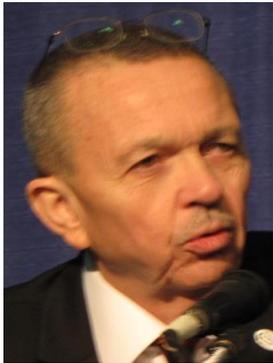


42nd Annual WV Mining Symposium Continues Building on History of Success



Bill Raney



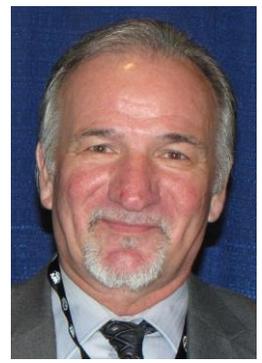
Jimmy Brock



Chris Hamilton



Jason Bostik



Eugene White

The West Virginia Coal Association hosted its 42nd Annual Mining Symposium on January 28-30 in Charleston, WV. More than 500 people attended the event with 35 vendors on hand with exhibits of equipment and services.

“It’s, we think, the largest gathering of coal people in West Virginia,” said Bill Raney, the president of the West Virginia Coal Association. “To share technical expertise through sessions. emerging technology, emerging rules, changing rules, changing policies ... everything that affects the coal industry.”

The symposium is an opportunity to get some of the top minds in the business to toss around ideas to improve on what they do.

“We’ve got a whole big room full of expert engineers and equipment technicians and people that are superintendents and presidents of companies. All kinds of consulting engineers and safety engineers,” Raney said. “It’s just a good time to exchange ideas. You try to prime that pump with whoever is on the podium. You try to get them to talk about the new stuff, the changing stuff. So that gets everybody talking during the course of the two-and-a-half days.”

This year’s Mining Symposium included a full day of training and information sessions focused on mine safety and environmental regulations and issues. Speakers for the day included Eugene White, director of the West Virginia Office of Miner’s Health, Safety and Training; Kevin Strickin, MSHA Administrator, along with regional directors Carlos Mosley (District 3), Scott Manderville (District 4) and Tim Watkins (District 12); Ginger Mullins of the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Roger Calhoun, director of the Charleston Field Office of the Office of Surface Mining.

Thursday’s session had a broader focus, with presentations by John McManus of Appalachian Power Company; Jimmy Brock of CONSOL Energy, who also serves as WVCA Chairman; Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Dr. John Christy of the Earth System Science Center, Joe Main, MSHA Administrator; Ernie Thrasher of XCoal, who spoke on the issue of coal exports; as well as two extended panel discussions with West Virginia’s new Congressional delegation – Rep. David McKinley, Rep. Alex Mooney and Rep. Evan Jenkins; and the new West Virginia Legislative leadership team – Senate President Bill Cole, Speaker of the House Tim Armstead, Senator Jeff Mullins and Delegate Woody Ireland.

Friday’s session featured presentations by the Major General Jim Hoyer, WV’s Adjutant General with the West Virginia National Guard; WV Attorney General Patrick Morrisey; Justice Brent Benjamin of the West Virginia Supreme Court; Bob McLusky of Jackson Kelly and Harold Ward of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. West Virginia Senior Senator Joe Manchin was on hand for the Friday morning session, providing insight into what he sees ahead in the U.S. Senate this year.

The coal industry is a close-knit group, sort of like an extended family, which makes the exchange of ideas that much easier. “There’s a lot of camaraderie in the industry,” Raney said. “People like to share their thoughts, particularly if they’ve got something that works. So, it’s a good idea to get them all under one roof and have a good time.” Events like this are important because of regular changes on federal safety rules, environment rules and even drug testing that mines look to adhere.

“Every day, there are new innovations that come along,” Raney said. “Hopefully, they’ll reduce costs and be every bit as effective.” West Virginia faces different challenges than other states do not. This is why state legislators are working with the coal industry to help in cost-cutting efforts. “There are things that we do here in West Virginia that are unique compared to what is done in other states,” said Raney. “That causes our costs to be higher than other states and thereby kicks us out of competition. So, what we have to do is make sure we don’t jeopardize safety or the environment.” This is one reason why representatives from Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia and even Maryland, which only mines coal in two counties, attend the West Virginia symposium.

