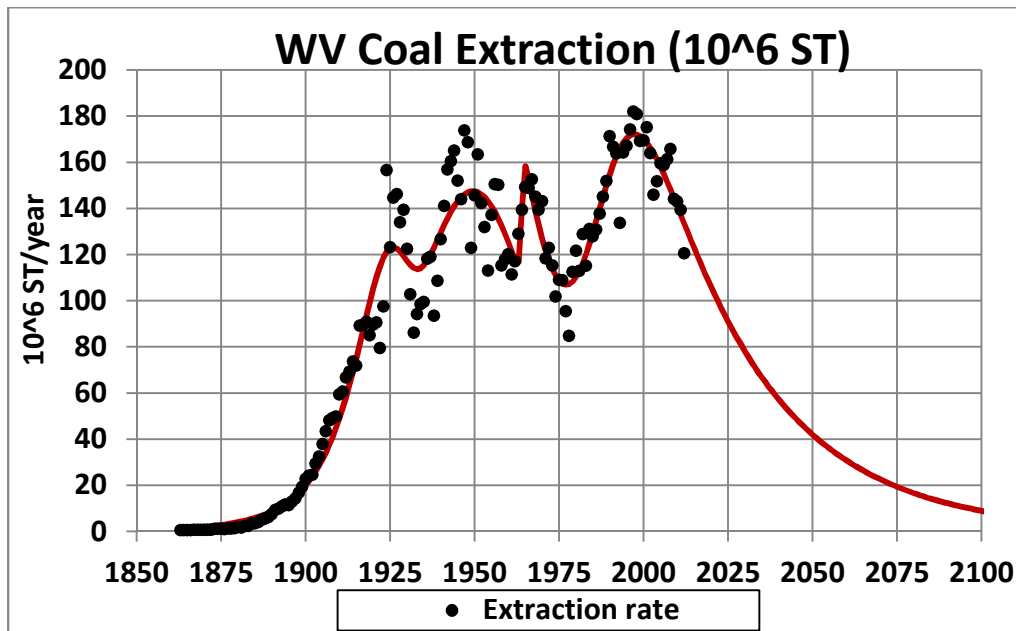


Decline of West Virginia Coal Extraction Began in 2000

Much has been written recently about the decline of coal extraction in West Virginia. The following graph shows that it peaked in 2000 during the George W. Bush administration:



The decline continued during the Barack Obama administration. So, it does not make sense to blame the decline of coal extraction in Virginia on the current administration.

There are many reasons for the decline of coal extraction in West Virginia, which were cogently discussed in the "War on coal' is all smoke" editorial in the 17 November 2013 issue of The Roanoke Times. That article mentioned that current emphasis should be installing renewable energies in Southwest Virginia to replace the jobs that have been declining in coal extraction. It did not mention that the areas of removed mountain tops for coal extraction are ideal places to install solar and wind farms. Jobs would be created immediately to install those facilities and permanent jobs would be created to maintain them.

Come on governors, state legislators and federal legislators; let's immediately create jobs in West Virginia by installing solar and wind farms.