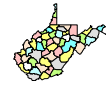


# MINER DETAILS



Volume 6 Issue 3 WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training June 2001

## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### From the Director's Office Highlights of the 2001 Regular Legislative Session

*S.B.53 (DIESEL BILL):* The West Virginia Diesel Equipment Commission is continued and is directed to promulgate the rules for using diesel-powered equipment in underground coal mines. The Commission has authority to grant site-specific waivers for the use of diesel-powered equipment prior to final promulgation of the initial rules. At a minimum, all current federal rules associated with diesel equipment in underground coal mines will apply.

*S.B.463 (SYNFUELS):* The business and occupation tax on manufacturing or producing synthetic fuel from coal was continued at fifty cents per ton with the proceeds deposited into the Mining and Reclamation Operations Fund. The net amount of tax collected in excess of four million dollars, but not exceeding two million dollars, is dedicated to the counties in which the synfuels plants are located and producing as of April 1, 2001. Ninety percent of the funds must be used for infrastructure improvement and the other ten percent for economic development. The tax expires after June 30, 2002. Additionally, an annual privilege tax was enacted equal to two and one half percent of the gross value of clean coal produced from gob piles, or refuse piles, or from other sources of waste coal. Ninety percent of the funds must be used for infrastructure improvement and the other ten percent for economic development. No expiration date was established for the annual privilege tax.

*S.B.603 (SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION PLAN*

*REVIEWS):* Local economic or redevelopment authorities are now charged with reviewing surface mining reclamation plans and making recommendations to the Office of Coal Field Community Development. The Office of Coal Field Community Development may then prepare a master land use plan for inclusion into the appropriately reviewed reclamation plan.

*S.B.631 (WEST VIRGINIA CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY ACT):* The West Virginia Clean Coal Technology Council has been created. The Council's duties will be to encourage and facilitate the development of alternative coal uses and related clean coal technologies.

*S.B.689 (PREBLAST SURVEYS):* This bill primarily effected technical clean-up of the Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act and provided that for permitted surface disturbance of underground mines, notifications have to be made to all owners and occupants of man-made dwellings or structures within five-tenths of a mile of the permitted surface area(s).

*H.B.2901 (RESTRUCTURING OF THE BOARD OF COAL MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY):* The public members of the board have been eliminated. The director of MHS&T, will vote only in the event of a tie, and will now chair the board. The Governor will appoint six members to the board; three representing operators, three representing working miners. The board may not vote unless all seven members are present. The Governor's appointment to the position of Administrator of the Board is now subject to the

majority approval of the six board members sitting at the time of the appointment.

### Agency Accomplishments Mine Inspectors Examination

The West Virginia Office of MH S&T announced May 14th, 2001 that requests for applications to take the examinations for the positions of State Mine Inspector and Safety Instructor are now being accepted. All applications MUST be received in the Charleston Office no later than 4:00 p.m. Friday, June 22, 2001 to be considered by the Mine Inspectors Examining Board for this examination. Applications are available on our website.

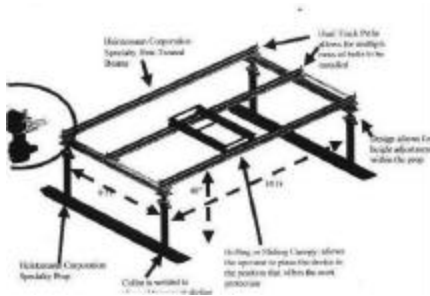
#### *Inside this Newsletter:*

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### For Your Information Mine Maps

Beginning in the early 1970's, the West Virginia Mine Map Archive has grown to include nearly 48,000 images of mine maps of all types of mines. We are missing maps for many mines, especially those operated before the 1960's. If you know of a collection of maps or if you have access to old maps, please make arrangements with us to have them microfilmed and indexed. Arrangements will be made to have the original maps returned to you. Filming and indexing is done in Pittsburgh Pa., at the national mine map repository. If you can help with maps, contact Dave Kessler in the Charleston Office.

