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Dominion CEO Renews Warning Of 'Energy Train Wreck'

Thomas F. Farrell II, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Dominion (NYSE: D), renewed his warning that the nation could be heading toward an "energy train wreck" if it does not adopt a strong national energy policy grounded in economic realism, common sense and market principles.

He called for a national policy that integrates both the supply and demand sides of the nation's energy equation. He also called for a long-term policy framework that addresses climate change, which he described as "a long-term challenge."

Farrell said, "We can have a cleaner, more secure energy future. It can be done. It will be

done. But it is going to take time, a great deal of money and close cooperation between government, industry and the consuming public."

He also outlined Dominion's integrated strategy for meeting growing energy demand in its home state of Virginia, where the company is adding nearly 50,000 new electric customers annually. Demand growth in Virginia over the next decade is expected to require more than 4,000 megawatts of new electric generating capacity, the equivalent of adding 1 million homes.

Farrell said that recognizing energy's underlying importance to the economy and the environment is important. As we approach the end of the first



Thomas Farrell

decade of the 21st Century, our nation finds itself entering "a period of consequences," to borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill. These consequences will follow from the choices we make, or do not make, about the way our nation develops, obtains and uses energy in a carbon-constrained

world.

"The decisions we make will directly affect the cost and reliability of energy. They will play a major role in our country's job and income growth, our standard of living, our foreign policy, and our ability to compete in global markets."

"I am not an alarmist by nature. I do believe, however, as I have stated before, that our nation is headed for an energy train wreck if we do not create a national energy policy grounded in economic realism, common sense and market principles" stated Farrell.

Climate change concerns, in particular, presents an unprecedented long-term challenge. We need a policy framework designed for the long term.

We also need to level with the American people about the true costs of energy production and use, and the price tag that goes with a cleaner environment.

The public needs to understand that there is no quick fix and no free lunch when it comes to complex energy issues. We all want a clean, healthy environment. But I urge you to beware of those who say we can have it for free, or relatively so." Ask them to show you the place where carbon is being sequestered in any significant way, or any place on earth where a nation's energy needs are being met entirely by renewable energy and conservation.

The scale of the energy business is immense, and

Energy Leaders Headline Spring Conference

The Eastern Coal Council, U. S. Congressman Rick Boucher, Southern States Energy Board, Virginia Tech's Research Center for Coal & Energy,

Virginia Mining Association, Kentucky Coal Academy, and Coal Leader are co-sponsoring the 29th annual Conference and Exposition,

critical opportunities and issues facing the coal industry.

The meeting will highlight the need for America to become energy independent through

SECARB, led by the Southern States Energy Board, which has pinpointed CO2 sources and sinks as well as transport requirements for nine states,

of Representatives representing Virginia's Ninth Congressional District.

He is a member of the House Energy and Commerce



"Leading By Example: Coal Technologies for an Energy Secure America", May 19 and 20, 2008. The meeting will highlight the need for America to become energy independent through clean coal technologies, coal to liquids, carbon capture and storage, and other



clean coal technologies, coal to liquids, carbon capture and storage, and other critical opportunities and issues facing the coal industry. The Department of Energy has put together a session with the Southeast Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership



and entered the data into a geographical information system database.

Headliners for the meeting are U. S. Congressmen Rick Boucher (VA) and David Davis (TN). Congressman Rick Boucher is serving his thirteenth term in the U.S. House



Committee, serving on three subcommittees - Energy and Air Quality, of which he is the Chairman, as well as Telecommunications and the Internet, and Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection. He also sits on the House Judiciary Committee,

Coal Leader Money Sense

Streamline Your Business with Online Business Banking

BY: Nikos K. Kardassias
Merrill Lynch

Changing banks or even banking processes can be a serious decision for small businesses. A disruption of any kind in a company's cash flow can have a significant impact on its operations; however, with the many benefits of online business banking today, the move to cyberspace can prove worthwhile. Online business banking can deliver two things to small businesses that money just can't buy, time and peace of mind.

Business owners across the country are already realizing the convenience and benefits of using this service. The percent-

age of small businesses that use the Internet for online banking has more than tripled in the past three years, rising from just 12 percent in 2002 all the way to 42 percent in 2005.

This trend in banking services comes as a result of companies discovering how this tool can help them manage their operations as efficiently as possible, meaning they can focus their time on tasks essential to running the business rather than administrative chores such as bill paying.

Small business owners also get peace of mind from knowing that with the enhanced security options available online, there is no more risk of fraud than

with traditional banking. In fact, recent studies have shown that most security breaches occur not electronically, but through traditional paper-based theft such as checks or bank statements.

As you are reviewing your small business' operational needs, consider the following online banking capabilities that may help streamline your financial operations and maximize your cash flow.

Work on Your Own Schedule

Because you're not constrained by "banking hours," today's online banking systems offer the same functions as your local branch, but faster, more efficiently and more cost-

effectively than an in-person transaction. You can:

- Track account balances in real-time from anywhere in the world with the use of a computer and Internet connection
- Pay bills anytime, day or night
- Customize each vendor payment and employee paycheck
- Transfer funds between accounts
- Disburse your payments remotely
- Pay state and federal taxes
- Set up payments in advance, so bills get paid even when you're on vacation
- Securely keep track of where your money is going

In sum, you can do almost all of the banking transactions

online that you would typically do over the phone or in person.

