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## About Mining Week...

*NMA Mining Week* is a weekly publication of the National Mining Association. *Mining Week* archives are always available online at [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org).

## NMA board charts new course to advance industry's public policy objectives

NMA's board of directors this week took steps to better position the industry to advance its critical public policy objectives. At a Sept. 19 meeting in Washington, D.C., NMA board members agreed to establish an executive committee to facilitate decision making within the organization and approved a 26 percent increase in the association's annual budget for 2008.

NMA's board approved the following individuals to serve on the newly formed executive committee of the board: Phillips S. Baker, Jr., Joseph A. Carrabba, Joseph W. Craft, J. Brett Harvey, Robert P. Jornayvaz, Greg Lang, Robert E. Murray, Michael J. Quillen and Michael Sutherlin.

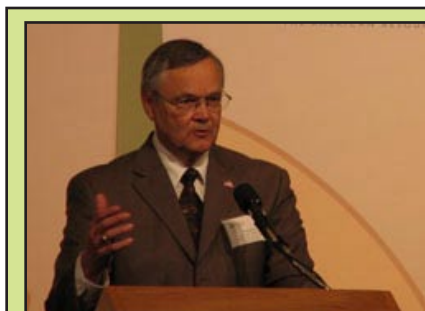
NMA Chairman Jim Roberts, Vice Chairman William Champion, President and CEO Kraig Naasz and Audit and Finance Committee Chairman Greg Boyce will also serve as members of the Executive Committee.

The budget increase approved by the board is targeted at enhancing the industry's advocacy efforts and includes the addition of seven professional positions to NMA's current staff; additional services in government relations, survey research, advertising and grassroots mobilization; and a new salary structure designed to retain and recruit top-notch staff members.

"I'm deeply gratified by the board's strong vote of confidence," NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz said following the board's decision. "The heart and soul of any

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## Sentinels of Safety Awards honor 2006 mine safety leaders



*Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Richard Stickler presented the 2006 Sentinels of Safety Awards at a Sept. 19 luncheon ceremony, during which he noted that award recipients had collectively logged almost 3 million man-hours without a lost time injury and emphasized that the industry's overall fatality rate continues to trend downwards.*

Nineteen American mining companies won recognition this week from the U.S. Department of Labor for outstanding achievement in mine safety during 2006. In total, 83 percent of U.S. mines operated throughout 2006 without a single lost-time injury. The 19 winners of the annual "Sentinels of Safety Awards," co-sponsored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and NMA, were honored at a Sept. 19 luncheon ceremony held in conjunction with NMA's fall board of directors meeting in Washington, D.C.

The awards recognize U.S. coal and mineral mining operations in several categories for recording the most hours in a calendar year without a single lost-time injury. A minimum of 4,000 hours are required for award consideration, with award categories reflecting the

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safety accomplishments of both small and large mines, including underground and surface operations.

During the luncheon, Jim Roberts, president, CEO and chairman of Foundation Coal and NMA chairman, said American coal and mineral mine operators are united in ensuring that "the health and safety of our employees is our highest priority."

Roberts said the annual Sentinels of Safety Awards are a testament to the "enduring strength" of the industry's commitment to safety and detailed the significant progress the industry has made in bolstering mine safety over the past year. Roberts noted that the industry has placed 125,000 new self-contained, self-rescuers into service and will add more than 100,000 in the coming months and has ensured that all 55,000 underground coal miners are receiving quarterly training in the use of this new equipment. Roberts said lifelines have been installed in both primary and secondary escape-ways, and underground communications systems have been strengthened to better track miners and communicate with them.

Roberts also highlighted that 40 new mine rescue teams have been added or are in the planning stages and pointed to ongoing cooperative projects NMA has entered into with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Mine Safety and Health Administration to expedite the development of communications gear as further evidence of the industry's commitment to mine safety.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Richard Stickler and NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz presented the awards to this year's recipients. Stickler said the awards recognize safety efforts that exceed federal rules and regulations and require a company wide commitment to constant safety improvement and training.