**Operator Protection System (OPS)** An alternative means to safely support the mine roof when the automated temporary roof support system (ATRS) is unable to reach the roof has been developed. This re-usable roof support system was tested in Consolidation Coal Company's Buchanan No. 1 mine, near Big Stone Gap, Virginia. The Virginia Division of Mines, MSHA, Heintzmann Corporation, and several mine operators developed the system based on 50-ton Heintzmann roof jacks. The system is assembled in an area of supported roof and is used for bolting overcasts, belt channels and cavities created by roof falls. Channel beams are used as a base similar to sled runners so the system can be pushed into the unsupported area with a scoop or roof bolter. Four 50-ton jacks support a network of steel beams and sliding canopies to protect the drill operators. Elk Run Coal Company and Heintzmann Corporation provided a demonstration of the OPS in the parking area of the training center. Roof specialists from MSHA's Mount Hope and Madison offices and MHS&T's Oak Hill and Danville offices were in attendance.



### Use Your Brain to Cut Stress

According to registered nutritional consultant Jane Hamilton, you can relieve stress by understanding which brain hemisphere is stressed. If you feel depressed or emotionally overwrought, your stress is in the right hemisphere. This is the creative, emotional, holistic side. What to do: Switch to your matter-of-fact left hemisphere by doing math, writing factual prose, or organizing. The

emotional right brain will calm down. If you feel time-stressed and overburdened, the left hemisphere is involved. Switch to your right brain by singing or playing a sport.

### Did You Know?

#### Increase in Certifications

With the current energy crunch and the renewed emphasis on coal, MHS&T has seen a dramatic increase in the number of candidates tested in all certification classifications. By the end of May, we will have conducted nearly 4,000 tests compared with 2,200 last year at the same time. At this pace, we will hit the 12,000 mark by the end of this year. This would be the highest total in a number of years.

#### The Six Sources of Electricity

The following is the first in a series of articles about electricity provided by Jim Berry, electrical inspector Danville Office.

To produce electricity, some form of energy must be used to bring about the action of electrons. The six basic sources of energy that can be used are friction, pressure, heat, light, magnetism and chemical action.

### What's Cooking?

#### Chocolate Oatmeal Cake

1cup oatmeal (use regular not instant)

1½cups boiling water

1cup flour (all purpose)

½cup cocoa

1 tsp vanilla

1 tsp baking soda

1 ½cups sugar

¼ tsp salt

½cup shortening (butter is best)

2 eggs

Stir oatmeal into boiling water, but do not cook. Set aside to cool and to use as liquid in the cake. Sift flour, cocoa, soda and salt together. Cream shortening and sugar and then add the eggs. Add dry ingredients and oatmeal to the creamed ingredients. Mix well, stir in vanilla. Bake in a large cast iron skillet or a 9 x 13 pan for 35 minutes in a 350-degree oven. Use your favorite icing or the following: For icing: Mix 4 tsp of

cocoa and 4 tsp of butter over low heat. Add 2½cups confectioner's sugar. Add enough boiling strong coffee, a little at a time, to make icing of the proper consistency to spread. Optional: add ¾ cups chopped pecans or walnuts if desired.

### Up Close and Personal

**Joe Atha** of the Danville office spends his leisure time with his children snow skiing and coaching buddy league basketball. Joe enjoys classic car shows, photography, hang gliding, steam engines and traveling on trains pulled by steam engines. **Brenda Median** of the Buckhannon office spends her leisure time making crafts and gardening. Brenda enjoys watching her youngest son play college baseball. **Lonnie Gore** of the Danville office spends his leisure time bass fishing, deer and turkey hunting, collecting guns, knives and being outdoors. Lonnie enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and is full time pastor of the Maryetta United Baptist Church. **Ron Vance** of the Danville office spends his leisure time with his children and grandchildren. Ron enjoys singing gospel music and has an audio recording studio.



**Celebrate West Virginia's 138<sup>th</sup> Birthday June 20!**

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

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 Visit the agency's website at:  
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