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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Division of Mineral Mining
900 Natural Resources Drive, Ste.400
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(434) 951-6310

TO: All Mineral Mine Operators

FROM: Jeffrey D. Stewart

SUBJECT: Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards

DATE: February 16, 2017

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy - Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) and the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) are accepting applications for the annual Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards, a very successful program that since its inception in 2007 has recognized 64 companies and 224 mineral miners for outstanding safety achievements in Virginia's mineral mining industry. In 2016, DMM recognized 67 miners who represented a cumulative total of 1,652 years working in the mineral mining industry without a lost time injury.

This year, DMM and VTCA will recognize individuals reaching 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, 35-, 40-, and 45-years without a lost time injury in 2016.

The company award program will follow the same procedures as last year:

- mine companies **will not need** to submit an application to be considered for the mine company awards. DMM/VTCA will determine the winner based on data for all mines within a category.
- the quarry category will include the following 4 award ranges: 0 to 25,000 employee hours; 25,000 to 50,000 employee hours; 50,000 to 75,000 employee hours; and, 75,000 and above employee hours.
- the open pit category will include the following 4 award ranges: 0 to 5,000 employee hours; 5,000 to 10,000 employee hours; 10,000 to 30,000 employee hours; and, 30,000 and above employee hours.

A listing of the awards criteria is described below and attached for your information. **No application is necessary to be considered for a company award. Individual award nominations will be accepted through April 8, 2017**. Applications may be hand delivered or mailed to the attention of Jeff Stewart at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mineral Mining, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 400, Charlottesville, VA 22903, or emailed to jeff.stewart@dmme.virginia.gov.

Award Criteria

Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards will be evaluated for the following categories: Quarry (Surface and Underground) and Open Pit (Sand, Clay, Dredge, Dragline, etc.). Four awards will be given in each category to recognize various size operations. The period covered for the safety awards program is from January 1 to December 31, 2016.

Quarry	Open Pit
0 – 25,000 employee hours	0 - 5,000 employee hours
25,000 – 50,000 employee hours	5,000 – 10,000 employee hours
50,000 – 75,000 employee hours	10,000 – 30,000 employee hours
75,000+ employee hours	30,000+ employee hours

The mine operation having the highest number of employee hours, with no occupational injuries, in each category, will receive the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award. If no mine meets this requirement, an award may be given to the mine having the lowest incident rate (employee hours worked vs. occupational injuries) for the calendar year, in that category. The company mine safety awards will be presented July 16, 2017, at the VTCA Annual Meeting at The Homestead, Virginia.

Individual employee safety awards will be considered for persons who reach fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five or more, forty or more, or forty-five or more consecutive years in the mining industry without a lost time injury during the 2016 award year. All individual award winners will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement. Individual employee safety awards will be presented to the winners at their work location either by DMM/VTCA or mine management personnel.

DMM and VTCA believe that the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award program provides an incentive to your employees to work with care, and instill pride in those responsible for a winning effort. We hope that you will participate in this safety program.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact any Division of Mineral Mining representative or call (434) 951-6315. We look forward to receiving your response.

Encl.

VIRGINIA MINERAL MINE SAFETY AWARD CRITERIA

Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Division of Mineral Mining
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance

Mine Categories

Virginia Mineral Mines that have outstanding safety performance will be considered for awards in the following categories (no application required):

Quarry
0 – 25,000 employee hours
25,000 – 50,000 employee hours
50,000 – 75,000 employee hours
75,000 + employee hours

Open Pit
0 – 5,000 employee hours
5,000 – 10,000 employee hours
10,000 – 30,000 employee hours
30,000 + employee hours

All Companies Must Meet the Following Requirements

- No mine operation will be considered that has incurred a **serious personal injury** or **fatality** during the award period.
- Employee-hours should not include office work.
- Each mine operation must have a Virginia Mine Permit Number and, if applicable, an MSHA I.D. Number.

After review by the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining, the mine operation having the highest number of employee-hours with no occupational injuries in each category, will receive the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award. If no mine meets this requirement, an award may be given to the mine having the lowest incident rate (employee hours worked vs. occupational injuries) for the calendar year, in that category.

Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards will be presented at the VTCA Annual Meeting on July 16, 2017, at the The Homestead, Virginia.

Individual Categories

Individual Virginia miners who have outstanding safety performance may be nominated for awards in the following categories:

- **Individuals** working 45 years or more without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 40 years or more without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 35 years or more without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 30 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 25 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 20 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 15 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.

NOTE: Individuals may receive only one safety award within each category. The 15-, 20-, 25-, and 30-year awards will only be presented if the milestone is reached in 2016. The 35-, 40-, and 45-year awards will be presented for 35 or more, 40 or more, and 45 or more years reached in 2016.

All Applicants Must Meet the Following Requirements

- The employee's experience must have been primarily in the field, on a mine site. Office workers are not eligible for the award.
- A minimum of 130 days must have been worked at a mine site during each calendar year.
- All work must have been in the Virginia mining industry or with a contractor serving the industry.

A responsible individual will be required to sign an affidavit stating that the submitted information is true and correct. **In order to verify injuries and work hours the applicant must be willing to allow reasonable access to work and accident records.** MSHA and DMM accident files will be reviewed prior to selection of the award winners.

Individual Mine Safety Awards will be presented at the individual's work location.

Application Deadline: April 8, 2017

2017 INDIVIDUAL SAFETY AWARD
Application For Consideration

Name of Miner recommended for award: _____

Occupation of Miner: _____

Name of Employer: _____

Name of Operation: _____

Address of Operation: _____

_____

Virginia Mine Permit No. _____ **MSHA I.D. No. (if applicable)** _____

Individual Categories: (Indicate only one milestone that was reached during calendar year 2016)

- [ ] **Individual working 45 or more years without a lost time injury as of the award year**
- [ ] **Individual working 40 or more years without a lost time injury as of the award year**
- [ ] **Individual working 35 or more years without a lost time injury as of the award year**
- [ ] **Individual working 30 years without a lost time injury as of the award year**
- [ ] **Individual working 25 years without a lost time injury as of the award year**
- [ ] **Individual working 20 years without a lost time injury as of the award year**
- [ ] **Individual working 15 years without a lost time injury as of the award year**

NOTE: Individuals may receive only one safety award within each category.

Period of time worked by miner. (Give dates and locations worked and account for required time within category applied for. Use additional space if necessary.)

_____

_____

_____

I hereby certify that the information submitted on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Person Completing Application _____
Print Name

_____
Signature

_____
Title

Application Deadline April 8, 2017
In order to verify injuries and work hours the applicant must be willing to allow reasonable access to work and accident records.

_____
Date

_____
Telephone

_____
e-mail