

# New concepts in park laws still do not permit mining

By Jerry McElreath  
Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of the Interior said there would be no coal strip mining in national parks, despite new interpretations of federal regulations pertaining to the parks.

Although recent regulatory clarifications in Congress have been interpreted as possibly opening the park lands to allow strip mining, the government has no intention of permitting the mining to take place.

Most of the national parks in question are located in the Appalachian Mountains.

Stephanie Hanna, a spokeswoman for the Department of the Interior, said, "I would like to say, emphatically, there will never be mining in the national parks."

The mining issue revolves around the government's practice of buying the surface rights to national-park land. Surface rights only pertain to the land itself, rather than any resources that may lie on the land.

This practice is cheaper than buying the mineral rights as well, Hanna said.

The coal industry, which owns most of the lands in question, believes that the controversy involves mineral rights within the parks, rather than the possibility of strip mining, said John Grasser, director of media relations for the National Coal Association.

"The coal industry has no intention to strip mine in national parks," Grasser said.

Instead, the industry is concerned with who owns the rights to the coal beneath the land surface in national parks, Grasser said.

The owners of the mineral rights are entitled to compensation for whatever coal might be on the property. However, a federal law passed in 1977 that prohibits mining of national parks has rendered the owners' mineral rights worthless, Hanna said.

In 1977, Congress said people who held "valid existing rights" to the coal under park lands deserve compensation from the government, she said. "Valid existing rights" pertain to people who have mineral rights and valid permits to mine the coal, Hanna said.

Congress's decision denied government compensation to individuals who

held mineral rights and were seeking mining permits in 1977.

Congress currently is rewriting the compensation guidelines due to numerous court decisions favoring the owners of the mineral rights.

Many federal courts have decided that denying benefits to those individuals who were attempting to acquire permits in 1977 was a violation of their Fifth Amendment right to compensation, said Will Kriz, chief of the Land Resource Division of the Department of the Interior.

The courts ruled that a person who owned mineral rights and made a "good-faith effort" to obtain mining permits before the act went into effect would be eligible for compensation, Hanna said.

Owners of the mineral rights deserve compensation because the coal has potential monetary value, Kriz said.

Grasser also said the people who possessed mineral rights but did not try to obtain permits before 1977 also might deserve compensation.

"If you cut out any of the people with coal rights you would have to ask yourself if this is not a violation of their Fifth Amendment rights."

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## Air Care

hospital and "code two-stat" implies the transfer involves trauma or a surgical emergency, Markel said. A "code three" signal identifies a neo-natal or pediatric emergency and tells the pediatric team to respond.

Carolina Air Care can provide either "hot" or "cold" loading and unloading, depending on the condition of the patient and the experience of the assisting medical personnel, Uhlin said. "Hot" means the helicopter stays running the entire time of loading or unloading a patient, he said.

Markel said air care provides the same care and equipment as hospitals, only in "portable mode." Nurses and paramedics can start intravenous treatments, medications and chest tubes, Markel said.

Team members must undergo 12 weeks of specialized training to learn a broader range of emergency skills, Markel said. The team must be trained to handle any situation because they rarely know what they will face until they are on the way, she said.

"It's amazing what the human body can live through," Uhlin said. "Several weeks ago, we picked up this man who had been blown through the cab of a gas

truck when it exploded. I thought he wouldn't make it, he was so burned up."

Four weeks later, the man already has been released and has visited the staff, Uhlin said. "He's still black and blue, but I can't help but think this guy should have been dead 10 minutes after we picked him up."

Markel said her mother accused her of being crazy for going into this line of work. "But saving just one life is enough to make it worthwhile," she said.

Uhlin recalled one incident when he saw a patient again on another call. The flight crew was waiting in the lobby of a Dunn hospital to pick up a newborn. "This older man recognized me and told me I had transported him before when he suffered a heart attack. It turned out that we were picking up his grandson."

The staff has to divorce itself from the fact that some patients don't make it, Uhlin said. "But it helps to think about those who have."

As a general rule, people who enter the field are really special, Uhlin said. "They have to be able to climb into a helicopter at 2 o'clock in the morning."

But the job is not limited to making flights across the wild, blue yonder. "Down-time" between flights is a full-

time job in itself, Uhlin said. "I don't know how they do it. The paperwork is unbelievable."

Between flights, staff members visit patients, update assisting medical teams, return borrowed equipment and complete transport reports.

In addition, each person has a niche and responsibilities of their own such as keeping statistics, teaching emergency skills to police, patrolmen and rescuers and even speaking at conventions for emergency personnel.

Uhlin said he was responsible for logging each flight, monitoring weather conditions and studying new aircraft systems. Pilots are tested every six months even though regulations require it only once a year, he said.

"These people are here because they enjoy it and they are good at it," Uhlin said. "They live for it."

He said the best thing for him was that he was using training and experience from the military and using it in a positive way.

