

U.S. Domestic Coal Output to Decline by 81 Million Tons in 2012

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Five Star Equities Provides Stock Research on Alpha Natural Resources and Walter Energy

NEW YORK, NY -- (Marketwire) -- 09/03/12 -- Shares of companies in the coal industry have lagged in the market in 2012. The Market Vectors-Coal ETF (KOL) -- which replicates an index that provides exposure to publicly traded companies worldwide that derive greater than 50% of their revenues from the coal industry -- has fallen over 30 percent this year. Five Star Equities examines the outlook for companies in the Coal Industry and provides equity research on [Alpha Natural Resources, Inc.](#) (NYSE: ANR) and [Walter Energy, Inc.](#) (NYSE: WLT).

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Plummeting prices and strict environmental regulations have continued to plague the coal industry. Several miners have reduced production further this year as demand falls in the U.S. and China. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration domestic output will decline by 81 million tons in 2012.

The coal industry received a boost last week after a federal appeals court ruled against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's cross-state air pollution rule. The court stated that the EPA had overstepped their authority and imposed "massive emissions reduction requirements" that were too strict.

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With \$7.1 billion in total revenue in 2011, Alpha Natural Resources ranks as America's second-largest coal producer by revenue and third-largest by production. The company reported a second quarter loss of \$2.2 billion or \$10.14 per diluted share, compared with a loss of \$50 million or \$0.32 per diluted share in the second quarter of 2011.

Walter Energy is the world's leading, publicly traded "pure-play" metallurgical coal producer for global industry with strategic access to high-growth steel markets in Asia, South America and Europe. For the second quarter 2012, revenues were \$678 million as compared with \$632 million in the first quarter and \$771 million in the second quarter of 2011.

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