For example, business customers typically have access to an advanced version of BillPay, an online consumer program that's become extremely popular among retail bank customers. After you set up your account, you can make vendor payments and distribute employee paychecks by following these simple steps:

- Make a list of all the vendors and service providers you pay regularly
- Specify payment amounts to be made to each service provider.

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Conference.... Cont from Page 1

Telecommunications and the Internet, and Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection. He also sits on the House Judiciary Committee, serving on the Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property Subcommittee.

As Chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee, he is uniquely positioned to influence federal legislation relating to a broad range of energy related issues including electricity generation and markets, coal use, pipeline safety, refineries and the Clean Air Act. Boucher's Subcommittee is drafting legislation to promote American energy independence through the development

of alternatives to petroleum for transportation fuels and to promote energy efficiency as a means of reducing consumption. The legislation being developed will encourage the creation of a domestic coal to liquids industry and facilitate the construction of ethanol refineries which use agricultural waste as the feed stock. With scientific opinion regarding the human contribution to global warming now deeply solidified, Boucher's Subcommittee will write this Fall the country's first mandatory greenhouse gas control measure, which will have economy wide application while not dislocating any economic sector.

Congressman David Davis, elected to the 110th Congress in 2006, to his first term as the representative of the First Congressional District in Tennessee, is a strong advocate for the people of East Tennessee. He is a member of the Small Business Committee, Education and Labor Committee, Homeland Security Committee and the Republican House Policy Committee. With 8 years of experience from 1998-2006 in the Tennessee State Legislature, Davis is known as the "Father of Open Government" in Tennessee. He sponsored legislation to raise accountability standards of government.

Don Blankenship, Chairman, President and CEO, Massey Energy headquartered in Richmond, VA. Blankenship has been a director of Massey Energy Company since 1996. He has been Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since 2000 and Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President of A.T. Massey Coal Company, Inc. since 1992. Massey is the fourth largest producer of coal in the United States by revenue and the largest producer of high-quality, low sulfur coal in Central Appalachia. The company serves over 125 steel, util-

ity and industrial customers throughout the Eastern U.S. and Canada via 19 modern mining complexes in West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia. Mark Costa is Senior Vice President, Corporate Strategy and Marketing, Eastman Chemical Company headquartered in Kingsport, TN. Costa received a bachelor's degree in economics and pre-medicine from the University of California at Berkley, where he was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Prior to joining Eastman on June 1, 2006, he was a senior partner within Monitor Group's integrated North American and global client service networks. He joined Monitor in 1988 and his experience included corporate and business unit strategies, asset portfolio strategies, innovation and marketing, and channel strategies across a wide range of industries, including specialty and commodity chemicals, electricity, natural gas and truck/auto manufacturing. In particular, he led Monitor's practice in energy and chemicals.

The U. S. Department of Energy has put together and outstanding session about Carbon Capture and Storage. Preliminary findings indicate the

world's potential storage capacity is sufficient to hold all emissions for several centuries and that there is a good match between large-scale carbon dioxide sources and storage formations. Fossil fuels will remain the mainstay of energy production well into the 21st century. Availability of these fuels to provide clean, affordable energy is essential for the prosperity and security of the United States.

DOE's Office of Fossil Energy FY 2009 coal budget request of \$648 million focuses on technology allowing the United States to maintain its technological lead in coal use in a way that will not raise climate concerns. This is the largest budget request for coal research development and demonstration in over 25 years and leverages a nearly \$1 billion investment in Clean Coal Technology.

Conference attendees have the opportunity to tour Eastman Chemical's coal facility. Eastman has a long, successful history of coal gasification, and their IGCC facility helps support the company's overall strategy to deliver greener, smarter and lower-cost solutions to the markets. Limited exhibit space is available. To learn more see ad on page ??.

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Barbara F. Altizer.....barb@netscope.net.....Publisher & Managing Editor
Martin A. Snyder.....msnyder55@verizon.net.....Advertising Sales Manager
Robert Fields.....robertfields@netscope.net.....Web Master
Editorial Content.....Eastern Coal Council Directors

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Dominion Cont from Page 1

ness is immense, and immensely capital-intensive. Siting, designing, permitting, engineering and building pipelines, power stations and transmission lines requires a time horizon measured in decades, not years.

Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA) estimates that U.S. utilities must invest \$900 billion in new energy infrastructure over the next 15 years to meet the nation's growing energy needs. That does not include any costs related to potential carbon regulation. Realistically, it will take decades to change America's thinking about energy.

We need an integrated strategy that works both sides of the energy equation, supply and demand, production and consumption, if our goal is to achieve sustainable and cost-effective reductions in emissions and lay the foundation for a more secure energy future.

Diversification offers the most viable approach to greater energy security. As any good financial advisor will tell you, the best hedge against a market is a diversified portfolio. The same is true for energy. That means we cannot limit ourselves to a few sources of energy and exclude others. We need to draw on every resource at our disposal, coal, nuclear, oil, natural gas, renewable power and much more aggressive and smarter conservation and efficiency programs.

