



# MINER DETAILS



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## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### From the Directors' Office

We extend our condolences and prayers to the families of the twelve miners killed in the Sago mine explosion and to the families of the two miners who died in the Alma mine fire. Our prayers continue for the quick recovery of Randal McCloy, the lone survivor of the Sago blast. We will learn from these tragic events and move forward with new knowledge that will certainly be gained to help lessen the chance that this will ever happen again. New mine safety legislation has already been passed and additional law changes may soon follow resulting from the accident investigations. We will continue our efforts to reach our goal of zero fatalities. Last year West Virginia experienced three fatalities, the lowest number of mining deaths on record. It was not until 1959 that the number of West Virginia mining deaths first fell below 100 on an annual basis. It is our hope that we will achieve our goal of zero fatalities in the near future. Meanwhile our efforts continue to progressively reduce serious mine accidents each year, and to improve the day-to-day mine working environment of our miners.

### Agency Accomplishments Certificate of Approval - Extensions

As of early January, the Charleston office began issuing to Independent Contractors their 2006 Extensions. Nearly 500 have been issued in the first several batches. Every Monday and Thursday, contractor extensions are run. Lists are available in each regional office showing those contractor permits that have been extended. In March we will begin issuing permit extensions for underground and surface operations. Due to

monthly reporting requirements, we cannot issue those any sooner. All extension applications are available on our website and may be completed on line. Also the one hundred dollar fee may be paid on line.

#### Inside this Newsletter:

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### Diesel Update

Four types of approved soot filters are in use in diesels being operated in our mines. The four types are paper, synthetic, ceramic silicon carbide and ceramic corderite. Two types, the paper filter and the synthetic (high temperature) filter currently are rated at 95% efficiency at removing diesel particulate matter (soot) from the diesel exhaust. However, the high efficiency of paper and synthetic types depends upon the exhaust temperature being cooled to below 302 degrees F. The filter efficiency of both types decreases greatly at temperatures higher than recommended by the filter manufacturer. Efficiency is less at higher temperature because the soot remains like a gas and simply blows through the filter before changing to soot as it cools in the mine atmosphere. A third type of soot filter, the ceramic silicon carbide filter, is rated at 87% efficiency even at high temperatures. The silicon carbide type is a glass-like filter characterized by the dark gray sections from which it is made. The fourth type of soot filter in use is

also a ceramic high temperature filter; however, it is made of corderite, a dull, light yellow glass-like material. Corderite filters are rated at 85% efficiency and are made in one piece (a monolith), not in sections. These four types of approved filters have passed efficiency and temperature tests before being approved for use in West Virginia mines. Be sure that only the approved soot filter is actually being used rather than a look-alike of less quality and (most likely) less efficiency. Do this by comparing the filter model identification number against the one approved by the WV Diesel Commission. To comply with the 0.12 milligrams per cubic meter per minute standard of West Virginia, it is very important that the correct filter, with the correct efficiency rating is being used at the correct temperature.

### DBT Scoop

DBT has manufactured a new diesel powered scoop for Rivers Edge Mining, Inc. The scoop is similar in size to the old familiar 488, however it is powered by a 157 horsepower diesel engine, coupled to a powerful four-speed Clark 3200 series transmission.



The new scoop; is the first from DBT for West Virginia. A second scoop is currently being built for delivery to Dana mining in the spring.

## Did You Know?

### Miner Details Anniversary

With this issue of Miner Details, we will be beginning our eleventh year of publication. We hope that the newsletter has helped facilitate communication with MHST employees. We strive to make each issue relevant and interesting as well as providing useful information. As always, we ask you for articles and suggestions.

### Mining Permits

As of January 1, 2006 West Virginia had 286 underground operations permitted. The number of surface mines with valid certificates of approval is 216. We also have 96 quarries and 156 coal handling facilities.

## For Your Information

### Child Safety

A second young elementary school student has recently been killed in an accident upon exiting a school bus. In the first, a student was caught under the wheels of the bus while in the most recent accident the student was struck by a vehicle behind the bus. If you have school age children or grandchildren, please urge them to be extra careful around these large vehicles. It is often still dark when the children are waiting for or getting off the school bus and it is very difficult to see them clearly. Please take care to help keep the children safe as they travel to and from school.

### Words From the Past

#### The Careful Worker

The careful worker knows that safety is always first. He knows that safety is a means of guarding against anything or any act dangerous to himself, his fellowmen or to the property necessary in providing a way of life, whatever his job may be. He knows that he must be alert, able to think clearly and to react in a capable and efficient manner at all times to situations whether harmful or helpful in his duties. Lets us say, he is one who stops, looks and listens, and whenever he sees a hazardous condition, he immediately gets something done to eliminate it. A careful worker

uses safe equipment and tools. He examines thoroughly the condition of his working place before he begins work. He always sets the needed timber to protect himself before loading a car. He will not daringly "take a chance this once", thereby endangering his own life or that of others. The Golden Rule is a yardstick for the daily performance of the careful worker, for his concern is not only for his own welfare but for that of others around him.

Harry C. Harman, Inspector-at large, Pocahontas Division, WV Department of Mines wrote the above article in 1962.

### Form DOP-L3

Whenever you miss more than three consecutive days due to sickness, you must have the doctor or practitioner complete the required Division of Personnel form DOP-L3. You can get the form from your regional office. The Dept. of Personnel Rules and Regulations Section 14.4(g) concerning a doctor's excuse states: "Within two days of returning to work, an employee shall furnish a prescribed physician's statement form (form DOP-L3) from the attending physician/ practitioner for all consecutive days of sick leave granted beyond three working days. The physician's statement form shall specify the period of incapacity and state that the employee was unable to perform his or her job or that the employee's absence was due to reasons provided in Paragraph 14.4 (f) 6 of this rule for a member of the employee's immediate family"

### Mine Rescue Facts

Mine rescue teams were first organized in West Virginia in 1917. This was in response to the many disasters and the high accident rates common in the mines at that time. Fatal accidents averaged more than one per day beginning in 1914.

The current WV Mining Law, (22A-1-35) requires each operator to provide mine rescue coverage at each active underground mine.

The operators can establish their own teams or contract for the service. The act also details the requirements for mine rescue team training and requirements. The law stipulates the requirements for equipping and maintenance of the mine rescue equipment. It also provides for regular inspection of the station and equipment. Team members take classes in techniques for entering mines following explosions, cave-ins and other accidents as well as in-depth training with regard to mine maps and ventilation procedures and the use of auxiliary mine rescue equipment. They can never be sure if there will be further explosions or cave-ins after they enter a mine. There may be poisonous gases that will kill them in seconds. Each member is equipped with a special breathing apparatus and other safety gear and detectors. Once suited up, a rescue worker's equipment load pushes 50 pounds. Mine rescue teams are highly proficient in their work and take great pride in their skills. It is highly dangerous work because they can never be sure of the environment they may encounter.

## Up Close and Personal

We take this opportunity to say good-bye and best wishes to **Jim Whetzel**, roof control inspector in Fairmont. Jim recently retired and will relocate to the tropical climate of Costa Rica!



### Waiting for Spring!

*This newsletter is published bimonthly by the WV Office of MHS&T*

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*Visit the agency's website at:*

[www.wvminesafety.org](http://www.wvminesafety.org)

