Between 40 and 50 percent of the nations coal needs comes out of the Powder River Basin .Wereon 90 -foot thinkseam of coal here ,the thinkest seam anywhere inthe world.Gillette,Wyoming,lies in the heart of the nations largest coal mining region .One out of every six people here works for the coal Industry. The United States relies on coal to provide about 40 percent of the nations energy. But in recen t years , U.S.Utilities have been switching for burning coal to burning netural gas.Inthe last centry,the Earths surface temperature has risen by about 1.4 degrees. And a vast majority of scientists say this change is having devastating and protentially irreversible consequences.