"Dominion has a diversified and integrated plan to meet our customers' future energy needs and reduce or offset our carbon emissions at the same time," stated Farrell.

"On average, we are adding about 50,000 electric customers to our Virginia regulated system every year. In terms of power generation, we will require more than 4,000 megawatts of new capacity just to keep pace with rising demand over the next decade. That's the equivalent of adding more than one million new homes to our customer base."

The integrated strategy Dominion has adopted in its home state is called Powering Virginia. Three principal themes underlie the company's plan: energy management... energy production... and energy delivery.

Energy management refers to conservation and efficiency. It requires active and meaningful participation by consumers.



Dominion's Proposed Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center

Our goal is to put more information and technology in their hands. We want to give our customers the tools they need to manage their energy use and cut consumption, especially at times when power use is highest, and most expensive.

Last year, we rolled out a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) discount program in partnership with Home Depot. CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than traditional bulbs and can last up to 10 times longer. The initial results have exceeded our sales expectations by a wide margin. We have already distributed nearly one million bulbs.

We now estimate we will sell around five million CFL bulbs before the end of 2009. That translates into more than \$280 million in savings for Dominion customers and nearly 1.5 million tons of reduced carbon dioxide emissions, the equivalent of removing about 270,000 vehicles from the road for one year.

We are also testing nine conservation programs that complement existing load-reduction initiatives for commercial and industrial customers. These new programs will gather data and evaluate consumer acceptance of technology-based energy management techniques.

If successful, these efforts will provide a foundation for even larger conservation initia-

tives down the road. They also support Governor Tim Kaine's 10-Year Energy Plan, one goal of which is to achieve a 10 per-

cent reduction in electricity demand by 2022.

Keep in mind that consumer acceptance and participation will ultimately determine how much of an impact our demand-side programs will have. We cannot conserve energy, only our customers can.

Even with effective customer conservation, we must build new power stations, baseload, intermediate and peaking, to produce the amount of electricity our customers will need.

Slightly more than half of Dominion's current electric production is fossil-fired. The rest is emissions-free nuclear and renewable, mostly hydropower and biomass, with a significant amount of wind energy under development. This diversity of supply helps balance our customers' need for reliable and affordable electric service with sound environmental stewardship.

Dominion will spend more than \$2.5 billion to reduce air emissions at its existing facilities by more than 80 percent on average. These projects are all but completed. Dominion was the first major utility to agree on a remediation plan with the EPA almost 10 years ago.

Dominion is also in the process of expanding its renewable energy portfolio to help Virginia reach its 12 percent renewable energy target by 2022. Dominion is currently a partner

in two major wind energy developments, one in West Virginia and one in Indiana. The Indiana project will be one of

the largest wind developments in the United States.

Wind and other alternative energy sources, as important as they are, should only be viewed as supplemental power sources. For various reasons, they are simply not ready to replace coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear power as the real workhorses of our power fleet.

"As promising as renewable sources may be, they are not a panacea. Nor can we realistically rely on conservation alone as our path to greater energy security. For that, we need more baseload generation," Farrell said.

That is why Dominion is pursuing construction of an advanced clean-coal facility in the coalfields of southwestern Virginia... and why we have filed an application to build and operate a possible third nuclear reactor at our North Anna Power Station in central Virginia.

Coal is by far our most abundant and economic domestic energy source. If we are serious about improving the nation's energy security and independence, we must maintain its use while protecting the environment.

The clean-coal facility in rural southwestern Virginia would use a proven, flexible clean-coal technology that can burn waste coal and as much as 20 percent renewable biomass.

This station will accommodate carbon capture and storage technology when the technology becomes commercially available.

To move this R&D effort forward, we have partnered with a research center at Virginia Tech to demonstrate large-scale carbon storage in the nearby coal seams of central Appalachia, including some promising sites less than ten miles from the proposed project.

We are also hosting a pilot carbon storage program at our Brayton Point merchant fossil station in Massachusetts. There, we are testing a new technology that converts coal into pipeline-quality natural gas, with the potential to separate and capture the carbon emissions.

Nuclear power is the only major power source that is virtually emissions free. If we as a nation are serious about confronting global warming, new nuclear stations must be part of the solution.

Dominion has not yet committed to build a new nuclear reactor. But if we receive all federal and state approvals and decide to proceed, a new, advanced-design reactor could be in service at North Anna by 2015. The new unit would generate enough clean energy to serve 375,000 households. The last piece of our Powering Virginia strategy involves new transmission construction.

An important fact about transmission, one that does not get much attention, is its role in the growth and viability of renewable power. Many renewable resources, such as wind and solar, require large amounts of land and are located in remote areas. Having enough transmission available to move renewable generation to market is crucial.

Dominion currently has more than a dozen transmission projects under development around Virginia, especially in the near-by Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D. C., where growth and power demand are the strongest in our system.

We are prepared to invest more than \$4 billion to enhance these critical energy systems.

The capital dollars we have included in the Powering Virginia initiative are part of a

Dominion Cont from Page 4-A

\$12 billion investment and building program that is the largest in the company's history.

"We at Dominion are not climatologists, but we follow the debate closely. We expect to see Congressional action, if not during this election year then most likely in 2009 or 2010. Dominion supports an economy-wide cap-and-trade system that includes a meaningful cost containment mechanism that achieves the desired environmental results at a pace American consumers can afford," stated Farrell.

