



MINER DETAILS



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BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

From the Director's Office

With the cooperation of the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training and MSHA, all qualified electricians in the state of West Virginia now have both Low, Medium and High Voltage qualification. A Review Commission decision revoked an MSHA policy of recognizing different voltage classifications in their electrical qualification program. To accomplish this, all electricians not having high-voltage qualification (Approx. 160 in West Virginia, Dist. 4 MSHA) were contacted, trained and upgraded to be qualified in all voltage classifications. The State of West Virginia also upgraded their agreement with MSHA to have only one qualification class that included all voltages. West Virginia is the only state to have their agreement modified and approved by MSHA.

I would like to thank Tom Harmon, Gerry Barton, Bennie Comer, Randy Smith, Joe Atha, Bob Thornsby, John Scott, Jim Berry, and Don Crawford for making our state number one.

CA Phillips, Deputy Director

Agency Accomplishments

Mountaineer Guardian Awards

The 2002 Mountaineer Guardian Awards were presented at the 30th annual West Virginia Mining Symposium. Eight underground mines, seven surface, three preparation plants, one quarry and two independent contractors were honored. The winners are:

Roblee Coal Company	Hackers Creek #1
Consolidation Coal Company	Blacksville #2
Consolidation Coal	Shoemaker Mine

Wesley Leasing, Inc.	Mine No. 1
Eastern Assoc. Coal Corp	Lightfoot No. 2
Marrowbone Development	East Deep
Kingston Mining, Inc.	Kingston No. 2
Performance Coal Company	UBBMC Montcoal Eagle
Stanley Industries	Pepper Surface
Simmons Fork Mining	Paynter Branch
Hobet Mining Inc.	Westridge Surface
Legacy Resources, LLC	Synergy Mine No. 1
Alex Energy, Inc.	North Surface No. 2
Pritchard Mining Company	Lens Creek No. 2 Surface
Upper Kanawha Valley Development	Quincy MHG Homepark
Herndon Processing Company	Keystone No. 2 Plant
Fola Coal Company	Peach Orchard Plant
Vandalia Resources	Alloy Plant
R.G. Johnson, Inc.	Contractor Permit C-001
North American Drillers	Contractor Permit C-126
Greenbrier Limestone	Johnson Quarry

The *Barton B. Lay Jr. Milestones of Safety Award*, the foremost award in West Virginia mine safety for 2002 was presented to the employees of Consolidation Coal Company, Blacks ville Number 2 Mine. This mine employs approximately 459 salaried and hourly employees working three shifts, and produced nearly 4 million tons of coal in 2002.

Pre-shift Examiner Contest

The pre-shift examiner contest made its first appearance in West Virginia last summer and generated a great deal of interest. To keep a high level of interest the West Virginia's Holmes Safety

Association has been sponsoring pre-shift examiner contests throughout the state this winter. Contests have already been held at Gilbert, Beckley and Wharton, WV. The top five from each chapter will compete in a final contest to be held at the Mine Health and Safety Academy in Beckley, WV March 28, 2003. You can find more information on our website.

Inside this Newsletter:

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Annual Training

MHS&T inspection staff attended training at the mining academy during the first two weeks of January. Half of our staff attended the first week and the remaining staff went the second week. Training sessions included electrical hazards, hazardous materials, coal processing plants, computer training, workers' compensation, mine emergency response procedure and several other topics. Everyone seemed to enjoy this time together in a learning environment.

Surface Mine Foreman Guide

A revised Surface Mine Foreman's Guide has been sent the printer and should be available in the next few weeks.

Did You Know?

Roof Drill Core Logs

J.H. Fletcher & Co. and West Virginia University are working together to develop new technology that could be very valuable to the mining industry. Fletcher, a leading manufacturer of roof bolting machines, has a twin boom roof-bolting machine to which a computer can be attached for collecting information. WVU, under the guidance of Dr. Syd Peng, is to develop software that will translate what the roof bolting machine experiences to useful information. The computer is gathering information from 16 different locations on the roof bolter, such as drill rotation and boom thrust. It is hoped that at least one shift of drill holes can be stored on the computer and brought to the surface and downloaded at the end of the shift. Information such as separations of strata, coal rider seam thickness and their location in the mine roof could establish a history of each hole drilled from the beginning to the end of a mine.

Pathways to Wellness

In the last issue we described this new program from PEIA and expressed the hope that we at MHS&T would take an active roll. We are pleased to announce that we have taken some initial steps.

During the holiday season, eight Charleston employees participated in a program to maintain their weight (within 3lbs) throughout the holidays. This program was very successful. In March we hope to kickoff the 10,000 steps program with the issuance of pedometers to each participant.

We also recently applied for grants through the program and we are in the process of scheduling health screenings for each office. The first screening has tentatively been scheduled for April in the Charleston office. The screenings for the regions will probably be held as part of your monthly staff meetings. You will receive advance notice of the screenings.

For Your Information

Longwall Section Rescue Sled

A new longwall section rescue sled has been developed by Performance Coal Company at the Upper Big Branch Mine. Recently, a serious accident occurred at the mine near the tail conveyor of the section. The victim who weighs about 200 pounds had to be carried through the shields and 1000 feet across the face on a stretcher. The accident happened during shift change when two crews were present on the section so men worked in two-man relays; however because of exhaustion, the stretcher bearers had to change out at about every 50 feet. Rescue sleds similar to the one shown here have been manufactured and placed on all longwall sections within Massey mines. The sled has rollers spanning across the cable tray and conveyor backboard which allows an injured person to be easily transported across the 1000 foot face.



Photo Cells by Jim Berry

A photocell is metallic “sandwich” or disc composed of three layers of material. One outside layer is made of iron. The other outside layer is a film or translucent or semitransparent material, which permits light to pass through. The center layer of material is composed of selenium alloy. The two outside layers act like electrodes. When light is focused on the selenium alloy through the translucent material an electric charge is developed between the

two outside layers. A direct use of this cell is the common light meter as used in photography for determining the amount of light, which is present.

Interesting Facts About West Virginia

West Virginia is the only state to be created from another state (Virginia in 1863). Berkley Springs, a resort town, has more massage therapists than lawyers. Berkley Springs is the only place in the U.S. to boast: “George Washington bathed here.” WV has had the nation’s lowest crime rate for the past 26 years. Phillippi WV was the site of the first land battle of the Civil War.

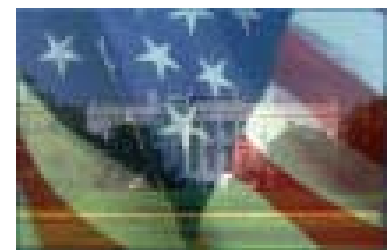
Up Close and Personal

Jeff Robinette has retired from our agency effective January 2003. Jeff had nearly 11 years service with our agency. Have a great time Jeff!

We would like to welcome several new employees to the MHS&T family:

John D. “JD” Higginbotham, Engineer was hired January 7, 2003 and **Timothy “Tim” Bradford**, Attorney, hired November 8, 2002.

We would also like to welcome **Betty Brabbin** who is filling in temporarily for **Tina Estep**. Tina is recuperating at home following her surgery.



Celebrate Presidents Day!

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Office of MHS&T
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Visit the agency’s website at:

www.state.wv.us/mhst

