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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Division of Mineral Mining
900 Natural Resources Drive, Ste.400
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(434) 951-6310

TO: All Mineral Mine Operators
FROM: 
Jeffrey D. Stewart
SUBJECT: Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards
DATE: March 31, 2014

The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy - Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) and the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) are accepting applications for the annual Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards, a very successful program that since its inception in 2007 has recognized 40 companies and 75 mineral mine workers for outstanding safety achievements in Virginia's mineral mining industry. The 75 workers who have been recognized represent 1,990 years working in the mineral mining industry without a lost time injury.

This year, DMM and VTCA are expanding the program to include additional individual and company award categories. Individuals reaching 15 years without a lost time injury will now be recognized, along with the 25-, 35-, and 45-year levels.

The company award program will include the following changes:

- mine companies will **not** need to submit an application to be considered for the mine company awards. DMM/VTCA will determine the winner based on data for all mines within a category.
- the quarry category will include the following 4 award ranges: 0 to 25,000 employee hours; 25,000 to 50,000 employee hours; 50,000 to 75,000 employee hours; and, 75,000 and above employee hours;
- the open pit category will include the following 4 award ranges: 0 to 5,000 employee hours; 5,000 to 10,000 employee hours; 10,000 to 30,000 employee hours; and, 30,000 and above employee hours.

A listing of the awards criteria is described below and attached for your information. **No application is necessary to be considered for a company award. Individual award nominations will be accepted through May 22, 2014.** Applications may be hand delivered or mailed to the attention of Jeff Stewart at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Division of Mineral Mining, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 400, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Award Criteria

Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards will be evaluated for the following categories: Quarry (Surface and Underground) and Open Pit (Sand, Clay, Dredge, Dragline, etc.). Four awards will be given in each category to recognize various size operations. The period covered for the safety awards program is from January 1 to December 31, 2013.

<u>Quarry</u>	<u>Open Pit</u>
0 – 25,000 employee hours	0 - 5,000 employee hours
25,000 – 50,000 employee hours	5,000 – 10,000 employee hours
25,000 – 75,000 employee hours	10,000 – 30,000 employee hours
75,000 + employee hours	30,000+ employee hours

The mine operation having the highest number of employee hours, with no occupational injuries, in each category, will receive the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award. If no mine meets this requirement, an award may be given to the mine having the lowest incident rate (employee hours worked vs. occupational injuries) for the calendar year, in that category. Individual employee safety awards will be considered for persons who reach fifteen, twenty-five, thirty-five, or forty-five consecutive years in the mining industry without a lost time injury during the award year. All award winners will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement. Mine safety awards will be presented at the VTCA Annual Meeting, July 10-12, 2014, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Individual employee safety awards will be presented to the winners at their work location.

DMM and VTCA believe that the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award program provides an incentive to your employees to work with care, and instill pride in those responsible for a winning effort. We hope that you will participate in this safety program.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact any Division of Mineral Mining representative or call (434) 951-6315. We look forward to receiving your response.

Encl.

VIRGINIA MINERAL MINE SAFETY AWARD CRITERIA

*Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Division of Mineral Mining
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance*

Mine Categories

Virginia Mineral Mines that have outstanding safety performance will be considered for awards in the following categories (no application required):

Quarry

0 – 25,000 employee hours
25,000 – 50,000 employee hours
50,000 – 75,000 employee hours
100,000 + employee hours

Open Pit

0 – 5,000 employee hours
5,000 – 10,000 employee hours
10,000 – 30,000 employee hours
30,000 + employee hours

All Companies Must Meet the Following Requirements

- No mine operation will be considered that has incurred a **serious personal injury** or **fatality** during the award period.
- Employee-hours should not include office work.
- Each mine operation must have a Virginia Mine Permit Number and, if applicable, an MSHA I.D. Number.

After review by the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining, the mine operation having the highest number of employee-hours with no occupational injuries in each category, will receive the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award. If no mine meets this requirement, an award may be given to the mine having the lowest incident rate (employee hours worked vs. occupational injuries) for the calendar year, in that category.

Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards will be presented at the VTCA Annual Meeting in July 12 2014 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Individual Categories

Individual Virginia miners who have outstanding safety performance may be nominated for awards in the following categories:

- **Individuals** working 45 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 35 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 25 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 15 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.

NOTE: Individuals may receive only one safety award within each category. These awards will only be presented in the year that these milestones are reached.

All Applicants Must Meet the Following Requirements

- The employee's experience must have been primarily in the field, on a mine site. Office workers are not eligible for the award.
- A minimum of 130 days must have been worked at a mine site during each calendar year.
- All work must have been in the Virginia mining industry or with a contractor serving the industry.

A responsible individual will be required to sign an affidavit stating that the submitted information is true and correct. **In order to verify injuries and work hours the applicant must be willing to allow reasonable access to work and accident records.** MSHA and DMM accident files will be reviewed prior to selection of the award winners.

Individual Mine Safety Awards will be presented at the individual's work location.

Application Deadline: May 22, 2014

INDIVIDUAL SAFETY AWARD

Application For Consideration

Name of Miner recommended for award: _____

Occupation of Miner: _____

Name of Employer: _____

Name of Operation: _____

Address of Operation: _____

Virginia Mine Permit No. _____ MSHA I.D. No. (if applicable) _____

Individual Categories: (Indicate One)

Individual working 45 Years without a lost time injury as of the award year

Individual working 35 Years without a lost time injury as of the award year

Individual working 25 Years without a lost time injury as of the award year

Individual working 15 Years without a lost time injury as of the award year

NOTE: Individuals may receive only one safety award within each category.

Period of time worked by miner. (Give dates and locations worked and account for required time within category applied for. Use additional space if necessary.)

I hereby certify that the information submitted on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Person Completing Application _____

Print Name

Signature

Title

Date

Telephone

e-mail

Application Deadline May 22, 2014

In order to verify injuries and work hours the applicant must be willing to allow reasonable access to work and accident records.