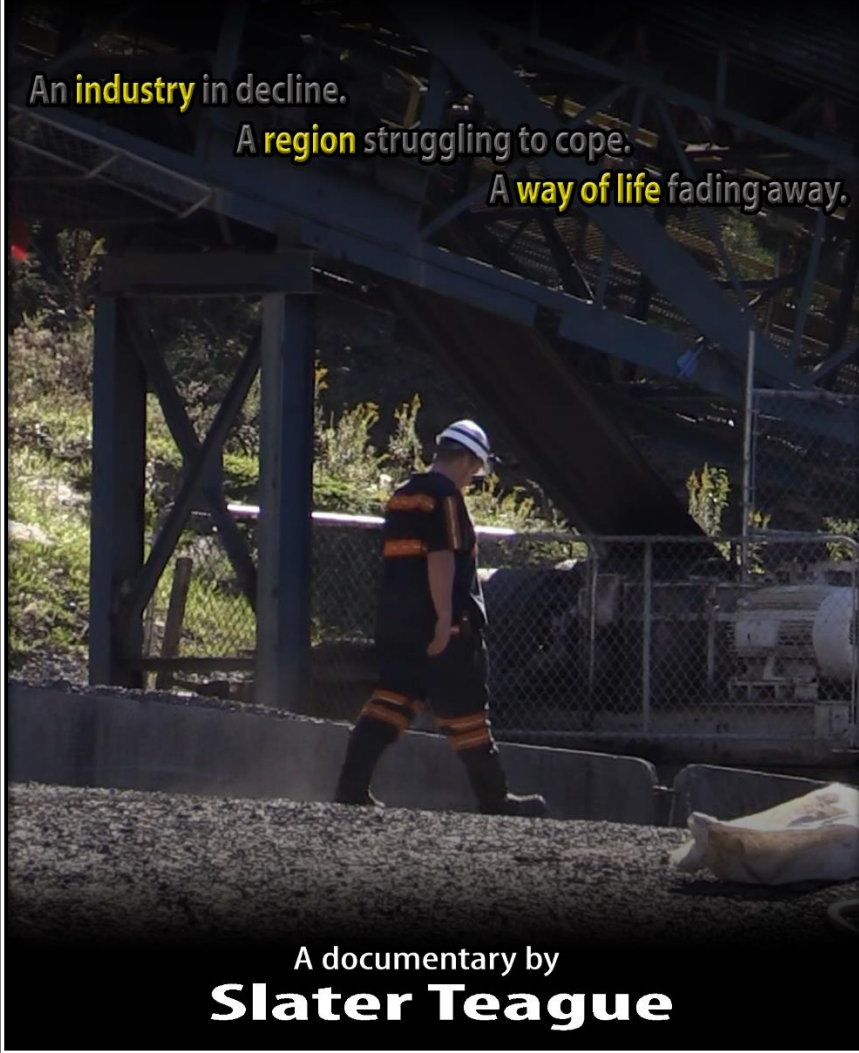


Killing Coal Country

An **industry** in decline.

A **region** struggling to cope.

A **way of life** fading away.



A documentary by
Slater Teague

Media Kit 2017

(Version as of 3/29/2017)



Overview

Log line: A documentary exposing the “war on coal” and its devastating impact on coal country...revealing the truth about coal and Appalachia.

Description: For over a hundred years, Central Appalachia has revolved around the coal industry. Generation after generation of brave souls have ventured deep underground, to put food on their family’s table and to quench our nation’s infinite thirst for energy. To miners, it’s more than just a job, it’s a way of life.

But now, that way of life is threatened. Coal miners have become an endangered species. Economic factors combined with a relentless “war on coal” have all but destroyed the Appalachian coal industry. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost. Communities are struggling to cope with widespread unemployment, diminishing tax revenue, and declining populations. The economic consequences have been severe. The future of Coal Country has never been more uncertain.

Killing Coal Country completely exposes the “war on coal” and its devastating impact on coal country...finally revealing the truth about coal and Appalachia.

Filmmaker Bio: **Slater Teague** is a recent graduate of East Tennessee State University, with bachelor’s degrees in Mass Communication and Political Science. *Killing Coal Country* is his first film. He lives in Kingsport, TN and works for the City of Bristol, Tennessee. Slater is looking forward to a career in broadcast television.



Slater filming in Wyoming

Slater started filming *Killing Coal Country* in October 2015. Originally, his documentary was a semester-long project for one of his Mass Communication classes at ETSU. But after he saw how deeply coal country has been impacted by the “war on coal”, he decided to make it something more. So, he turned his school project into an independent film...to tell a story that needed to be told.

