



DIVISIONS

ENERGY  
GAS AND OIL  
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINED LAND RECLAMATION  
MINERAL MINING  
MINES  
ADMINISTRATION

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Virginia Celebrates Safest Year on Record**

#### *Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy Recognizes Coal Mines for Job Safety*

**Big Stone Gap, VA** – For the first time in the history of coal mining in Virginia, there were no serious personal injuries on the job. “We contribute the safest year on record to these miners adopting a culture of safety,” said Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore. “Our programs at the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) are top notch and we are glad to be here for our most important resource—the miners.”

Even more admirable is the fact there had not been a fatality in Virginia’s industry since March of 2015. The last time Virginia went a year without a fatality was in 2013.

In addition, 21 Virginia coal mines worked a combined nearly two million employee hours without a lost time accident in 2015. All of these mines were recognized for their extraordinary safety achievements with awards presented by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) on behalf of the Virginia Mine Safety Board to coal mines.

“No matter how many miners are on the job, working without injuries is to be commended,” said DMME Deputy Director Butch Lambert. “The accomplishments achieved in 2015 are directly attributed to the people and programs of our mine safety division and I am proud of their success.”

A service that’s been around since 1995 also has bragging rights. The Small Mine Safety Service (SMSS) of DMME helps small mines have access to training and professional technical assistance that they might not otherwise. Mines that participate in that program have not had a fatality or serious personal injury in five years. DMME’s SMSS program was recently awarded by the Interstate Mining Compact Commission for excellence in training.

Moore says the agency has more mines signing up. “The recent decline in the coal industry has made our Small Mine Safety Service Program grow,” said Moore. “We have some of the best trainers, technical experts and coal mining veterans working in that program (SMSS) and that’s a testament to the safety record and the recognition. We are glad that more mines are taking advantage of what we have to offer.”

The Small Mine Safety Service is a voluntary, on-site safety awareness, training and technical assistance program for selected mines that have contracted for services with DMME. The specialized program is provided only to mines that employ less than 25 people since these mining operations do not typically have the training resources or the technical expertise to implement an accident reduction program.

Top awards went to the following mines: (County), \*SMSS- member of the Small Mine Safety Service program :

- Consol Buchanan Mining Co., LLC, Buchanan Mine #1 – 1,020,800 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- \*Patriot Mining, LLC, No. 2 Mine – 90,528 employee hours (Wise Co.) AARP program.
- \*SANW, Inc., Mine No. 4 – 67,070 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- \*D&H Mining, Inc., No. 2 Mine – 57,320 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- \*AB&J Coal Company, Inc. No. 6 Mine – 43,970 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- \*Bristol Coal Corp., No. 9 Mine – 26,501 employee hours (Dick. Co.)
- \*Pioneer Coal Inc., Mine #1 – 27,130 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- \*Four O Mining Corp., No. 10 Mine – 24,509 employee hours (Dick. Co.)
- \*DaCoal Mining, Inc., No. 5 Mine – 21,745 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- Lone Mountain Processing, Lone Mountain Processing – 107,686 employee hours (Lee. Co.)
- The Black Diamond Company, Wellmore #8 Prep Plant – 99,189 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- Paramont Coal Company VA, LLC, Toms Creek Complex – 79,810 employee hours (Wise Co.)
- Apex Energy, Mine #10 – 73,041 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- Humphreys Enterprises Inc., No. 26 Strip – 51,913 employee hours (Wise Co.)
- Knox Creek Coal, Coal Creek Prep Plant – 40,155 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- Omega Highwall Mining, LLC, Hill Creek Highwall – 31,890 employee hours (Taz. Co.)
- Power Fuels, LLC, Power Fuel Blending Terminal – 31,431 employee hours (Wise Co.)
- Paramont Coal Company, VA LLC, Butcher Knife Surface – 24,129 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- Extra Energy, VA Point No. 1 Surface – 23,438 employee hours (Taz. Co.)
- Wellmore Coal Company, LLC, #7 Prep Plant – 14,379 employee hours (Buch. Co.)
- PB Dirt Movers, Inc., Surface Mine No. 1 – 12,090 employee hours (Buch. Co.)

Photos of all coal companies and miners recognized can be viewed on the DMME website at <https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/CMSA/2015CMSAPresentation.pdf>

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