“They’re here to find out how we do it, because we’ve got the best coal miners in the world and probably the toughest regulatory and physical environment anywhere in the world,” Raney said. “But we’re able to do it as the second-leading coal-producing state in the country. We’ve maintained that position and we want to get better at it.”

The Thursday and Friday sessions also featured awards ceremonies for mine safety and environmental work.



Joel Watts



Kevin Stricklin



Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin



Asst. Sec. Joe Main



Ernie Thrasher



Martin Consultants



PEMCO



WVU Mining Extension



WVU Mining Students

54 Coal Industry Firms Recognized for Commitment to Workplace Safety

Mine safety is a central focus of West Virginia's coal industry. During the January 29th session of the 42nd Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium in Charleston, 54 mining and service companies were recognized for their commitment to exemplary safety performance in 2014. Topping the list of award winners was Catenary Coal Company's Samples Mine, of Kanawha County, which took home the Barton B. Lay Milestones of Safety Award.

"Our member companies strive each day to provide their employees with the safest possible workplace," said Chris Hamilton, senior vice president of the West Virginia Coal Association. "They have set a standard with their focus on reducing workplace injuries and getting everyone home at the end of their shifts. We applaud their hard work and dedication to this, our most important responsibility."

The Mountaineer Guardian Awards are presented each year to mining companies that have demonstrated a commitment to safety standards. Inspectors for the West Virginia Office of Mine Health Safety and Training nominate the companies based on numerous criteria.

The Eustace Frederick Award will be presented at a later date.

Full List of Mountaineer Guardian Award Winners:

Barton B. Lay Milestones of Safety Award
Surface Mines
Catenary Coal Company, Samples Mine, Kanawha County

REGION 1

Underground

Red Bone Mining Company, Crawdad #1
Ten Mile Coal Company, Inc, Ten Mile #4 Mine
Tunnel Ridge, LLC, Sentinel Mine
Wolf Run Mining Company, Sentinel Mine

Surface

LP Mineral, LLC, Humphrey No. 7
LP Mineral, LLC – Ralph Six
Preparation Plants
ACI Tygart Valley, Leer Prep Plant
Carter Roag Coal Co., Star Bridge Plant
Tunnel Ridge, LLC, Prep Plant
Quarry Operation
LP Mineral, LLC, Humphrey Quarry #1
Independent Contractor
Walker Machinery, Statewide

REGION 2

Underground

XMV, Inc., #35 Mine
Spartan Mining Company, Lower War Eagle Mine
Spartan Mining Company, Road Fork #51 Mine
Raw Coal Mining, Inc., Sewell R Mine
Pinnacle Mining Company, LLC, Pinnacle Mine
Brooks Run Mining, Cucumber Mine

Surface

Extra Energy, Inc., Low Gap Surface Mine
Chestnut Land Holdings, LLC, Dalton Branch Refuse
Onyx Energy, LLC, Weyanoke Surface Mine
Extra Energy, Inc., State Line Surface Mine
Extra Energy, Inc., Easter Ridge Surface Mine
Preparation Plants
Pinnacle Mining Co., LLC, Pinnacle Preparation Plant
Litwar Processing Company, LLC, Litwar Processing Plant
Independent Contractor
Keyrock, Energy, Inc.

REGION 3

Underground

Mingo Logan Coal Co., Mountaineer II Mine
Emerald Processing, LLC, Eagle Mine
Elk Run Coal Co., Inc., Round Bottom Powellton
Aracoma Coal Co., Inc., Hernshaw Mine
Elk Run Coal Co., Inc., Rockhouse Powellton Mine

Surface

Independence Coal Co., Twilight MTR/Progress
Highland Mining Company, Reylas Surface
Coal River Mining, LLC, Mine No. 6
Cliffs Logan County Coal, LLC, Tony's Fork Mine
Thunder Hill Coal Co., Callisto Mine
Preparation Plants
Emerald Processing, LLC, South Hollow Plant
Coal River Processing, LLC, Fork Creek Prep Plant
Cliffs Logan County Coal, LLC, Saunders Prep Plant

REGION 4

Underground

Maple Coal Company, Maple Coal No. 1 Mine
Selah Corporation, Mine No. 2
ICG Beckley, LLC, Beckley Pocahontas Mine
Kingston Mining, Kingston #1 Mine
Speed Mining, American Eagle Mine
Remington LLC, Winchester Mine