Other provisions that should be in a federal bill include:

- An allocation of emissions credits to the sectors of the economy that need them most;
- A realistic baseline year and compliance schedule that first slows the growth of greenhouse gases in the near term, stops them, and then reduces them over the long term;
- Investment incentives for the development of carbon capture and storage and other emerging technologies;
- And a safety valve, or cost containment mechanism, to

protect consumers, and the economy, from drastic rate increases while reducing emissions.

Dominion believes the 2007 Low Carbon Economy Act, otherwise known as the Bingaman-Specter Bill, best embodies these principles, especially in regard to consumer protections and financial assistance to low-income households.

Time does not permit a point-by-point comparison with Senate Bill 2191, the Lieberman-Warner Bill, except to say that the two approaches get us roughly to the same place at the same time, that is, a 60 to 70 percent reduction in carbon by 2050, but they do so in very different ways.

The EPA and EIA will both release cost estimates of Lieberman-Warner in March and April, respectively. So this is not a done deal. But preliminary estimates indicate Lieberman-Warner would be far more costly to consumers and the economy than Bingaman-Specter.

This is true for two basic reasons, Lieberman-Warner calls

for more reductions sooner, before effective technology is ready, and it lacks adequate "safety valves" to contain the cost of allowances.

Farrell said he had seen estimates that show the total cost

***"Utilities
will have to
invest \$400
Billion"***

of the Lieberman-Warner proposal anywhere from three-to-eight times higher than its Bingaman-Specter counterpart. Preliminary estimates released last fall by CRA International indicated that the Lieberman-Warner Bill could reduce the Gross Domestic Product by \$1 trillion dollars in 2050, and cost every American household on average about \$2,400.

Those who can least afford this added expense would be hardest hit.

Those findings applied to the

bill as it was originally introduced. They are certainly even higher now with the amendments added in committee.

In short, both of these bills contain meaningful proposals. We should take the best of both approaches in crafting a reasonable, affordable bill. This is a long-term issue with long-term consequences.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that U.S. utilities will have to invest \$400 billion in new generation by 2030 to address climate change regulations. And that does not include the industry's other substantial capital outlays for new infrastructure. Four-hundred billion dollars is almost as much as the current market cap of the entire investor-owned utility sector.

Farrell said, "our industry, every industry, seeks consistent, predictable regulations and appropriate financial incentives. And technology must be front and center in confronting the carbon regulations challenge and creating a cleaner, greener America."

To achieve the range of emission reductions being con-

sidered, the federal government must significantly ramp up its R&D investments, especially with respect to renewables and carbon sequestration. More investment in new technologies to improve the efficiency of buildings and appliances is also needed.

The bottom line is it will take a "one-two punch" to achieve the low-carbon future these new proposals would require, environmental regulation and technological innovation.

He said we can have a cleaner, more secure energy future. It can be done. It will be done. But it is going to take time, a great deal of money and close cooperation between government, industry and the consuming public to see ourselves through this "period of consequences." I believe we have the talent, the creativity and the means. But at the end of the day, the deciding factor will be whether or not we have the political will to avoid a Siren's song of quick fixes and adopt a balanced, long-term solution that makes sense for the consumers.

