**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Aimee Erickson, 724-470-3982 or aimee@citizenscoalcouncil.org

**Citizens Coal Council's Statement on the Final Stream Protection Rule**

**Canonsburg PA -** Today the Department of Interior released the final Stream Protection Rule. In response, Citizens Coal Council's Executive Director Aimee Erickson released the following statement:

"Citizens Coal Council supports efforts to protect our streams from the devastating-- and often permanent-- impacts of coal mining. Clean water is essential to the health and stability of our communities, as well as to thriving ecosystems.

Because of outdated regulations and seriously inadequate state-level enforcement, our water supplies in coal mining states have been under serious threat. In states with longwall mining, for example, many streams have been damaged, dewatered, and destroyed by mining companies.

This Stream Protection Rule will establish long-overdue measures to hold mining companies accountable and give state regulators much-needed stringent guidelines to follow in their enforcement. We commend the Department of Interior and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement for taking steps toward protecting our water supplies."

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**About the Citizens Coal Council**

**Our Purpose:** To advocate for full enforcement of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and its delegated state programs.

**Our Mission:** To inform, empower and work for and with communities affected by mining, processing and use of coal.

For more information, visit: <http://www.citizenscoalcouncil.org>

Also: <http://www.longwallminingreform.org>