Surface

Maple Coal Company, Maple Coal No. 1 Mine
JMAC Leasing, Inc., Briar Mountain Mine
ARJ Construction Company, No. 1 Surface Mine
South Fork Coal Co., LLC, Blue Knob Surface
Elk Run Coal Co., Inc., Republic Energy Mine
Preparation Plants
Maple Coal Co., Maple Preparation Plant
ICG Beckley, LLC, Beckley Pocahontas Plant
Brooks Run Mining Co., No. 1 Preparation Plant
Simmons Fork Mining, Inc., Pax Loadout
Catenary Coal Company, Tom's Fork Loadout

Quarry Operation
Boxley Aggregates of WV, Beckley Plant

WV Mining Operations Honored For Environmental Stewardship

Xinergy Ltd.'s South Fork Coal Company Clearco Preparation Plant in Greenbrier County claimed the state's top award for environmental stewardship – the Greenlands Award – at the West Virginia Coal Association's 42st Annual West Virginia Mining Symposium held January 28th-30th in Charleston. Also during the Symposium, twelve other operations were recognized for their commitment to the environment as being some of the nation's top operations.

In presenting the Greenlands Award to Xinergy's Clearco Preparation Plant, West Virginia Coal Association Vice President Jason Bostic said, "This award is for their work to maximize protection of the regional ecosystem while considering the welfare, concerns, and issues of residents."

Mingo Logan Coal Company's Left Fork Surface Mine in Boone and Logan Counties received the National Wild Turkey Federation Award for its work in restoring former surface mine land for wildlife habitat. Bostic said Mingo Logan's work goes "above and beyond normal reclamation requirements in an effort to attract wild turkey and a variety of other wildlife species to the reclaimed sites through the development of food sources, water and areas of cover."

"These winners demonstrate the importance our industry places on being environmentally responsible," Bostic said. "Our companies are at the cutting edge of the science of environmental reclamation, recognized the world over for their work."

"We would like to congratulate Xinergy, Mingo Logan and all the other companies who were recognized for their hard work and responsible reclamation," said Bill Raney, president of the West Virginia Coal Association. "Each of these companies goes far beyond what is required to restore former mine lands. We always say our West Virginia coal miners are the real environmentalists. When you look at the work that is actually done there is no doubt about the accuracy of that statement."

Reclamation Awards

Greenlands Award

Xinergy Ltd/South Fork Coal Company, Clearco Preparation Plant – Greenbrier County

National Wild Turkey Federation Award

Mingo Logan/Left Fork Surface Mine – Boone & Logan Counties

Good Neighbor and Community Outreach Award

Coal-Mac, Inc. / Pine Creek No. 1 Surface Mine – Mingo County

AML Award -- North

Eastern Arrow/Whitman Barbie Highwall #1 – Monongalia County

AML Award -- North

Green Mountain Company/Colliers Sportsman Club Highway – Brooke County

Refuse Reclamation / Northern Region

Arch Coal Co./Sentinel Complex – Barbour County

Refuse Reclamation / Southern Region

Greenbrier Smokeless Coal Co./Buck Lilly Mining Complex – Greenbrier County

Surface Reclamation / Southern Region

Met Resources LLC/McComas No. 2 Surface Mine – Mercer County

Surface Reclamation / Southern Region

Alpha Natural Resources/Republic Energy No. 2 Surface Mine – Kanawha, Fayette & Raleigh Counties

Surface Reclamation / Southern Region

Coal-Mac, Inc./Phoenix No. 4 Surface Mine – Mingo & Logan Counties

Valley Fill Construction / Southern Region

Catenary Coal Co./Samples Surface Mine – Kanawha, Boone & Raleigh Counties

Valley Fill Construction / Southern Region

Alpha Natural Resources/Republic Energy Empire Surface Mine – Kanawha County

Water Treatment

Alpha Natural Resources / Road Fork Development Turkey Creek Refuse Area – Wyoming County

Impoundment Construction / Southern Region

Alpha Natural Resources/Kepler Processing Wallace Cabin Branch Impoundment – Wyoming County

Impoundment Construction / Southern Region

Alpha Natural Resources/Power Mountain Coal Company Sugarcamp Refuse Impoundment – Nicholas County

Haulroad Construction

Consol of Kentucky, Inc./Twin Branch Surface Mine – Mingo & Logan Counties