mining communities during the Obama administration has been breathtaking," said Jason Bostic, vice-president of the West Virginia Coal Association. "The support for Donald Trump is as strong if not stronger than in 2016. West Virginia is a Democratic state that has been dyed deep red¹ because of the last administration."

But while Appalachia will largely stick with Trump in 2020, more coal capacity has been retired under Trump than during Obama's second term. "Coal's not back," as Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America, glumly conceded last year. "Nobody saved the coal industry."

Coal production fell so sharply last year that renewable energy such as solar and wind overtook it in electricity generation for the first time. Last year also saw Murray Energy file for bankruptcy, one of half a dozen coal companies to do so that year.

Cheap, abundant gas, retrieved via fracking, and the advance of renewables have been greater causes of coal's demise than any green regulation, experts say.

"The days of coal supplying the majority of US electricity production are not coming back," said Daniel Kaffine, a University of Colorado economist. While metallurgical coal – needed for the making of steel – will hang on, the practice of burning thermal coal for energy is in "a death spiral", Kaffine said.

There are about 45,000 coalminers left in the US, half the number employed during Obama's first term. Plenty of political rhetoric surrounds a workforce that is actually quite small.

Whole communities sprang up around mining, however, meaning several dependent jobs are lost for each miner put out of work. The long decline of well-paying mining jobs, through machinery automation and now creeping obsolescence, has left deep scars in Appalachian towns now blighted by unemployment and opioid addiction.

"People drank Trump's Kool-Aid² and he hasn't done it for them," said Blair Zimmerman, a former coalminer. "I'm very worried about the future. We should have looked at other options a long time ago."

Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee, has outlined a \$2tn plan to generate millions of jobs in renewable energy, potentially providing a new path for threatened coal workers. But coalmining has deep roots in communities that many are unwilling to relinquish. "It's a damned joke," said Bostic, of the West Virginia Coal Association. "It's an affront to a coalminer to say: 'We will take your job away for one that pays less well, and by the way, you have to pack your family up and move.'"

The externalities of coal reach far beyond mining communities, however. As the most carbon-intensive of fuels, coal is a key driver of the climate crisis, indirectly spurring the continuing deterioration of the polar ice sheets that imperil coastal cities through sea level rise.

Direct air pollution from the soot and chemicals given off by burned coal is also a major health burden. Near Pittsburgh, Laura Jacko suspects emissions from the power plant could be behind her husband's asthma.

In Jacko's view, the era of coal needs to come to an end. "My great-grandfather was a coal worker and had black lung," a disease that develops from inhaling coal dust, she said. "I don't want their jobs to kill them. I want them to transition. These jobs are going away, it's just a matter of when. Pushing ahead with coal does everyone a disservice."

¹ red = Republican

² to drink the Kool aid : prendre une supposée potion magique

DOCUMENT 2

April 21 2021

Coal miners join climate activists to back Biden's \$2 trillion infrastructure plan

By Matt Egan, *CNN*

Coal country is in free fall and is pleading for help from Washington. That's why the largest union in one of the dirtiest industries is broadly backing President Joe Biden's \$2 trillion green infrastructure package -- an ambitious plan that has also won support from climate activists.

"Anybody who would not accept jobs where jobs are desperately needed is making a horrendous mistake," Cecil Roberts, president of the United Mine Workers of America, the country's largest mine workers union, told CNN Business.

Biden's American Jobs Plan calls for improving the nation's infrastructure and shifting to greener energy in a bid to simultaneously address inequality and the climate crisis.

"We're for infrastructure. We're for jobs. We're for moving manufacturing into coalfields. We'll work the president on that," said Roberts, who has known Biden for decades.

Climate groups largely support Biden's infrastructure plan, although some argue it should go further to respond to the climate crisis.

The coal industry would benefit from the Biden proposals to rebuild bridges, ports and airports -- all steps that would boost demand for steel, which typically uses coal as a key ingredient. The infrastructure plan also calls for expanding access to broadband in rural areas like Appalachia.

Roughly half of the coal jobs in America have disappeared since the end of 2011, a staggering blow to Appalachia. Much of those losses were driven by the abundance of cheap natural gas. Now the industry is losing ground to solar, wind and renewable energy.

After four years of former President Donald Trump trying and failing to revive coal country, there is now an acknowledgement within the industry that more pain is coming.

"We're coming to grips with the fact that we might lose more jobs here," Roberts said.

However, the support from the 131-year-old trade union hinges on aid from Washington to help preserve the coal industry's dwindling workforce. Specifically, Roberts stressed the importance of investing mightily in carbon capture and storage, a breakthrough technology that injects carbon dioxide deep underground before it can warm the planet.

On Monday the United Mine Workers of America released a document, titled "Preserving Coal Country," that lays out the union's principles for an energy transition built around three objectives: preserving coal jobs, creating new jobs and preserving coalfield families and communities.

Instead of fighting the shift to clean energy, the union suggests workers should benefit from the transformation by helping to build green technology.

Specifically, the document calls for significantly expanding tax incentives designed to build out renewable supply chain manufacturing (such as making solar panels and wind turbines) in coalfield regions and provide a hiring preference for dislocated miners and their families.

