

EXHIBIT C



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Trustee
Region 13
Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska*

*Thomas F. Eagleton Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, Suite 6353
St. Louis, Missouri 63102*

*Office No. (314) 539-2976
FAX (314) 539-2990*

January 15, 2013

Hugh Ray, Esq.
McKool Smith
600 Travis Street, Suite 7000
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: In re Patriot Coal Corporation, *et al.* (the "Debtors"), Case No. 12-51502-659

Dear Mr. Ray:

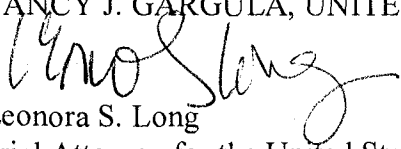
We have received your letter dated December 20, 2012 (the "Letter Request"), requesting that the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri appoint an official committee of equity security holders (the "Equity Committee") in the above-referenced cases.

As you know, this is a similar request to that made to Tracy Hope Davis, the United States Trustee for the Southern District of New York, on July 18, 2012. Nancy J. Gargula, the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri, has reviewed the renewed request, the papers filed with the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York regarding this matter, as well as the correspondence on behalf of United States Trustee Tracy Hope Davis to your office regarding the original request.

After careful consideration of the facts of these cases, an analysis of your Letter Request and the matter as a whole, including the papers filed with the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, United States Trustee Gargula declines to form an Official Equity Committee at this time.

Very truly yours,

NANCY J. GARGULA, UNITED STATES TRUSTEE


Leonora S. Long
Trial Attorney for the United States Trustee

cc:
Marshall S. Huebner, Esq.
Adam C. Rogoff, Esq.