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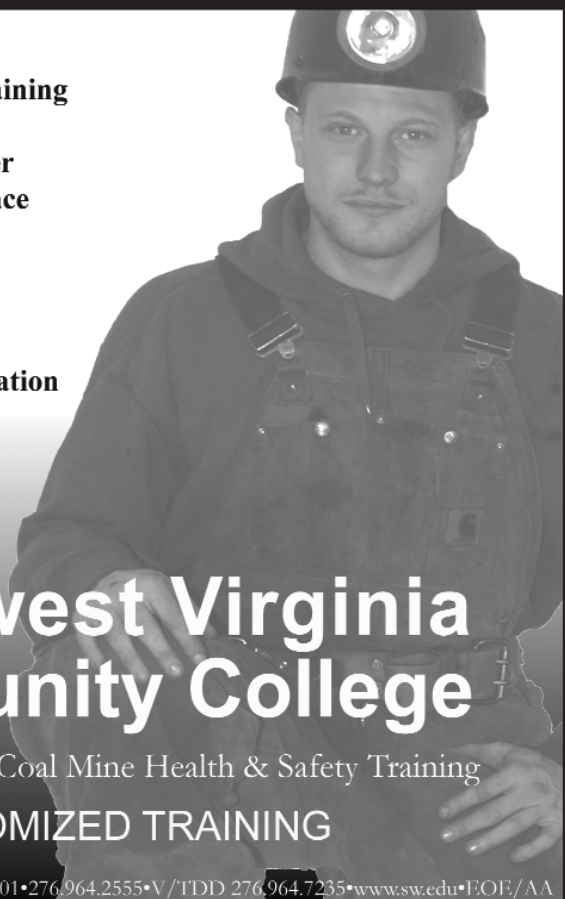
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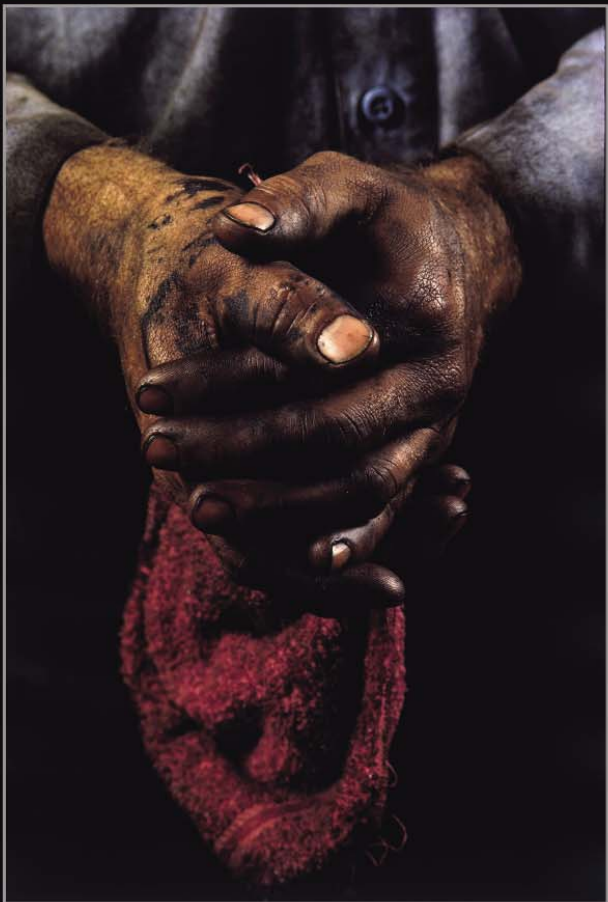
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At Dominion, the energy we create doesn't just power homes and businesses—it also powers the communities we serve. For example, here in Southwest Virginia, we're proposing to build a clean-coal facility that will do far more than help us generate reliable, affordable electricity. It will also have a significant impact on the local economy.

Our new station will create more than 1,200 jobs for the hard-working men and women of Southwest Virginia. The station itself will have an annual payroll of \$4 million. And overall, Dominion will invest \$1.8 billion in the local economy, adding upwards of \$6 million in tax revenues each year.

Our new facility will be built using the very latest in clean-coal technology and emissions-control systems—which will make it one

of the cleanest coal-fired stations in the U.S. It's part of Dominion's commitment to clean energy. Like our commitment to spend \$3.4 billion on projects to improve air quality at facilities companywide. In fact, Dominion is on target to dramatically reduce emissions from the power stations now serving our Virginia customers—sulfur dioxide down 80%, nitrogen oxide down 74% and mercury down 86%—over the next eight years from 1998 levels. We're also a major underwriter of groundbreaking research at Virginia Tech to find ways of keeping carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere.

And we'll be using an abundant natural resource from right here in Southwest Virginia. In fact, the U.S. has three times more coal than Saudi Arabia has oil. So let's work together to make the best, most responsible use of it—for the benefit of all Southwest Virginians.

To learn more about Dominion's planned clean-coal power station, visit www.PoweringVirginia.com.



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Coal Leader Coal Industry News

Prairie State Air Permit Review Process Successfully Concludes

The Prairie State Energy Campus recently announced that the regulatory and legal review process for its air permit has successfully concluded, making the permit final and unappealable. The process included affirmation by the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, concluding that Prairie State is designed with superior environmental controls to protect the environment.

"Prairie State's environmental profile has continued to prevail in the courts of law and public opinion," said Rick A. Bowen, Peabody Senior Vice President of Btu Conversion and Strategic Planning. "Each environmental review has brought stronger affirmation of Prairie State's advanced environmental controls."

Prairie State is a 1,600 megawatt supercritical coal-fueled power plant being built in Washington County, IL., that would be among the cleanest U.S. plants with emission rates that are approximately 80 percent lower than existing U.S. power plants. Even its carbon dioxide emission rate will be approximately 15 percent lower than the typical U.S. coal plant. "Prairie State is leading the largest new build-out of clean coal-based generation in three decades and is important for delivering reliable baseload electricity at a time when demand is growing significantly faster than capacity," said Indiana Municipal Power Agency President and Chairman of the Prairie State board of directors Raj G. Rao. The mine and power plant will create more than 500 permanent jobs and will inject nearly \$125 million into the region each year, according to a recent economic study by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Units 1 and 2 are expected to be on line in the 2011-2012 timeframe.

Prairie State will deliver low-cost energy to more than 1.7 million families through a partner group that includes

American Municipal Power-OHio (AMP-OHio); Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA); Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA); Kentucky Municipal Power Agency (KMPA); Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission (MJMEUC); Northern Illinois Municipal Power Agency (NIMPA); Prairie Power, Inc.; Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) and Lively Grove Energy, a subsidiary of Peabody Energy.

U. S. China Announce Joint Coal Mine Methane Project

The Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy recently announced a joint venture between U.S. and Chinese companies to extract coal mine methane at the Hebi coal mines in the Henan Province in China.

The project is being coordinated by Tulane University's U.S.-China Energy and Environmental Technology Center (EETC).

