



# MINER DETAILS



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November 2006

## BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP

### The Directors' Office Agency Accomplishments Technology Update

We continue to move forward in our efforts to improve our communications and computer technology within our agency. In the next few weeks the new PC's should finally be installed! They have all been "imaged" and are ready to be set up for each user. Meetings with the West Virginia Office of Technology should soon finalize that schedule. Each office will be notified of the installation plan. Also T-1 (fast) data circuits have been ordered for both the Danville and Welch regions. When those are in place we can firm up a schedule for the new agency-wide phone system. The new monitors have been distributed and should already be in use. Most of the equipment necessary for the Voice over IP (phone system) has been delivered and some has been installed in Office of Technology facilities in the Capitol Complex. We are also conducting a complete software audit for each agency PC. This will help us determine how many software licenses we own and if we need to purchase additional copies. We do appreciate your patience with these technology upgrades. This is a large project and each segment of the process has to be coordinated with the others.

### Mine Rescue Update

Our agency has recently purchased six (6) additional Draeger B64 breathing apparatus. We also purchased a new up-to-date communications cable reel. This particular reel could be used in a borehole for two-way communications should that become necessary. New gas detectors (Industrial Scientific Model iTX) and new permissible

two-way radios have also been added to our inventory of mine rescue equipment. To store and haul these new items, we have purchased a 12-foot, double-axle trailer. These new purchases should give our agency much greater capabilities in the event of a mine emergency.

#### *Inside this Newsletter:*

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### Diesel Update

The 200<sup>th</sup> piece of underground diesel equipment is scheduled for approval by end of the year. This marks a milestone in our work of regulating the influx of diesels into our mines, and there seems to be few problems encountered with the transition. Currently, more than 100 machines are operating daily without event. The miners have learned to properly care for the machines and few violations are being issued. One surprise to mine managers is the fact that approximately 16 hours of scheduled maintenance is required for each machine per every 100 hours of operation which generally occurs monthly. Lately, several electronically-controlled engines have arrived on new machinery with higher than expected untreated emissions, and a few other engines were found to have exhaust gas too cool for the catalyst to function properly. The emissions problems are being addressed by engine manufacturers and the catalyst

problems may require that alternate engines be installed. Depending on final treated emissions from the new machines, some have been approved on a temporary basis, while all others are prevented from use until the problems are corrected.

### Upcoming Events

- Inspection Staff Meeting** – December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Pipestem.
  - Clerical Staff Meeting** – December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, Charleston
  - Diesel Commission Meeting**  
December 6, Fairmont
  - Qualified Diesel Instructor Class**  
December 18 -21 Mining Academy
  - Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety**  
December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in Charleston.
  - Board of Appeals**  
TBA (Contact Charleston Office)
  - Board of Miner Training Education and Certification**  
December 20th, Charleston
  - Mine Technology Task Force**  
TBA (Contact Charleston Office)  
December 6, Fairmont
  - Mine Inspectors Examining Board**  
TBA (Contact Charleston Office)
- Note:** all meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Contact the Charleston Office to verify meetings.

### Did You Know?

#### West Virginia State Employee Information Line (WVSEIL)

Back in August, state employees should have received an email explaining the WVSEIL program. With winter approaching and possible severe weather, it seems appropriate to review.

"To ensure that all state employees have access to vital information in a timely manner, the West Virginia State Employee Information Line is now available. Should an

emergency arise, such as an evacuation or severe weather conditions, this information line will provide you with guidance. In addition, it may be used for general information affecting state employees. The WVSEIL is easy to use.” Keep the numbers handy: from the local Charleston area: (304) 558-9117. Outside of the Charleston the toll free number is: 1(888)558-9117.

### Holiday Safety Reminder

As many of us decorate our homes for the holiday season, please keep in mind some basic electric safety considerations. Most of us will be using electric lights and ornaments as part of our decorations. Unless these are solar powered you will be using extension cords to power everything. First be sure you use a cord rated for your specific type of usage. If the decorations are out of doors, be sure the extension cords are rated for outdoor use. Also, be sure to use GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) on the circuit. Always check every extension cord you will be using for insulation breaks or for exposed or frayed wires or other damage. Never run extension cords under rugs or place packages on top of them. Make sure the plug is fully inserted into the socket, if there is a problem, replace the faulty part. Do not exceed the amperage rating of the extension cord or circuit (don't plug all of the reindeer into one cord)! Final tip: have a safe and joyful holiday season!

### Quick Tips

#### Get Rid of Ants

Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it back to the nest and can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, but it works and you don't have to worry about pets or small children being harmed by poisons!

### Measuring Cups

Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill it with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry the cup. Next add your ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes out of the cup.

## For Your Information

### Staff Meetings

Agency Staff meetings are scheduled for December. The inspection staff will meet December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at Pipestem State Park. The following week on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the clerical staff will meet in Charleston at the Marriott Hotel. The agendas are still being finalized but plans are for full meeting days. You should have received information concerning the meetings by now if not please contact your supervisor.

### Work Required to be Performed by Qualified Diesel Mechanics

Please be aware that the Diesel Commission has issued a written interpretation of “work required to be performed by Qualified Diesel Mechanics”. The letter, dated Nov. 27, 06 clarifies that persons other than diesel mechanics may perform work on the diesel equipment, but not on the diesel-powered package as defined in Series 196-1-2, Definitions. So, a helper who is not a qualified diesel mechanic could wash the machine or change a tire, but not change the engine oil, oil filter, or soot filter. The letter also clarifies that the diesel mechanic need not possess a WV Electrical Certification to qualify to work on diesel equipment. However, electrical or permissible equipment normally examined weekly and tested monthly by a certified electrician must continue to be checked by a certified electrician. This would include electric welders, generators, inverters, and receptacles used to power electric tools. This letter of interpretation does not prevent an operator from requiring additional qualification(s), provided the standards of Series 196, and specifically 196-1-24, Diesel Mechanic Training are met.

### New Positions

The following individuals have been appointed to new positions effective 11/01/2006:

Chief Diesel Inspector – Clark Gillian

Mine Rescue Coordinator – Mike Rutledge

Chief Electrical Inspector – Tom Harmon

Work locations for them will remain the same until further notice. These individuals will report directly to the Deputy Director in the Charleston Office.

### Up Close and Personal

Due to **Harry Linville's** illness, **Wayne Ashby** has been temporarily designated as Acting Inspector-at-Large for the Danville Region.

We take this opportunity to say good-bye to **Sandy Ray**, Office Assistant in the Danville Office, **Kenny Fry**, Inspector in Danville and **Art Shumate** Director of Finance and Personnel in the Charleston Office. We wish all of them best of luck in the future.

We would like to welcome **Fred Newsome**, underground inspector in Danville, **William Prince**, electrical inspector in Oak Hill, **William Stewart**, underground inspector in Welch and **Ed Blake**, underground inspector in Oak Hill. Also **Danny Spratt** has been hired as a Safety Instructor in Danville.

**Jim Bennett** is the new Administrator of the Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety. In the Charleston office, **Steve Meester** has been hired as Director of Finance and Personnel. Welcome to all of you!



**Don't forget the reason for the Season!**

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*Visit the agency's website at:*

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

