

*Press release*

**Western Coal Shareholders Overwhelmingly Approve Plan of Arrangement with Walter Energy**

**Western Announces Preliminary Results of Arrangement Consideration Elections**

Vancouver, BC, March 8, 2011 - **Western Coal Corp.** (TSX: WTN, WTN.WT and AIM: WTN) (the “Company” or “Western”) and **Walter Energy, Inc.** (NYSE: WLT) (“Walter”) announced today that Western’s shareholders have overwhelmingly voted in favour of the proposed acquisition of Western by Walter. The proposed transaction was approved by approximately 99.86% of the votes cast by all shareholders eligible to vote and approximately 99.79% of the votes cast by “minority” shareholders (shareholders other than Walter and funds managed by Audley Capital Management Limited).

Completion of the arrangement remains conditional on approval by the Supreme Court of British Columbia and satisfaction of other customary conditions, including regulatory and stock exchange approvals. Subject to the satisfaction or waiver of all conditions precedent, it is currently anticipated that the arrangement will be completed on or about April 1, 2011.

***Preliminary Results of Arrangement Consideration Elections***

Under the terms of the arrangement, Walter will indirectly acquire each outstanding Western common share not already owned by it in exchange for either CDN\$11.50 in cash (the “Cash Consideration”) or 0.114 of a Walter common share (the “Share Consideration”), subject to pro-ration as described in Western’s management proxy circular dated February 2, 2011 (the “Circular”).

As of today, there are 259,813,094 Western common shares that are eligible to participate in the arrangement. This number includes 5,051,000 common shares to be issued immediately prior to completion of the arrangement pursuant to the conditional exercise of Western options and excludes 72,122,826 Western common shares held by subsidiaries of Western as well as 25,274,745 Western common shares owned by Walter.

Registered Western shareholders (other than “Restricted Shareholders”, as defined in the Circular) were entitled to elect the form of consideration they wished to receive in exchange for their Western common shares by submitting a valid election prior to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on March 3, 2011. Restricted Shareholders (as defined in the Circular) and shareholders who did not validly submit an election prior to the election deadline are deemed to have elected the Cash Consideration in respect of 70% of their Western common shares and the Share Consideration in respect of 30% of their Western common shares.

Based on valid elections received prior to the election deadline and deemed elections, as of today Western shareholders (including the holders of Western options who have exercised their options conditional upon completion of the arrangement) have elected to receive:

- the Share Consideration in respect of 233,957,510 Western common shares; and
- the Cash Consideration in respect of 25,855,584 Western common shares.

Based on the 259,813,094 Western common shares that are eligible to participate in the arrangement as of today, the maximum number of Western common shares that can be exchanged for the Share Consideration is 77,943,928. Since the aggregate elections for Share Consideration exceed this amount, all elections (including deemed elections) will be subject to pro-ration in the manner described in the Circular. As of today, and based on the numbers referenced above, this would result in the number of Western common shares that each shareholder exchanges for the Share Consideration being reduced by approximately 66%. Any Western shares not exchanged for the Share Consideration as a result of this pro-ration Western will instead be exchanged for the Cash Consideration.

The final pro-ration calculations will depend on the number of Western common shares that actually participate in the arrangement and will not be known until the arrangement has been completed. Western will announce the final pro-ration calculations, which are not expected to vary materially from the pro-ration calculations described above, upon completion of the arrangement.

**About Western Coal**

*Western Coal is a producer of high quality metallurgical coal from three mines in northeast British Columbia (Canada), high quality metallurgical coal and compliant thermal coal from four mines located in West Virginia (USA), and high quality anthracite and metallurgical coal in South Wales (UK). The Company is headquartered in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and trades on the AIM and TSX stock exchanges under the symbol "WTN". More information can be found at [www.westerncoal.com](http://www.westerncoal.com).*

**About Walter Energy**

*Walter Energy is a leading U.S. producer and exporter of premium hard coking coal for the global steel industry and also produces steam coal and industrial coal, metallurgical coke and coal bed methane gas. Walter Energy has annual revenues of approximately \$1.6 billion and employs approximately 2,100 people. For more information about Walter Energy, please visit the company website at [www.walterenergy.com](http://www.walterenergy.com).*

**Forward-Looking Information Disclaimer**

*This release may contain forward-looking statements that may involve risks and uncertainties. Such statements relate to the Company's expectations, intentions, plans and beliefs. As a result, actual future events or results could differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements. Readers are referred to the documents filed by the Company on SEDAR. Such risk factors include, but are not limited to changes in commodity prices; strengths of various economies; the effects of competition and pricing pressures; the oversupply of, or lack of demand for, the Company's products; currency and interest rate fluctuations; various events which could disrupt the Company's construction schedule or operations; the Company's ability to obtain additional funding on favourable terms, if at all; and the Company's ability to anticipate and manage the foregoing factors and risks. Additionally, statements related to the quantity or magnitude of coal deposits are deemed to be forward-looking statements. The reliability of such information is affected by, among other things, uncertainties involving geology of coal deposits; uncertainties of estimates of their size or composition; uncertainties of projections related to costs of production; the possibilities in delays in mining activities; changes in plans with respect to exploration, development projects or capital expenditures; and various other risks including those related to health, safety and environmental matters.*

**Walter Energy Contacts:**

Investors:

Mark H. Tubb  
Vice President – Investor Relations  
813.871.4027  
[mtubb@walterenergy.com](mailto:mtubb@walterenergy.com)

Media:

Michael A. Monahan  
Director – Corporate Communications  
205.745.2628  
[mmonahan@walterenergy.com](mailto:mmonahan@walterenergy.com)

**Western Coal Contacts:**

David Jan  
Head of Investor Relations  
604.694.2891  
[david.jan@westerncoal.com](mailto:david.jan@westerncoal.com)

Bobby Morse / Katharine Sutton  
Buchanan Communications  
+44 (0)207 466 5000  
[bobbym@buchanan.uk.com](mailto:bobbym@buchanan.uk.com)