

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

0064: Marshall University Oral History
Collection

Digitized Manuscript Collections

1988

Oral History Interview: Phyllis Miller

Phyllis Miller

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/oral_history

Recommended Citation

Marshall University Special Collections, OH64-454, Huntington, WV.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Digitized Manuscript Collections at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in 0064: Marshall University Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu.

WEST VIRGINIA STRIP MINING

Public Hearing held by: WV Dept. of Energy

June 28, 1988

SPEAKER: Phyllis Miller

WVSM - 4

Public Hearing held by W.Va. Department of Energy in Lincoln County, West Virginia on June 28, 1988 regarding an application by Black Gold Coal Company and Mountain Black Diamond Coal Co. to strip mine at Six Mile Creek in Lincoln County.

Statement by Phyllis Miller:

My name is Phyllis Miller and I live on Six Mile Creek Road. I represent myself and my immediate family, and I want to thank you for allowing me to speak and giving me the opportunity to voice my opinion on how the proposed strip mine site on Six Mile will affect me. I am not affiliated with any organization. I do not have a lawyer to represent me. I only have the Lord looking out for my interests. I do not know of any laws that have been broken, or any violations that have been committed. But I do know, that from my back porch to the mountain that is going to be stripped, it's a distance of a hundred and eighteen feet. This includes the creek and the Blue Lick Road. I feel being this close will have to affect my home, and the life of my family. When they strip this mountain, and do the blasting, what's gonna happen to my water well? D. O. E. told me that by law all that Black Gold has to do is drill me another well, good or bad, that's it. I cannot live without water. And what will this blasting do to my home and it's foundation? After talking to a gentleman that teaches mining school, I know that it will be impossible to carry on any kind of normal life on Six Mile. His professional opinion is that we will not be able to live there with the coal dust, from the trucks, the destruction to my well, and the damage the blasting will do to my home. This will be a severe health hazard to my eight year old son, that is allergic to dust. I have talked with several men, who are presently

working on a stip job, in deep mines. One man even told me I wouldn't have any sheetrock on my walls by the time it was through. I'd like to invite anyone here to come up to my house to sit on my back porch and look at that mountain that is so close, and explain to me how this can continue to be a safe place to live. A lady that lives three miles from me told me that the insurance on her home raised \$64. The reason was because of the strip mining. I don't understand how anyone can lay down at night and expect to rest if they grant a permit to Black Gold, when they know my home and my family is so close and in so much danger. If this permit goes through, and if one...if anyone of you men here get a job, how...how will you feel when you cash your payroll check knowing you have damaged my home and endangered our life.