



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
GAS AND OIL
GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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Over One Million Hours Worked Safely in Virginia Mines

Awards Recognize Achievements in Hours Worked with no Lost Time Accidents

Big Stone Gap, VA –Thirty-four Virginia mines worked a combined total of over one million employee hours without a lost time accident in 2014. All of these mines were recognized for their extraordinary safety achievements with awards presented by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) on behalf of the Virginia Mine Safety Board to coal mines and in coordination with the Virginia Transportation and Construction Alliance (VTCA) to mineral mines.

Mine Division Chief Randy Moore applauded Virginia mine workers and their safety record. “DMME’s number one purpose is to keep these miners safe. And, while taking precautions to operate safely seems like another piece of the job to these workers, their careful attention to detail should not go unnoticed.”

Mineral Mining Director Phil Skorupa noted the accomplishments of these miners. “It is clear miners are focusing on safety at all levels. Working thousands of hours in an industrial zone without an injury is quite an accomplishment.”

DMME provides assistance to operators that don’t have the budget for a large safety program through the Small Mine Safety Service Program. It is partially funded by the General Assembly and allows DMME’s mine safety group to help operators use best practices for a safe environment underground and on the surface.

Awards were also presented to individuals with decades of safe working experience.

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Top awards went to the following mines: (County),

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- Dominion Coal Corporation, Dominion #7– 190,189 employee hours (Buchanan), Large Underground Coal Mine
- Calico Coal, Inc., Meridian #2– 48,192 employee hours (Buchanan), Medium Underground Coal Mine
- Pioneer Coal Inc., Mine #1– 24,043 employee hours (Buchanan), Small Underground Coal Mine
- Extra Energy, Virginia Point No. 1 Surface Mine – 212,045 employee hours (Tazewell), Large Surface Coal Mine
- Omega Highwall Mining, LLC, Hill Creek Highwall–43,719employee hours (Tazewell), Medium Surface Coal Mine
- Twin Star Mining, Lower Elk Creek– 19,697 employee hours (Buchanan), Small Surface Coal Mine
- Mountain Materials, Inc.- 116,141 employee hours (Russell), Quarry
- Bennett Mineral Company, Inc. #1- 86,655 employee hours (King and Queen), Open Pit

Photos of all coal companies and miners recognized can be viewed on the DMME website at <https://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DM/CMSA/2014CMSAPresentationWeb.pdf>

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