

**June 13-15, 2004**

- Could I please speak with the (MALE/FEMALE) in your household, 18 years or older, who celebrated a birthday most recently?

**GENDER OF RESPONDENT**

Male .....48  
 Female.....52

- First, are you registered to vote at this address?
- How likely are you to vote in the 2004 election for President, Governor, and other offices -- are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, are you probably not going to vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Almost certain .....82  
 Probably.....18  
 50-50.....TERMINATE  
 Probably not .....TERMINATE  
 Definitely not.....TERMINATE  
 (Don't know).....TERMINATE

- Overall, do you think the quality of the environment in West Virginia has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

Gotten better .....17  
 Stayed about the same.....38  
 Gotten worse .....39  
 (don't know) .....6

- And which of the following statements comes closer to your own point of view?

Environmental protections are often good for the economy.....44  
 Environmental protections are often bad for the economy.....21  
 Environmental protections often have little or no impact  
 on the economy .....23  
 (NONE OF THE ABOVE) .....2  
 (UNSURE) .....10

- As you may know, coal companies in West Virginia mine coal from mountains through a process called mountaintop removal mining. Do you favor or oppose mountaintop removal mining or are you undecided?

**IF FAVOR/OPOSE:** Do you STRONGLY (favor/oppose) mountaintop removal mining or only SOMEWHAT (favor/oppose) this practice?

Strongly favor .....12           29  
 Somewhat favor.....17  
 Somewhat oppose.....17  
 Strongly oppose.....39           56  
 (don't know) .....15

- Have you seen, heard or read anything recently about mountaintop removal?

yes .....	44
no.....	55
(don't know) .....	1

**[ASK IF YES IN PRIOR Q]**

- And did it make you feel more favorable or less favorable toward mountaintop removal mining?

more favorable.....	19
less favorable .....	60
(no difference/ had no effect) .....	17
(don't know) .....	4

**RESUME ASKING ALL**

- Now for a slightly different question. Suppose a bill was introduced in the state legislature to ban mountaintop removal mining. Would you favor or oppose this bill or aren't you sure?

**[FOLLOW-UP:]** Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or not strongly (favor/oppose)?

Strongly favor .....	32	46
Somewhat favor.....	14	
Somewhat oppose.....	14	
Strongly oppose.....	20	34
(don't know) .....	20	

- Suppose a candidate was in favor of weakening environmental regulations on mountaintop removal mining? Would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make any difference?

**[IF MORE OR LESS LIKELY, PROBE:]** Is that MUCH more, SOMEWHAT more, SOMEWHAT less, or MUCH less likely to vote for that candidate?

much more likely.....	6	12
somewhat more likely .....	7	
somewhat less likely .....	25	
much less likely .....	31	56
(no difference/don't know) .....	32	

- As you may know, the Bush Administration has changed the rules of the Clean Water Act, federal surface mining laws, and other environmental laws to make it easier for companies to conduct mountaintop removal coal mining. Do you favor or oppose these changes which make it easier to do mountaintop removal or aren't you sure?

**[FOLLOW-UP:]** Is that strongly (favor/oppose) or not strongly (favor/oppose)?

Strongly favor .....	10	23
Somewhat favor.....	13	
Somewhat oppose.....	16	
Strongly oppose.....	44	60
(don't know) .....	16	

In May 2003, a government study was released that documented the environmental impact of mountaintop removal coal mining on West Virginia. I am going to read to you some of the findings from

the study. After each one, tell me whether you are VERY concerned, SOMEWHAT concerned, NOT VERY concerned, or NOT AT ALL concerned by that finding:

<b>ROTATE</b>	very concern	smwt concern	not very concern	not at all concern	(don't know)	not concern	not concern
• <u>Mountaintop removal mining and valley fill activities significantly affect the landscape as forests are removed, the land altered, and streams destroyed, leaving the area drastically different from its pre-mining condition.</u> .....	44	34	14	6	2	78	20
• <u>More than 1,200 miles of streams in Appalachia have already been buried or destroyed by mountaintop removal coal mining, with another 1,000 miles projected for burial and destruction in the next ten years if limits are not placed on mountaintop removal operations.</u> .....	47	31	14	6	3	78	20
• <u>The direct and indirect effects of filling streams with mountaintop removal mining waste is the largest impact on streams and watersheds in the coal mining region.</u> .....	47	31	12	6	4	78	18
• <u>Already, hundreds of thousands of acres of forests in West Virginia have been clear-cut by strip mining operations.</u> .....	46	31	12	8	2	77	21
• <u>Even if some portion of the hundreds of thousands of acres of destroyed forest resources could be restored, which is unlikely, the timeline for that restoration is hundreds, if not thousands of years.</u> .....	46	29	14	8	4	75	21
• <u>Mountaintop removal coal mining has the potential of directly impacting as many as 244 wildlife species in West Virginia alone.</u> .....	48	31	13	5	3	79	19
• <u>Blasting from mountaintop removal mining will continue to have harmful effects on the quality of life of residents living in near the mine sites.</u> .....	50	28	12	8	2	78	20
• <u>If new limits are not placed on mountaintop removal, by the end of the decade the estimated area that will be stripped and flattened encompasses 1.4 million acres of forests, mountains and streams – over 2200 square miles.</u> .....	51	28	12	7	3	79	18