Over the next year and a half, Slater filmed *Killing Coal Country* by himself with his own equipment. His documentary is 95% self-funded.



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Release Date: April 11, 2017

Duration: Approx. 1 hour 45 minutes

Filming Locations: Kentucky
Pike County
Letcher County
Harlan County
Floyd County
Perry County

Virginia
Wise County
Lee County
Dickenson County
Russell County
Buchanan County
Scott County

Tennessee
Unicoi County

Wyoming
Campbell County

Distribution: Vimeo on Demand & DVD

What is the “war on coal”?

The war on coal is a regulatory and legal assault on the coal and power industries by government agencies and environmentalist groups. It is not a war fought with bullets or bombs. Instead, it is war of regulations, lawsuits, propaganda, corruption, and greed.

Although opponents of coal have been around for quite a while, it wasn't until the Obama administration when they gained so much influence and success.

The EPA: A story of corruption, collusion, and a regulatory warpath

At the forefront of the war on coal is the Environmental Protection Agency. Under the Obama administration, the EPA churned out a slew of costly regulations that targeted the coal industry. With lofty titles, like the Mercury Air Toxics Standards, they sound good-intentioned. But in reality, these regulations have placed a heavy burden on the coal and power industries, killing tens of thousands of jobs.



Over the span of eight years, the EPA became a federal agency out of control. Beside their regulatory warpath, the agency engaged in a substantial amount of questionable conduct and wrongdoing. Despite being required by law to do so, EPA refused to study the impact of their regulations on jobs. The agency had a very warm relationship with anti-coal environmentalist groups, like the Sierra Club. Anti-coal groups were granted exclusive access and influence. There were private meetings and covert email accounts. The evidence paints a damning picture of a federal agency gone wild.



EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

Environmentalist groups: All about the green



With a profound hatred for coal, environmentalist groups like the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council engage in a variety of tactics in their relentless pursuit to keep coal in the ground. They do what the EPA can't. Their favorite tactic is the lawsuit. They sue power companies, forcing them to close coal-fired power plants. They even sue the EPA itself in so-called “sue and settle” lawsuits. Pre-arranged, these suits have allowed environmentalist groups to effectively dictate federal policy and even walk away with tax dollars in their pockets.

While the Sierra Club and other groups may very well desire a greener environment, they also desire something else that's green...money. These groups are very well-funded and couldn't care less where that money comes from. Much of their funding comes from an extensive network of elitist liberals, a network shrouded in secrecy. The Sierra Club secretly accepted at least \$25 million from the natural gas industry to fund their anti-coal efforts. Even worse, some of their cash may be coming from Russian oil and natural gas interests.



The People of Coal Country



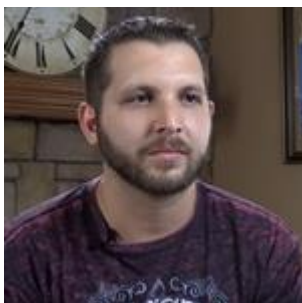
Travis Fields
Pikeville, KY

Travis has over 20 years of experience mining coal. With his income, he managed to put his wife through nursing school and support three kids. But since he was laid off in October 2015, he has not been able to find another job. Fortunately, his wife's income has been enough to keep the family going with minimal sacrifice. But that won't be the case forever.



Mark Athy
Virgie, KY

Working underground allowed Mark to buy a house for his wife and kid at a fairly young age. But after losing his mining job and struggling to find employment elsewhere, there is a chance he might lose the home he worked so hard for. The lack of income has put a tremendous strain on himself and his family, who have already made great sacrifices.



Derek Daniels
Pikeville, KY

Following in his father's footsteps, Derek became an underground electrician. Like most jobs in the coal industry, it provided a comfortable life for him and his family. But then the layoffs hit. He watched as his friends and coworkers lost their jobs, one by one. But he got lucky. Seeing the writing on the wall, Derek quit his underground job after getting hired at a manufacturing plant in Lexington, KY. Only problem: it's two hours away from home.



Born and raised in Pike County, KY, Jeremy went into the coal industry immediately after graduating from high school. But when the mines started closing, he was laid off. Unable to find work, Jeremy and his wife had to move from Eastern Kentucky to Eastern Wyoming, the only place in the country where he could find a job mining coal.

Jeremy Murphy
Wright, WY



Chris owns a small surface mine in Harlan County, KY. Like many in coal country, he grew up poor in a coal camp, the son of a hard-working coal miner. Partnering with his uncle, he started his own mining operation in 2005. But, when things got bad, he had to shut it down, leaving nearly a dozen people without jobs. Chris went from living a comfortable life with fast cars and frequent road trips, to struggling to pay his electric bill. He's watched the region around him dry up and fade away.