Stickler congratulated the award recipients for their "extraordinary achieve-

ments," noting that the recipients had collectively logged almost 3 million man-hours without a lost time injury and emphasized that the overall fatality rate continues to trend downwards.

"The Sentinels of Safety Awards demonstrate that modern mining can return every miner home safely after every shift," said NMA's Naasz, adding that these companies are the "true sentinels of safety, setting an example for our entire industry as we continue on our path to achieve zero lost time injuries."

Initiated in 1925 by then Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover, the Sentinels of Safety Award program has helped to foster a strong and enduring safety commitment on the part of U.S. mines.

The 2006 Sentinels of Safety Awards winners in all categories are:

### Large Company Award winners:

Surface Coal – Farmersburg Mine, Black Beauty Coal Co. of Peabody Energy, Evansville, Ind.

Underground Coal – Band Mill 2, Cumberland River Coal Co. of Arch Coal, Inc., Eolia, Ky.

Underground Nonmetal – Peerless Mine, Mississippi Lime Company, St. Genevieve, Mo.

Bank or Pit – Sloan Quarry #1001, Bardon Materials/Aggregate Industries-U.S., North Las Vegas, Nev.

Coal Processing Facility – Burke Branch Tipple, Premier Elkhorn Coal Co. of Teco Coal Corp., Myra, Ky.

Dredge – Briggs Plant, Fordyce, Ltd., Victoria, Tex.

Metal/Nonmetal Mill – Sandersville Mill, J.M. Huber Corp., Sandersville, Ga.

Open Pit – Rio Tinto Minerals-Boron Operations, Rio Tinto, Boron, Calif.

Quarry – Tower Rock Stone Co.-St. Genevieve, Tower Rock Stone Co., St. Genevieve, Mo.

### Small Company Award winners:

Surface Coal – State Industries Strips, State Industries, Inc., East Kittanning, Pa.

Underground Coal – Abundance Coal Mine, Abundance Coal Inc., Kite, Ky.

Underground Metal – K-2 Mine Site, Kinross Gold Corp. Kettle River Operations, Republic, Wash.

Underground Nonmetal – Lyons Salt Co. Mine, Lyons Salt Co., Lyons, Kan.

Bank or Pit – Northumberland Sand Plant, Central Builders Supply Co., Sunbury, Pa.

Coal Processing Facility – Columbians Pits, Buckeye Industrial Mining Co., Lisbon, Ohio.

Dredge – Augusta Sand Mine, Rinker Materials of Florida, Inc., Grovetown, Ga.

Metal/Nonmetal Mill – Forks of the River Quarry, Rinker Materials of Florida, Inc., Knoxville, Tenn.

Open Pit – Tumbledown Mine, Milwhite Inc., Van Horn, Tex.

Quarry – Green Rock Co., Inc. #1, Green Rock Company, Inc., Alto, Tex.

To see the official Sentinels of Safety homepage, visit MSHA's web site at: [www.msha.org](http://www.msha.org).

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association is the voluntary service provided by its members and the talents and commitment of its staff. NMA is blessed to have these in abundance." Naasz said the board's decision "provides NMA with the resources we need to advance this essential industry's public policy objectives."

A copy of the president's report as presented to the board of directors is available to NMA members at: [www.nma.org/members/nma\\_news.asp](http://www.nma.org/members/nma_news.asp).

## U.S. mining companies honored for environmental, reclamation, community service efforts

Officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) this week recognized 13 American mining companies for outstanding environmental and reclamation accomplishments in 2006. Representatives from the 13 companies were honored at a Sept. 18 awards dinner held in conjunction with NMA's fall board of directors meeting. This year's awards also coincide with the thirtieth anniversary of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Three mineral mining companies won annual awards from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for outstanding environmental and community outreach efforts, while 10 coal mining companies won annual awards from the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (OSM) in recognition of their outstanding reclamation and sustainable development activities.

