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Feds release records for northern Ariz. coal mine

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Associated Press - February 11, 2011 5:14 AM ET

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) - Conservation groups have made an operating permit for a northern Arizona coal mine available for public viewing.

The groups sued the federal Office of Surface Mining last September claiming it had unlawfully withheld the permit for Peabody Energy's Kayenta (Kuh-YHEN'-tuh) mine under a public records request.

The two sides reached a settlement agreement this month that allowed the document to be released.

The groups that include the Sierra Club and the Black Mesa Water Coalition say that the public now can learn more about Peabody's reclamation plans, impoundment ponds and protection of wildlife and sacred sites.

Coal from the Kayenta mine comes from the Navajo and Hopi reservations and supplies the Navajo Generating Station near Page.

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