Now I am going to read to you some effects mountaintop removal is having or could have on West Virginia. After each one, tell me whether you are VERY concerned, SOMEWHAT concerned, NOT VERY concerned, or NOT AT ALL concerned:

<b>ROTATE</b>	very concern	smwt concern	not very concern	not at all concern	(don't know)	not concern	not concern
• <u>The amount of coal mined today in West Virginia is approximately the same as it was in 1951, but only 15 percent as many miners are used to mine the coal today.</u> .....	37	35	14	9	5	72	23
• <u>The regions of West Virginia where mountaintop removal is most common are some of the poorest counties in the United States.</u> .....	43	30	17	8	2	73	25

- \_Coal landowners pay lower property taxes than other property owners in West Virginia.  
..... 43 34 10 9 3 78 19
- \_Less than 5 percent of the flattened areas left after mountaintop removal mining is used for any economic development purpose.  
..... 43 31 14 9 3 74 23
- \_ West Virginia will become less competitive with other states in the region.  
..... 35 38 14 9 4 73 23
- \_ West Virginia’s landscape and mountain heritage will be destroyed.  
..... 49 29 12 8 2 78 19
- \_ West Virginia will lose good paying jobs.  
..... 49 32 11 5 3 81 16
- \_ West Virginia’s rivers and streams will become more polluted.  
..... 56 26 10 6 2 82 16
- \_ Future generations of West Virginians will look back unfavorably on us if we continue to squander our natural resources for short-term gains from mountaintop removal.  
..... 38 34 17 8 3 73 24
- \_West Virginia’s natural resources will quickly become depleted by mountaintop removal.  
..... 44 33 12 6 4 78 18
- \_Communities where mountaintop removal mining occurs will be torn apart.  
..... 47 31 12 7 3 78 19

Now, I am going to read you some reasons people have given for opposing mountaintop removal mining. Please tell me whether, for you personally, each is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing reason to oppose mountaintop removal mining.

**[PROBE AFTER EVERY THIRD:** Is that a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing reason to oppose mountaintop removal mining ?

**[ROTATE]**

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Very<br>conv | Smwht<br>conv | Not too<br>conv | Not at<br>all conv | DK | conv | not<br>conv |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|----|------|-------------|
| • _Mountaintop removal is polluting our streams with mining debris. It alters our landscape, destroying forests and polluting streams in our communities. In our region, more than 1200 miles of streams have been buried under millions of tons of rocks and dirt that was scraped off mountains during mining, according to a government survey. A government study estimated if mountaintop removal mining continues at the level it is today, an additional 1,000 miles of streams could be filled in the next decade.<br>.....                                                             | 50           | 30            | 12              | 6                  | 1  | 80   | 18          |
| • _ Coal mining companies are not following the laws and have even ignored Clean Water Act safeguards so that they can dump rocks and debris from their mining right in our streams. After giving millions in campaign contributions to the Bush-Cheney campaign, they lobbied the Administration to repeal long standing clean water protections that have been called the biggest attack on the Clean Water Act in 30 years. Environmental advocates have said the repeal of environmental protections is a prime example of the Bush Administration accommodating big corporations.<br>..... | 51           | 25            | 15              | 7                  | 2  | 76   | 22          |



- And suppose a candidate was in favor of weakening environmental regulations on mountaintop removal mining? Would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it make any difference?

**[IF MORE OR LESS LIKELY, PROBE:]** Is that MUCH more, SOMEWHAT more, SOMEWHAT less, or MUCH less likely to vote for that candidate?

much more likely.....	4	10
somewhat more likely .....	5	
somewhat less likely .....	23	
much less likely .....	41	63
(no difference/don't know) .....	27	

**Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes.**

- Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

**[IF REPUBLICAN or DEMOCRAT, ASK:]** Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or a not so strong (Republican/Democrat)?

**[IF INDEPENDENT, ASK:]** Would you say that you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats?

Strong Republican .....	18	36
Not so strong Republican .....	12	
Indep. closer to Republicans .....	6	
Independent.....	16	
Indep. closer to Democrats.....	6	
Not so strong Democrat.....	13	
Strong Democrat .....	27	46
(dk/na/other) .....	2	

- What is your age? **[REFUSED=01]** ..... \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

**IF REFUSED:** I am going to read you some categories. Stop me when we get to your category:

**READ CATEGORIES:**

18-24.....	4
25-29.....	6
30-34.....	7
35-39.....	11
40-44.....	9
45-49.....	10
50-54.....	10
55-59.....	10
60-64.....	7
64-69.....	8
70-74.....	8
Over 75.....	9
(Refused/don't know).....	0

- What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

1 - 11th grade .....	10
High school graduate.....	42
Non-college post H.S.(e.g. tech) .....	4
Some college (jr. college).....	18
College graduate .....	19
Post-graduate school.....	7
(Don't know) .....	0

- Are you or is any member of your household a member of a teachers' union or a labor union?

yes - teachers .....	6	21
yes - labor .....	11	
yes - both .....	3	
neither .....	79	
(Don't know).....	0	

- Finally, do you personally think of yourself as a very strong environmentalist, a strong environmentalist, somewhat of an environmentalist, or not really an environmentalist?

Very strong environmentalist.....	10
Strong environmentalist.....	21
Somewhat environmentalist .....	47
Not an environmentalist.....	20
(Don't know).....	2