Chris Haverly
Big Stone Gap, VA



Randall began his career in the coal industry as a mining engineer. Eventually, he worked his way up the ladder to become President of McCoy-Elkhorn Coal Company. Randall knew his employees well and believed in treating them right. But when hard times hit the coal industry, McCoy-Elkhorn fell into bankruptcy. He was forced to lay off hundreds of miners and eventually lost his own job. Letting his people go is the hardest thing he's ever had to do.

Randall Taylor
Pikeville, KY



Claude has done just about everything there is to do in the coal industry. He went from being a miner, to a welder, to a foreman, and now owns a small mining services company. Not long ago, he had nearly a dozen employees, over a hundred clients, and his office was never quiet. Now, his office is silent, only a handful of clients remain, and he has let all of his employees go, except for one...himself.

Claude Stamper
Pikeville, KY



T.J. is the Director of Economic Development for Pike County, KY. He gives insight into the economy of coal country and how the region has been impacted by the decline of the coal industry.

T.J. Litafik
Pikeville, KY



Jack is a retired coal miner in Gillette, WY. His passion for coal mining is unrivaled, but so is his disgust for the “war on coal”. As an outspoken advocate, he has closely followed the politics of coal and offers a bold, hard-hitting perspective on the anti-coal crowd.

Jack Laakso
Gillette, WY



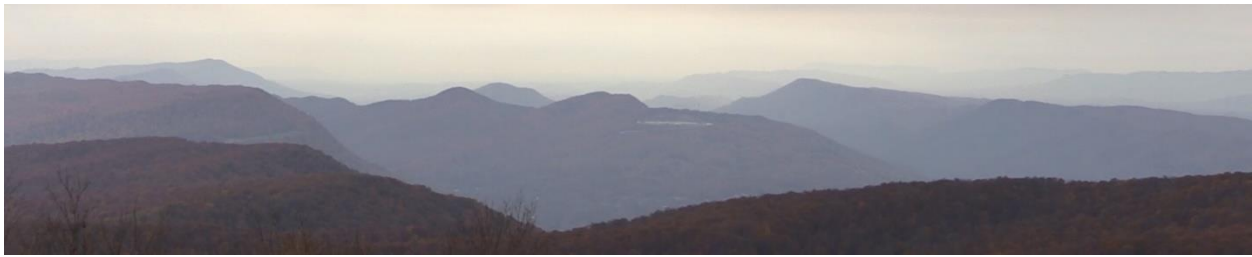
Rusty is co-owner of BitSource, a Pikeville-based tech company. As a former coal miner and proud Appalachian, he and a partner created BitSource in 2014. Like himself, many of his employees are retrained coal miners. Rusty advocates for economic diversity in Central Appalachia and hopes to establish a strong tech industry in the hills and hollers of coal country.

Rusty Justice
Pikeville, KY



Fred is an instructor at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, VA. There, he teaches a course on unmanned aerial vehicles, better known as drones. Fred and others in Wise County are trying to attract the drone industry to the region, which has been hit hard by the loss of thousands of coal jobs.

Fred Coeburn
Big Stone Gap, VA



Plot Outline

- I. Welcome to Appalachia/Intro
This segment introduces viewers the region known as Central Appalachia.
- II. Coal Country
Welcome to coal country...where coal has been mined for over a century.
- III. Decline
Briefly describes the recent decline of the coal industry and its impact on coal country.
- IV. Coal Miners & Operators
Interviews with coal miners and operators. They discuss the way of life that is coal mining and how they have been impacted by the decline.
- V. Secondary Impact
Coal miners are just the tip of the iceberg. Tens of thousands of other jobs have also been lost.
- VI. A Region Struggling to Cope
Facing widespread unemployment, declining tax revenue, and decreasing populations, the small cities and towns of coal country are struggling to stay afloat.
- VII. War on Coal
 - A. The EPA: An Agency Out of Control
Exposes the EPA's shocking misconduct and onerous regulations.
 - B. Environmentalist Groups/Sierra Club: All About the Green
Reveals the true nature of so-called environmentalist groups and their key role in the war on coal.
 - C. MSHA
Another federal agency that has been on a regulatory warpath.
 - D. No War On Coal?
Debunks claims that the war on coal does not exist and that the rapid decline of coal is due to free market economics, not government policies.

VIII. Political Backlash

Shows how the war on coal has changed the political landscape of coal country.

IX. An Uncertain Future

Discusses the future of coal country and whether or not coal can come back.