Central China Sakel Technology, Inc. is the managing partner of the consortium that was formed to develop combined U.S./China projects. Other participants include CMM Energy, LLC (Lake Oswego, Oregon) and Milestone Consulting, LLC (Frederick, Maryland). The \$2.8 million investment follows a feasibility study that will define project parameters and the project will begin in mid- to late-2008.

Initial plans call for the installation of twenty-two (22) 500kW generators to use the coal mine methane drained from the Hebi mines and creation of a ventilation air methane oxidation facility at one of the mines. In the U.S. alone, the greenhouse gas methane in ventilation air constitutes approximately five percent of all U.S. methane emissions and is the equivalent to about 32 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per year. Coal mine methane has more than 20 times the warming potential of CO₂.

To receive Certified Emission Reduction credits, the equipment must be verified and approved by the United Nations. When work is completed, China Sakel will be cre-

ating approximately 250,000 CER credits as required by the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. One CER is equivalent to the reduction of ton per year in CO₂ emissions.

The EETC, funded by the Office of Fossil Energy and established in 1997, is a facilitator for the transfer of clean energy technology between the two countries and is presently working to fund a sister Center at Tsinghua University in Beijing. It is instrumental in introducing new technology to the Chinese market. Six countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and the United States, comprise the APP partner countries. They account for almost half of the world's population; supply 48 percent of the world's energy; and emit 51.5 percent of the world's CO₂ emissions.

Alpha Natural Resources Names New Director

Board of Directors of Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. (NYSE: ANR), a leading Appalachian coal producer, recently elected Hermann Buerger as a director to the Board in conjunction with an increase in the size of the Board from eight to nine directors. The Board also appointed Mr. Buerger to serve as a member of its Audit Committee.

Mr. Buerger held various senior management positions at Commerzbank AG and was their regional board member and CEO of the Americas at his retirement in 2004. Mr. Buerger currently serves as a director and chairman of the Audit Committees for EMS Technologies, Inc., a company that designs and manufactures wireless, satellite and defense solutions, and Sapient Corporation, a consulting company. From 2002 to 2004 he served as a member of the International Advisory Board of Unibanco of Sao Paulo, Brazil and, from 1997 to 2004, on the Advisory Board of the Wharton Real Estate Center. Mr. Buerger also has served as the Vice Chairman of the Institute of International Bankers.

Alpha Natural Resources is a leading supplier of high-quality Appalachian coal to electric

utilities, steel producers and heavy industry. Approximately 89 percent of the company's reserve base is high Btu coal and 82 percent is low sulfur, qualities that are in high demand among electric utilities which use steam coal. Alpha is also the nation's largest supplier and exporter of metallurgical coal, a key ingredient in steel manufacturing.

54% of Americans Reject Oberstar-Feingold Proposal to Expand Clean Water Act

A majority of Americans oppose a proposal to expand the Clean Water Act, according to a new nationwide survey released by the National Center for Public Policy Research.

The proposal, the Clean Water Restoration Act (CRWA), has been introduced by Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) in the House of Representatives and Russell Feingold (D-WI) in the Senate.

Voters were informed the Congress is considering a measure that would expand the areas covered under the Clean Water Act, including to areas that are only intermittently wet. They were then provided brief arguments both pro and con on the measure and then asked whether they favored or opposed the proposal.

54% of those expressing an opinion oppose the measure, while 46% favor it, according to the survey. Among political independents, the margin was greater -- 56% oppose the measure while 44% favor it.

"Americans reject the key feature of the Oberstar-Feingold proposal: Namely, that waters need not be navigable - nor even be waters - to be subject to federal regulation," said David Ridenour, Vice President of The National Center for Public Policy Research. "It is significant that independents, who are increasingly seen as an important barometer of national mood, reject Oberstar-Feingold by a whopping 12 percentage points."

The National Center poll found a majority of Americans from all regions oppose the proposed expansion of the Clean Water Act, led by the Mountain

States (62%), the Farm Belt (59%), and New England (58%).

"These results are not surprising given the enormous, negative implications the Oberstar-Feingold proposal would have for farmers, ranchers, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts," said Ridenour.

The poll was conducted by Wilson Research Strategies, which surveyed 800 registered voters who are likely to vote in the 2008 presidential election. The poll has a margin of error of 3.46% at a 95% confidence interval.

The National Center for Public Policy Research is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational foundation established in 1982.

Peabody Energy Ranked First in Sector in Fortune's 'Most Admired Companies' Listing

Peabody Energy has been named first in the Mining and Crude Oil industries in Fortune Magazine's "Most Admired Companies" ranking of U.S. companies.

Peabody ranked first in the sector and held the number-one score in every category, including Innovation, People Management, Use of Corporate Assets, Social Responsibility, Quality of Management, Financial Soundness, Long-term Investment and Product/Services Quality. Peabody Energy outpaced a group of leading U.S. mining and energy companies.

"The entire Peabody team can take great pride in this outstanding accomplishment," said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Gregory H. Boyce. "It is very satisfying to be recognized by both our peers and industry analysts, and this recognition takes its place along side the 40 safety, environmental and corporate honors Peabody has received in the past year."

