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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Buchanan Minerals Buchanan #1 Mine Sets Safety Record in Virginia**

*~Over One Million Hours Worked Without A Lost Time Accident~*

**Buchanan Co., Va.-** There is a new record in Virginia. Miners at Buchanan Minerals Buchanan #1 Mine worked 1,020,800 hours without a lost time accident from February 2015- February 2016. In addition, there were no personal serious injuries at any mine in Virginia in 2015.

Workers were recognized by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) at the mine today. The mine was presented a plaque from Virginia Mine Chief Randy Moore.

“Our miners are our most important resource,” said Moore. “They are to be commended for working with our staff and other safety programs in making safety a true priority here at Buchanan #1. We hope this trend continues for years to come and believe it could with Virginia’s safety program.”

Buchanan Minerals Buchanan #1 Mine is owned by Coronado Coal LLC and employs 457 people. The mine is located in Buchanan County, Virginia. It is the largest underground mine in the Commonwealth and among the largest in the Central Appalachian coal region. The mine is also a major producer of coalbed methane adding to Virginia’s natural gas industry.

The primary mission of the DMME’s mine safety program is to protect the lives and health of all people employed at surface and underground coal mining operations, and to insure mine operator compliance with mine safety requirements. The staff performs regular mine inspections, investigates accidents and fatalities, conducts training and certification of miners and provides technical assistance to mine operators.

Safety Awards are presented annually to mining operations that have met or exceeded a benchmark of safety criteria in their day-to day operations.