"We welcome any manufacturing jobs that can be brought to the coalfields because they are desperately needed," Roberts.

The document calls for substantial funding to help coal workers, including national training programs for dislocated miners and support to replace their wages, healthcare and pensions.

"Change is coming," the union document said. "We can look away no longer."

Biden's infrastructure plan also calls for hiring hundreds of thousands of workers to clean up abandoned coal mines and plug countless oil and gas wells.

Roberts said the union "obviously" supports such efforts -- though he stressed that these are temporary, not permanent, jobs.

US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm vowed last month that no worker will be left behind in the clean energy revolution.

"We want to be part of the solution," Roberts said, "not part of the problem."

DOCUMENT 3

Coal Country Picked Trump. Now, It Wants Him To Keep His Promises

NPR January 1, 2017 Leigh Paterson

From West Virginia to Wyoming, coal country overwhelmingly voted for Donald Trump and his message that he will bring coal jobs back. Now, those same voters are eyeing his incoming administration closely, careful to see if he will keep his promises to revive the coal industry and get miners back to work.

These hopes have become increasingly desperate as the industry has floundered. Over the past few years, the country has lost about 30,000 coal jobs.

Dave Hathaway of Pennsylvania will be watching Trump. Since the coal mine he worked in closed a year ago, he spent much of 2016 looking for work. The search gained urgency when his son Deacon was born in August.

On Election Day, Hathaway made a choice he hopes will help his long-term job prospects.

"I voted for Trump — I mean, a coal miner would be stupid not to," Hathaway says.

He says he's had a hard time finding a job to replace the \$80,000 he made working in the coal mines under Greene County, Pa., a few miles from the West Virginia border.

Hathaway recently found a job at a nearby mine. While he thinks Trump's election means he'll have a better shot at keeping his new job, he didn't like a lot of things Trump said during the campaign.

"He is a whacko¹," Hathaway says. "But, the things he did say — the good stuff — was good for the coal mining community. But we'll see what happens."

That message clearly resonated in Greene County, where over the last four years a third of the coal mining jobs — like Dave Hathaway's — disappeared. Trump won the county by 40 points, eight years after Barack Obama basically tied his republican opponent there.

Tom Crooks, vice president at R.G. Johnson, a construction company that builds mine shafts, witnessed the decline of the coal industry firsthand.

"Two years ago this week we had 145 employees," Crooks says. "Right now, we have 22."

Crooks doesn't use the phrase "war on coal," but he does think federal regulations mounted by the Environmental Protection Agency under President Obama have weighed down his industry. One example is the EPA's Clean Power Plan. That rule, which Trump has pledged to eliminate, limits the amount of carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants.

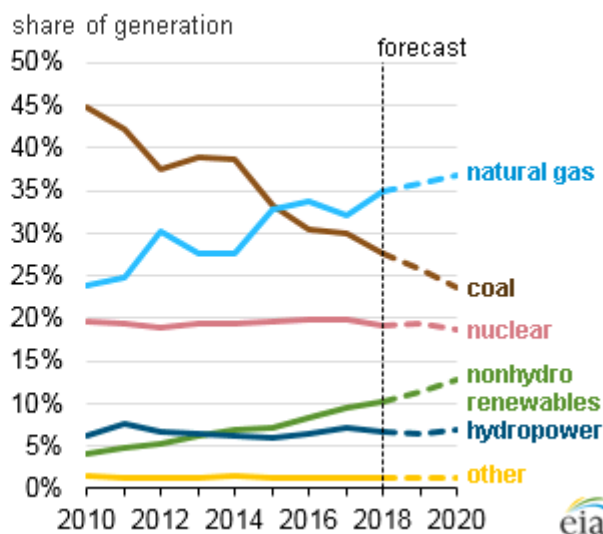
Instead, Crooks wants to see more government research into making coal as clean as possible. "We just want the federal government and the state government to start looking to coal as an option," Crooks says.

¹ a wacko: a crazy person

DOCUMENT 4

source: US Energy Information Administration

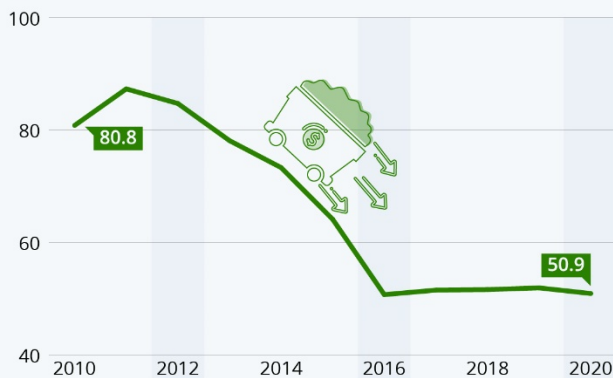
Energy Generation in the U. S. , By Sector



DOCUMENT 5

Jobs Fall as More Coal Plants Close

Number of coal mining jobs in the U.S. (in thousands)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



statista

FIN DE L'ÉNONCÉ