Peabody Energy is the world's largest private-sector coal company, with 2007 sales of 238 million tons of coal and \$4.6 billion in revenues. Its coal products fuel approximately 10 percent of all U.S. electricity generation and 2 percent of world-wide electricity. *d*

Coal Leader Legal News

Valid Existing Rights - Court of Appeals Limits Private Property Rights

By: Lesly A.R. Davis

Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter signed the Federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act ("SMCRA") into law. Among the many restrictions in SMCRA are the prohibitions in Section 522 of the Act. This section establishes procedures for designating areas unsuitable for coal mining. The objective was to resolve conflicts which arise between surface mining and other land uses.

Under the auspices of SMCRA, Congress statutorily designated certain lands unsuitable for mining. Falling under this umbrella are most federal lands, including, among others, those located within the national park system, national forests, the national wildlife refuge system, lands located in "buffer" zones—such as those bordering cemeteries, occupied dwellings, schools and churches — and lands near public roads.

These prohibitions are broad in scope, but are not without restriction. Section 522(e) of the Act specifically states that prohibitions against mining are

subject to "Valid Existing Rights" ("VER"). Under the Act, individuals with VER to remove coal on these designated lands prior to the implementation of SMCRA retain the right to mine.

Although VER constitutes an important exception to SMCRA's prohibition against coal mining within specific areas, Congress did not include a definition of VER in the Act. The task of formulating a definition of VER was left to the United States Office of Surface Mining ("OSM"). For years, OSM tried, but failed, to promulgate a judicially acceptable definition for the phrase VER. Various VER "tests" were proposed but failed to pass judicial scrutiny. Other VER proposals were made by OSM but were withdrawn by the agency. This failure has been extremely unsettling particularly in view of the coal mining industry's substantial interests in the recovery of privately owned coal reserves.

Over 30 years after the enactment of SMCRA, the merits of OSM's most recent rule interpreting the phrase VER has finally been addressed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for

the District of Columbia. In *National Mining Association v. Kempthorne*, D.C. Cir. No. 06-5199, decided January 15, 2008, the court denied the National Mining Association's ("NMA") challenge to OSM's 1999 promulgated VER rule, codified at 30 CFR § 761.5 (the "1999 Rule").

Under the 1999 Rule, an applicant hoping to conduct new surface mining operations in § 522(e) areas must satisfy two conditions. An applicant claiming VER protection must: (1) produce legally binding documents vesting him with the right to mine the land at the time it came under § 522(e) of the Act; and (2) must either prove that the owner of the land, by the time it came under § 522(e), had made a good faith effort to obtain "all necessary permits" for the mining, or else prove that the coal is immediately adjacent to a surface mining operation in existence on August 3, 1977 and is needed to ensure the economic viability of the mining operation as a whole.

The NMA challenged the 1999 Rule vehemently arguing that OSM's interpretation of

VER is unreasonable and far too narrow. The NMA also argued that VER allows surface mining by those with a property right to mine coal and that the "all permits" test is contrary to congressional intent. Further, the NMA maintained that the 1999 Rule is violative of procedural due process as it creates no mechanism by which applicants can comply with the "good-faith" permitting requirement had they not already done so by August 3, 1977.

The Court of Appeals rejected NMA's arguments. The court found that SMCRA's use of the phrase VER was ambiguous. As such, the court deferred to the Secretary of the Interior's interpretation of the phrase as reasonable. According to the court, the 1999 Rule "remains true to the authority delegated to the Secretary in the SMCRA by protecting against the harmful effects of surface mining that Congress sought to ameliorate." Thus, the U.S. Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court's decision.

The NMA is currently evaluating whether to request a rehearing in regard to the deci-

sion. It is beyond cavil, however, that the decision will have serious consequences for the recovery of privately-owned coal reserves. The extremely narrow interpretation, i.e., that before the land surface becomes a § 522(e) feature, one must have the property rights to mine and show that a good faith attempt was made to obtain all necessary permits, in many case, prior to August 3, 1977, the date SMCRA was enacted, is restrictive, narrow and serves as a very real impediment to future VER reliant coal mining operations. Instead of preserving property rights that existed under state law as August 3, 1977, the decision seriously impedes the rights of coal owners holding rights under a deed or lease to mine coal. Ironically, it seems as if OSM's expansive three decade search for a VER definition has left impacted mineral owners with essentially no realistic opportunity to develop valuable coal resources under SMCRA's VER exception. *cd*

Virginia Tech's Yoon named to National Academy of Engineering

Roe-Hoan Yoon, who holds the Virginia Tech Nicholas T. Camicia Professorship, is a newly elected member of the National Academy of Engineering—the highest honor provided to members of the engineering profession.

Yoon, who arrived on the Virginia Tech campus in 1978 as a member of the College of Engineering's Mining and Minerals Engineering Department, is known internationally for his significant contributions to the technology and science of mineral processing.

"The College of Engineering has long recognized the technological and scientific achievements of Yoon. He is a true pioneer in clean coal technology, working for more than 30 years

in this field. His outstanding reputation has led to numerous awards, and he is well-known in Washington, D.C., especially by the Department of Energy for his work in the mining and minerals arena," said Richard Benson, dean of the college.

