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# Today's faces of Kentucky coal

## By way of explanation:

Today there is no such entity as a "typical" coal miner, even though many who work in the industry do so as part of a multi-generational family tradition.

Accordingly, in this series, we'll be profiling several individuals who are actively engaged in mining and representative of a new generation of mining professionals within Kentucky's vital coal industry.

Like the other individuals being profiled in this "New Faces of Kentucky Coal" series, William Greg Feltner has the coal industry in his blood: his father and his uncles before him have been involved with Kentucky coal for decades. Greg, who is 37, was born in Beverly (Leslie County), Kentucky, current population 359, and currently lives in Wootton (population 1733) with his wife, Robin, and their five-year-old daughter, Alexis. He has worked his way up in less than 4 years from assistant mine manager to become President/General Manager of ICG Hazard, a subsidiary of International Coal Group. In addition to his on-the-job supervisory duties, he has completed part of the academic requirements for an MBA degree in Management.

Greg graduated from Leslie County High School, where he ran track and played football, basketball, and baseball; he attended Union College for a year, then transferred to the University of Kentucky, where he earned his Mining Engineering degree. Greg worked 2 summers during college as a student laborer in the shop and rebuild shop of a coal mine, and worked for another coal company providing mine-site permitting support before he graduated. Along the way, did he ever consider a career outside the coal industry? "Not really," he smiled. "Coal has always been a fascinating world with me—and it offers a lot of opportunity for advancement, as well as job satisfaction." Would he recommend the industry to someone currently in college? "I sure would!" he said. "Our industry needs bright and hard working

people...the more of them, the better. Kentucky coal serves a vital need in America's quest to keep from being totally dependent on foreign oil—and with every ton of coal we mine, we, as an industry, are helping keep America's lights and heat on...every day."

What constitutes a typical work day for Feltner? His answer: "There really isn't a typical day. I'm involved with some combination of land acquisition, permitting, engineering, accounting, mining techniques, regulatory and environmental issues, and mine operations—from the time I get here until I head for home." Is there anything about his job that he doesn't enjoy? "Of course—having to deal with unexpected emergencies—especially an on-the-job injury to any member of our team."

Proud of his industry, yet well aware that Kentucky coal gets a lot of negative publicity, Feltner thinks there is much that can and should be done to educate citizens across the state by 'getting the truth out.' "First," he notes, "we have to start with the basics—America needs energy from coal, and Kentucky coal is some of the best of America's most abundant natural resource. By mining it, we're doing our best to fulfill that need 24/7, year-round." Next, he advocates explaining to Kentucky's school children the value of coal mining and its economic impact on our state's economy, as well as on America's energy demands. And finally—Feltner adds, "We have to educate the media, and through them the general public, about reclamation. It's a



## Greg Feltner

**Age: 37**  
**President/General Manager**  
**ICG Hazard, LLC,**  
a subsidiary of International Coal Group

### Information on Greg Feltner:

#### Personal:

- Born in Beverly, raised near Hyden, currently living in Wootton—all in Leslie County, KY
- Graduated from Leslie County High; received a BS in Mining Engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1991; currently working on an MBA in Management
- Married to Robin (Whitaker) Feltner; daughter, Alexis (age 5)

#### Professional:

- President/GM ICG, Hazard, LLC.; previously, Manager of Technical Services, Assistant Mine Manager, Senior Mining Engineer, and Mining Engineer

misunderstood and often maligned concept—yet long term, the process makes flat land available for new homes, recreational facilities, schools, lakes, and more—all of which bring with them badly needed jobs and diversification to the local economies."

His position and responsibilities with ICG Hazard do not leave Greg with a lot of free time. When he's at home, Greg enjoys spending time with his daughter, Alexis, and enjoying family-related activities.

## Coal Facts

**17,190 miners earning an average \$47,000 per year.**

**124 million tons produced in 2005, selling for \$4.9 billion.**

**73% of Kentucky's coal is exported out of state, bringing \$3.5 billion into Kentucky. 85 cents on each dollar stays in Kentucky.**

**91% of Kentucky's electricity comes from coal.**

**Kentucky has one of the lowest electrical rates in the nation because of coal.**

**The Kentucky coal miner is safer from injuries than the average Kentucky worker.**

**Paid for by the Kentucky Foundation.**

For more information on Kentucky Coal visit [www.kentuckycoal.com](http://www.kentuckycoal.com)



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