"We are very proud of these companies for showcasing state-of-the-art environmental practices of the American mining industry and very grateful to the Department of the Interior for recognizing these accomplishments," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "Every day our mine operators work hard to set new standards for protecting the environment, reclaiming the land following mining and for improving the communities in which they operate."

C. Stephen Allred, DOI assistant secretary for land and minerals management, and Michael Nedd, BLM assistant director for minerals, realty and resource protection, presented BLM's 2006 Hardrock Mineral

Environmental Awards that recognize continuous and repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed federal, state or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Awards recognizing 2006 efforts were presented to the Kennecott Nevada Copper Reclamation Project in White Pine County, Nev., and the Phelps Dodge Corporation's Clarkdale Tailing Reclamation Project in Clarkdale, Ariz.

Allred and Nedd also presented the agency's 2006 Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award, which recognizes extraordinary concern for community responsibilities and the economic benefits of mineral



Office of Surface Mining Director Brent Walhquist presented 10 coal mining companies with the agency's 2006 Reclamation Awards.

development, to the Northern Nevada Partnership Group.

OSM Director Brent Walhquist presented 10 coal mining companies with the agency's 2006 Reclamation Awards that honor innovative reclamation techniques and completed reclamation efforts that have resulted in outstanding on-the-ground performance. The winners for 2006 are:

### National Award Winners:

Black Beauty Coal Company, Somerville Central Mine, Peabody Energy, Gibson County, Ind.

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., BeeVeer Mine, College Mound, Mo.

Falkirk Mining Company, North American Coal Corp., Underwood, N.D.

Peabody Energy, Northwest Colorado Operations (Seneca Mine, TwentyMile Mine, Hayden Gulch Mine and Terminal), Hayden, Colo.

Peabody Coal Company, Gibraltar Mine, Central City, Ky.

Coal-Mac, Inc., Holden 22 Surface Mine, Arch Coal, Inc., Holden, W.Va.

### Good Neighbor Award Winners:

Mingo Logan Coal Company, Mountain Laurel Complex, Arch Coal, Inc., Madison, W.Va.

Black Beauty Coal Company, Somerville Central Mine, Peabody Energy, Gibson County, Ind.

Caballo Coal Company, Caballo Mine, Peabody Energy, Gillette, Wyo.

### Director's Award:

Foundation Coal West, Inc., Belle Ayr Mine, Foundation Coal Corporation, Gillette, Wyo.

To see a full description of the award winning projects, visit the following web sites: [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov) and [www.osm.gov](http://www.osm.gov).



House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) (left) and Arch Coal, Inc. Chairman and CEO Steve Leer talk at the Sept. 18 awards dinner.



Department of Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management C. Stephen Allred (top) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Assistant Director for Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection Michael Nedd (bottom) presented BLM's 2006 Hardrock Mineral Environmental Awards.



Jim Roberts, president, CEO and chairman of Foundation Coal and NMA chairman (left), talks with Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Ranking Member Michael Enzi (R-Wyo.) (right) at a Sept. 18 awards dinner honoring outstanding mining industry environmental and reclamation efforts.

## NMA hosts fall board of directors and annual members meeting

NMA held its fall board of directors and annual members meeting Sept. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. NMA's board of directors met Sept. 19 and traveled to Capitol Hill following the meeting for a series of visits with members of Congress to discuss important mining community issues such as safety, Mining Law reform and coal's future role in powering American economic growth. NMA also hosted a Sept. 19 rooftop reception, partnered with the Mine Safety and Health Administration to host the annual Sentinels of Safety Awards luncheon and once again joined with the Department of the Interior to present awards recognizing the outstanding environmental, reclamation and community outreach efforts of domestic hardrock and coal mining operations.



