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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910459831103321 |
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| Titolo | Mountaintop mining in Appalachia : understanding stakeholders and change in environmental conflict / / Susan F. Hirsch and E. Franklin Dukes |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Athens, Ohio : , : Ohio University Press, , 2014 ©2014 |
| ISBN | 0-8214-4509-X |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (162 p.) |
| Collana | Studies in Conflict, Justice, and Social Change |
| Disciplina | 333.8/220974 |
| Soggetti | Mountaintop removal mining - Environmental aspects - Appalachian Region Environmental policy - Appalachian Region Environmentalism - Appalachian Region Mountaintop removal mining - Government policy - Appalachian Region Mountaintop removal mining - Social aspects - Appalachian Region Electronic books. |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Description based upon print version of record. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | One; Two; Three; Four; Five; Six; Seven; Notes; References; Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | Residents of the Appalachian coalfields share a history and heritage, deep connections to the land, and pride in their own resilience. These same residents are also profoundly divided over the practice of mountaintop mining—that is, the removal and disposal in nearby valleys of soil and rock in order to reach underlying coal seams. Companies and some miners claim that the practice has reduced energy prices, earned income for shareholders, and provided needed jobs. Opponents of mountaintop mining argue that it poisons Appalachia's waters and devastates entire communities for the sake of short- |