"Day in and out in the Army, pilots practice maneuvers for war and killing people," Uhlin said. "(Here) we're able to do something with a helicopter that actually does someone some good."

# House sustains family-leave veto

**The Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday easily sustained President Bush's veto of a bill requiring many businesses to give their workers time off in family emergencies. Democrats pledged to redouble efforts to make "family leave" a major issue in the campaign for the White House.

The vote on the politically charged bill was 258-169, well short of the two-thirds majority needed to override Bush. It was the 33rd consecutive time Bush has made his veto stick.

In defeat on the family-leave bill, supporters said the veto would reverberate in next month's presidential election. Democrat Bill Clinton supports the measure; Bush has promoted "family values" as a campaign theme.

"This issue frames this campaign," said U.S. Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo. "Yes, it really is about who is for

families."  
Despite the partisan split, 42 Democrats deserted their party and voted to sustain Bush's veto. Thirty-eight Republicans voted to override their president.

The measure was strongly opposed by lobbyists for small business. Opponents pointed to Bush's eleven-hour alternative, \$500 million in tax credits for businesses that grant the unpaid leave to workers.

"There's a better, more effective way," said House Minority Leader Bob Michel, R-Ill.

The action is the second time Bush has vetoed a family-leave bill and made it stick. Although he voiced support for the concept during his 1988 election campaign, Bush vetoed a similar measure in 1990.

The action followed an emotional debate in which supporters of the bill both condemned Bush's veto as uncar-

ried and vowed that if Clinton is elected, a tougher family-leave law would be enacted next year.

The Senate voted 68-31 last week to override Bush. He so far has a perfect record of making his vetoes stick. But the Senate vote marked the first time in his presidency that that body had voted to override.

Democrats have planned for the override vote for a year or more, and presidential nominee Clinton has hammered Bush on the issue.

House Speaker Thomas Foley called Bush's veto "a very bad mistake" but already was looking ahead to the bill's prospects if Clinton, a supporter of the bill, is elected president.

"It is one of the things that will change in a new administration," Foley said. "It is one of the things that the Clinton campaign is committed to change and that the Congress in great majority is committed to support."

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## Media

"World News Tonight" later this week. Also Wednesday, researchers from the CBS news program, "Street Stories," contacted some students on campus for background information on the issue.

Hardin said he thought it was interesting that the issue had reached the national news but added that he found the coverage an inconvenience.

"I'm not thrilled about (the national coverage)," he said. "We need to work on things here. National publication is not helping things. ... It's a nuisance, actually. It's a free country — if the press wants to cover it, that's fine."

Stone said the national attention was exhausting, adding that he didn't think the coverage would help the movement.

"I don't think it's helping them," Stone said.

"The main battle is here on this campus. (The coalition) needs to go to vari-

ous organizations to get their support. The main emphasis should be on those organizations."

Several student groups have joined the coalition in the past month, including Bisexuals, Gay Men, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity and the Planner's

## Discussion

long as it was on the central part of campus and not attached to any other building.

Wilkins clarified the long-term goals of the coalition, pointing out that the coalition's many other goals have been temporarily overshadowed by the fight for a BCC.

"The goal is to change the way things are done on campus," he said. "We're going to keep on working."

Wilkins said one of the administration's tactics was to wait out

the coalition, hoping that the loss of vocal leaders who were graduating would weaken the fight for a free-standing BCC.

"We've prepared for that," he said. "There are a lot of freshmen and sophomores involved in the movement."

Also Wednesday, SANGAM, the Asian-Indian student association, voted whether to join the coalition, but results were not available at press time.

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## Derby Days

donated \$400 to the children's hospital this year.

"We support the North Carolina Children's Hospital through corporate donations," said Theresa Yoss, marketing director for First Union. "It is a very good cause which helps not only children in this area, but children throughout North Carolina. We're real proud to be involved with an organization such as that."

During the Derby Days competitions, points are awarded to sororities for winning events and for raising money. At the end of the week, the sorority that has accumulated the most points is declared

the winner. The sorority that collects the most in donations is given a plaque.

Herford said the highlight of Derby Days was the Dec-a-Sig event. Each sorority dresses up a Sigma Chi member as a children's character, and the group visits the children's hospital.

"You really can't appreciate what Derby Days does until you go down there and see the kids yourself," Herford said.

Part of the money raised for the hospital will be used to help fund the construction of a sun porch on the new pediatric surgical unit, said Teena Anderson, assistant director of pediat-

ric services at the N.C. Children's Hospital.

The sun porch is designed to give children and parents a quiet place to visit outside the hospital room, she said.

The remainder of the money is used to sponsor monthly visits to the hospital from Mister Rainbow the Clown.

"The North Carolina Children's Hospital continues to be grateful for the generous fund-raising efforts of the young men and women of the University," Anderson said.

During the past four years, Derby Days has raised more than \$45,000 to benefit the children's hospital, she said.

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