Washington Post lobbying columnist Jeff Birnbaum delivered a breakfast speech on Sept. 19 to NMA's board of directors in which he previewed factors likely to impact the 2008 presidential and congressional elections.



NMA Vice Chairman and President and CEO of Kennecott Utah Copper Corp. Bill Champion (left) talks with House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Chairman Jim Costa (D-Calif.) during NMA's congressional reception.



NMA President and CEO Craig R. Naasz (left) welcomed House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) to NMA's rooftop congressional reception.



Massey Energy Chairman, CEO and President Don Blankenship (left) welcomed Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) to NMA's Sept. 19 congressional reception.



Newmont Mining Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary Britt Banks (left) greeted Rep. Shelley Berkeley (D-Nev.) (right) at NMA's Sept. 19 congressional reception.



NMA Vice Chairman and President and CEO of Kennecott Utah Copper Corp. Bill Champion (left) talks with Rep. Jim Matheson (D-Utah) during NMA's Sept. 19 congressional reception. Matheson is a member of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality and a co-chair of the Congressional Mining Caucus.



NMA Senior Vice President of Government and Political Affairs Dan Gerkin (left) and Rep. Phil English (R-Pa.) talk during NMA's congressional rooftop reception.



Cleveland-Cliffs Vice President of Public Affairs Dana Byrne (left) and freshman Rep. Zack Space (D-Ohio) (right) talk during NMA's Sept. 19 congressional reception.

## NMA fall board of directors and annual members meeting sponsors

NMA extends special thanks to all members who generously sponsored events held during NMA's Sept. 18-19 fall board of directors and annual members meeting. "NMA's board and annual members meeting offers NMA members an invaluable opportunity to get the latest information on NMA's advocacy efforts on behalf of the entire mining community and help shape the direction of future NMA endeavors," said

NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "Once again NMA members helped to ensure the success of our meetings through their sponsorship. On behalf of NMA, our thanks are extended to Arch Coal, Inc.; Caterpillar, Inc.; Coeur, The Precious Metals Company; DYNO NOBEL; Norwest Corporation and Peabody Energy." ✕



## MINER Act technical panel recommends belt air use for ventilation

A technical study panel (TSP) established by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act this week unanimously recommended that the use of belt air be considered by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) as a part of an agency ventilation plan review process. The panel's belt air recommendation was one of 20 unanimously adopted at its fifth and final meeting, held Sept. 17-19 in Washington, D.C.

The panel recommended that MSHA district managers be required to take special care to evaluate whether belt air can be routed to mine sections in a manner that is safe for all miners involved. By calling on MSHA to consider the use of belt air in the agency's ventilation plan review process, the TSP recognized the important role that belt air plays in diluting and rendering harmless methane and respirable dust at the working face of mines.

The TSP, established under Section 11 of the MINER Act, used this week's meeting to deliver and vote on subcommittee recommendations and begin preparing the panel's final report. ✕

## NMA welcomes Partsmaster as newest member



NMA recently welcomed Partsmaster, a provider of specialty maintenance supplies, as its newest member company. Headquartered in Irving, Texas, the company employs more than 160 account representatives throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Partsmaster offers a broad range of products including specialty welding tools, hard facing alloys, premium fasteners and cryogenic drill bits.

"On behalf of NMA, I extend a warm welcome to NMA's newest member and look forward to working with the team at Partsmaster in advancing the interests of the mining community," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz.

More information is available at: [www.partsmaster.com](http://www.partsmaster.com). ✕

**Mining Week archives  
are available on the  
NMA web site.  
[www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org)**

<b>Mining Market Snapshot</b>		
<b>Coal Figures</b>	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
<i>Week ended September 8, 2007</i>		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	787,200	-1.9%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	2,875,321	2.4%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	73,080	-5.1%
<b>Metal Figures</b>		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 9/7/07		\$7,354.95
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 9/7/07		\$684.03
Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week		

## Barrick offers \$10 million for innovation to unlock silver

Barrick Gold Corporation this week announced it is offering a \$10 million prize to anyone who can unlock silver locked inside ore at its Veladero gold mine in Argentina.

