

Over the Next 5 Years Global Coal Demand to Increase at an Average of 2.6% a Year

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The Paragon Report Provides Stock Research on Cloud Peak Energy and Walter Energy

NEW YORK, NY -- (Marketwire) -- 01/14/13 -- After a dismal 2012, the Coal Industry looks to be on the upswing as a recent report from the International Energy Agency predicts global coal demand to increase at an average of 2.6 percent a year over the next five years. The Paragon Report examines investing opportunities in the Coal Industry and provides equity research on [Cloud Peak Energy Inc.](#) (NYSE: CLD) and [Walter Energy, Inc.](#) (NYSE: WLT).

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According to the IEA's Medium-Term Coal Market Report by 2017 coal is expected rival oil as the world's top energy source. Coal's global growth is largely dependent on Chinese demand, as China has surpassed Japan as the world's largest importer of coal.

"This report sees that trend continuing. In fact, the world will burn around 1.2 billion more tons of coal per year by 2017 compared to today -- equivalent to the current coal consumption of Russia and the United States combined. Coal's share of the global energy mix continues to grow each year, and if no changes are made to current policies, coal will catch oil within a decade," said IEA executive director Maria van der Hoeven.

Paragon Report releases regular market updates on the Coal Industry so investors can stay ahead of the crowd and make the best investment decisions to maximize their returns. Take a few minutes to register with us free at www.ParagonReport.com and get exclusive access to our numerous stock reports and industry newsletters.

Cloud Peak Energy, through its subsidiaries, engages in coal mining operations in the Powder River Basin and the United States. It produces and sells sub-bituminous thermal coal with low sulfur content primarily to electric utilities. Last week an analyst at Raymond James downgraded the company to a "market perform" rating.

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. The Company also produces thermal coal, anthracite, metallurgical coke and coal bed methane gas. Shares of Walter Energy fell sharply last Friday after a Deutsche Bank analyst downgraded the company to "hold" from "buy."

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