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## CALENDAR



## TOP 10 COAL PRODUCING STATES & REGIONS

	Week Ending (10/16/21) (in Thousand Short Tons)		
	YTD '21	YTD '20	% Change
Wyoming	184,813	172,969	6.8
West Virginia	63,432	53,193	19.2
Pennsylvania	35,729	28,304	26.2
Illinois	32,402	25,248	28.3
North Dakota	22,243	21,176	5.0
Kentucky	21,383	19,132	11.8
Montana	21,365	20,865	2.4
Indiana	15,172	16,193	-6.3
Texas	13,870	13,870	0.0
Utah	10,746	10,556	1.8
Appalachian Total	127,413	109,623	16.2
Interior Total	78,185	72,763	7.5
Western Total	255,791	242,749	5.4
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>461,389</b>	<b>425,135</b>	<b>8.5</b>

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This year the McElroy mine will celebrate 40 years in operation. The mine started producing coal during October 1969. Similar to many coal mining operations at the time, it was a room-and-pillar mine using continuous miners and shuttle cars. McElroy installed its first longwall in 1979. The second longwall began production in June 2004.

The company recently completed a transition to the new Cameron portal, which will get men and materials to the face a little more quickly. When CONSOL Energy says the new portal facility is one of the best in the company, it's safe to say it's one of the best in the world. Similar to most high-production longwall mines with great reserves, it also finds itself trying to stay one step ahead with panel development.

### McElroy Hits Its Stride

The mining conditions in the Pittsburgh No. 8 seam in general are good and great for longwall mining. The seam height averages 6 ft and the mines routinely encounter a 1 ft split [binder] near the roof with a rider seam that gives the entries an additional 2 feet of headroom.

At current production levels with its known reserve base, McElroy will be mining for approximately 22 more years. "We are currently scheduled to run 10 to 11 million clean tons per year," said Ken Harvey, McElroy's general superintendent. "The mine record stands at 10.47 million clean tons and that was set three years ago [2006]."

In mid-2001, CONSOL Energy decided to add a second longwall section to the McElroy mine. It took roughly three years to prepare the mine for the additional production. "In part of the mine, a new three-heading area was cut and a new belt line was installed doing a way with rail haulage," Kelly said.

Using the experience it gained operating two panels at the Bailey and Enlow Fork mines, CONSOL Energy incorporated some new ideas to improve haulage and ventilation. "We have completely changed the look of the mine," Kelly said.

Part of the mine's secret to success is the underground bunker, which is capable of storing 7,500 raw tons. "The bunker is in a very good location," Harvey said. "There are four conveyors in by the bunker and a total of 11 belts outby. The bunker has 17 bins and will normally feed coal out of the bunker at around 4,000 tph to keep an even flow on the outby belts." The bunker prevents surges, metering coal consistently to the prep plant.

For development on its main entries, McElroy mines from nine headings to provide adequate ventilation (one belt entry, two track entries, three intakes and three returns). "The two track entries take track air to the face."