Barrick's "Unlock the Value" program, unveiled on Sept. 19, invites scientists, engineers and other inventors to solve a scientific conundrum. In a Sept. 19 release, Barrick said geologists have determined there are 180 million ounces of silver contained in gold reserves in the ore at the Veladero mine in Argentina, but because the silver particles are encapsulated in silica, current processing methods are recovering only 6.7 percent of the silver. Barrick's program invites proposals for an economically viable way to significantly increase silver recovery from this type of ore.

For proposals judged to have merit, Barrick will fund research and development. For a technology that is successfully implemented at Veladero, the company will pay a performance bonus of \$10 million.

The mine is located in San Juan Province, Argentina, about 320 kilometers northwest of the city of San Juan in the highly prospective Frontera District. It is

located at elevations of between 4,000 and 4,850 meters above sea level, and comprises two open pits - Filo Federico to the north and Amable to the south. The mine opened in October 2005, and produced 511,000 ounces of gold last year.

"This opportunity will appeal to chemists, metallurgists, physicists, engineers, or any inventor with a new concept for improving silver recovery," said Barrick President and CEO Greg Wilkins. "Scientists sometimes have difficulty finding funding to take their good ideas to the next level, so we believe this will be a welcome aspect of the program," said Wilkins.

Interested researchers can register and submit proposals through a special web site at [www.unlockthevalue.com](http://www.unlockthevalue.com).

Preliminary proposals must be submitted by Jan. 21, 2008. Proposals will be assessed by a team of experts and evaluated on their technical viability and ability to be safely implemented at Veladero. Those judged to have merit will be invited to submit a detailed proposal.

A video news release from the announcement event can be accessed at [www.f8films.com/client/unlockthe-value/](http://www.f8films.com/client/unlockthe-value/). ✕

## Chinese CTL plant set to begin production; China soon to issue CTL rules

China's largest coal company recently announced that it will soon begin production at a coal-to-liquids fuel plant, while the Chinese government said last week that it will shortly issue new CTL plant construction rules to prevent overcapacity and ensure efficient use of water resources, according to a recent report from *Mineweb.com*.

*Mineweb.com* reported that Zhang Yuzhuo, vice president of coal liquefaction projects for Shenhua, told the China International Coal and Energy New Industry Expo that 95 percent of engineering work has been completed on the first production line at the company's \$1.6 billion Erdos CTL plant. Zhang said the first line would annually produce 1.08 million tons of liquid products including diesel oil, liquefied petroleum gas and naphtha. Once the second production phase comes online, the plant is expected to annually produce 5 million tons of fuel products.

In addition to the Erdos project, which uses direct liquefaction technology, Shenhua is also working to construct two indirect CTL plants.

Meanwhile, China's official news service Xinhua has reported that China's coal industry will be able to produce 50 million tons of oil products yearly by 2020, with China hoping CTL fuels can slash oil imports by 15 percent. *Mineweb* noted that China is investing some \$46 billion to help build sufficient CTL capacity to meet this target.

Elsewhere, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NRDC) announced on Sept. 15 that it will issue rules to govern the construction of CTL projects that will include production targets and recommended locations for these projects. "There is great potential for coal-to-liquids production in China, as a population of 1.3 billion means an increasing demand for coal-based alternative fuels," said Hou Shiguo, a deputy director in charge of industrial policies at NRDC.

