

IN BRIEF SPRING 2010



Former coal miner Chuck Nelson at the edge of the huge Hobet mountaintop removal mining operation in Lincoln County, West Virginia

The True Story of Coal in America—and Our Fight To Write a New Chapter

BY LIZ JUDGE AND JARED SAYLOR

THE MORNING WEST VIRGINIA NATIVE CHUCK NELSON woke up to discover a quarter-inch of black coal dust coating his living room furniture was the day he knew something must be done.

Fellow West Virginian Judy Bonds knew she needed to act when she stood with her 6-year-old grandson in a stream near her home and watched a school of dead fish float by—the first of many fish kills caused by toxic mountaintop removal mining waste dumped in her area's streams and creeks.

Sarah McCain's moment was even more dramatic: a billion gallons of toxic coal sludge burst through a dam in Kingston, Tennessee, near her home, destroying everything and transforming her into an activist.

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