Hou said the government won't approve coal-to-fuels projects without an

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### Looking ahead: Here's a look at what's ahead for the mining community in Washington, D.C.:

- As September draws to a close, congressional action on a number of potential climate change mitigation efforts have to yet to materialize, but before the month is out House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John Dingell (D-Mich.) is expected to introduce legislation that would tax carbon dioxide emissions, while House Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee Chairman Rick Boucher (D-Va.) is likely to issue a draft discussion paper focused on a potential cap-and-trade emissions program. In the Senate, Joe Lieberman (I-Conn.) and John Warner (R-Va.) are preparing to introduce a cap and trade bill. Meanwhile the Bush Administration is preparing to host international climate talks in Washington, D.C., next week with representatives from 15 major economic powers, including China and India. The talks are scheduled for Sept. 27-28 and will be hosted by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Topping the agenda for the meeting will be discussions on developing a new international agreement by the end of 2008 that would replace the Kyoto accord. The U.S. agenda for the conference will also include an effort to increase global funding for research and development of new energy technologies.
- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing Sept. 27 to receive testimony on "hard-rock mining on federal lands." The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in room 366 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

## NMA comments on MSHA Emergency Temporary Standard for abandoned area seals

NMA this week filed comments with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regarding the agency's Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) covering the sealing of abandoned areas in underground coal mines.

NMA's comments proposed a comprehensive alternative to MSHA's ETS that provides for a more concise and manageable process for the design, installation and monitoring of seal installations. NMA's comments also responded to issues raised in a July 24 letter House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller (D-Calif.) sent to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao. In response to that letter, NMA said that "past history demonstrates the need for a dynamic program that provides operators the tools to design, construct and maintain

seals suited for the particular environment within which they will be installed." NMA argued that "many of the recommendations contained in Chairman Miller's letter will diminish this ability and may inadvertently diminish rather than enhance miner safety."

In addition, as requested by MSHA, NMA's comments also included third-party technical evaluations of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's final report on "Explosion Pressure Design Criteria for New Seals in U.S. Coal Mines."

Copies of the submittal and all relevant attachments can be found on NMA's web site at: [www.nma.org/tmp/091807\\_ets\\_seals.asp](http://www.nma.org/tmp/091807_ets_seals.asp). ✕

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annual production capacity of at least 3 million metric tons.

"The pace at which America's economic competitors are racing to bolster their energy security using CTL fuels clearly demonstrates that America risks further energy and economic insecurities if efforts are not taken to accelerate the production of domestic CTL fuels," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz on behalf of the Coal-to-Liquids Coalition (CTLC). "NMA and its CTLC allies will continue advocating that Congress support a targeted package of incentives to ensure that America's unrivaled coal reserves are used to produce clean diesel transportation fuels that can help turn the tide against our growing reliance on imported oil."

A complete copy of the *Mineweb* report is available at: [www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page38?oid=27153&sn=Detail](http://www.mineweb.com/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page38?oid=27153&sn=Detail). ✕

## Newsbits

The **West Virginia Holmes Safety Association** recently honored **Peabody Energy's** Harris and Federal No. 2 operations with Holmes Safety Awards for outstanding contributions to mine safety, Peabody announced in a Sept. 12 news release. For the seventh consecutive year, the association has recognized the Harris mine for its safety achievements, with honors earned for achieving the best safety record in 2006 among underground operations annually producing more than 1 million tons. In addition, a team responsible for overland operations at the Harris mine received a Special Recognition Award for outstanding performance after operating for six years, or nearly 2,200 days, without a lost-time injury. The Federal No. 2 Mine was honored for achieving the lowest incidence rate in 2006 among underground operations annually producing more than 4 million tons. "Excellence in safety is a priority at Peabody," said **Jiri Nemec**, Peabody's group vice president of eastern operations in the Sept. 12 statement. "We applaud our Harris and Federal employees for their leadership in striving toward our safety vision of zero incidents." Located in Wharton, W.Va., the Harris underground mine employs approximately 350 workers and last year shipped about 1.5 million tons of primarily metallurgical coal, while the Federal No. 2 Mine, based near Fairview, W.Va., shipped approximately 4.5 million tons of steam coal during 2006. More information is available at: <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=129849&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1051098&highlight=>.



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