Yoon directs the Center for Advanced Separation Technologies, founded in 2001 under the auspices of the Department of Energy. The center is a consortium of six universities in addition to Virginia Tech—West Virginia University, University of Kentucky, Montana Tech, University of Nevada at Reno, New Mexico Tech, and the University of Utah. Its goal is to develop advanced separation technologies that can be used



Roe-Hoan Yoon

to produce clean solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels from domestic energy resources in an efficient and environmentally

acceptable manner.

In 1980, Yoon and his colleagues at Virginia Tech developed a technology of using small air bubbles, known as microbubbles, to produce clean coal from the coal fines discarded to waste ponds. This research project, funded by the Department of Energy, resulted in a commercially successful flotation technology, which is currently marketed by Metso Minerals and Eriez Magnetics under the trade name Microcel. The basic concept of using small air bubbles for separating fine particles has now been widely adopted in the flotation industry worldwide.

This technology can remove various impurities from coal including sulfur-containing min-

erals. The minerals are the sources of sulfur dioxide and mercury, which are the source of concerns for the use of coal.

Yoon and his colleagues at Virginia Tech, mining and minerals engineering faculty members Jerry Luttrell and Greg Adel, have developed many other technologies, including the methods of removing water from fine coal and mineral fines, separating impurities from kaolin clay, and an optical sensor for coal analysis.

Yoon earned his Ph.D. in metallurgical engineering from McGill University in 1977. He obtained his bachelor's in mining engineering from Seoul National University in 1967. *cd*

Beltana Order's a Cutting Edge JOY Longwall System

Recently Xstrata's Beltana Highwall Mine situated in the Hunter Valley region of Australia signed an agreement with Joy Mining Machinery for the supply of a new 405m "wide face" longwall system. This new, "state-of-the-art" JOY longwall system will extract low ash thermal and semi soft coal from Blakefield South Mine.

The project will recover approximately 80 million tons of coal for supply of 8 million ton annually into the Asia market, and will initially be mining beneath the old South Bulga workings.

The existing JOY longwall has been a part of the world class Beltana operation for the past 13 years (producing close to 60m tons). The new JOY longwall will form a key part of the future performance of Beltana over the next 10 years.

Greg Pawley, Xstrata's General Manager responsible for the Beltana operation, stated "Beltana has been the highest producing underground mine by a significant margin over the last 4 years. The com-

pany is confident that with the purchase of this new, JOY longwall system, it can maintain its leadership position and even increase the productivity of the underground operation at Beltana".

The new Longwall will utilise approximately 200 off 2.0m wide 1,270 ton (yield load) powered roof supports fitted with

the RS20s control system. The armored face conveyor's (2 sets) set a new world benchmark for installed power – a 400kW crusher, 600kW 1550mm wide BSL, and 2x1600kW 1100mm AFC (upgradable to 3x1600kw). The JOY 7LS6 shearer (2 sets) is state-of-the-art with 1000kw rated ranging arms, 860kW cut-

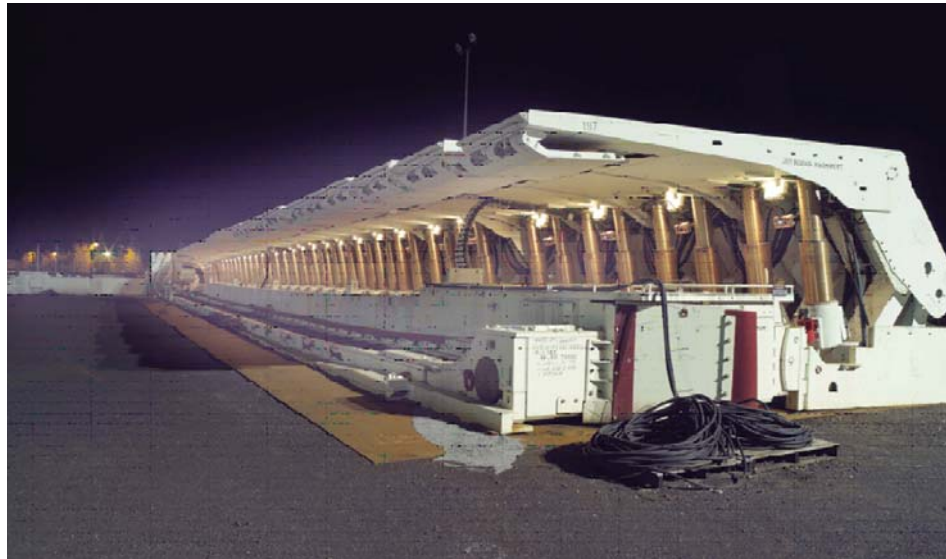
ter motors, 150kW mega drive haulage, and a FACEBOSS automation system with an integrated Landmark Inertial Navigation System.

The complete longwall will be delivered with pump stations, electrical sub-system, monorail and a comprehensive project management capability (Joy's professional project manage-

ment process). The new longwall system will build on the automation levels achieved by Beltana that contributed to world-class safety and productivity. Joy has committed to support the Beltana Team in taking longwall automation to yet another level in the coal industry.

Joy's ongoing relationship with Xstrata Beltana has been built on commitment and results. This success stems from our mutual desire, collaboration and willingness to work together to ensure creditable results that meet the goals of both organizations. Beltana's high expectations of performance and reliability will be supported with a Joy Life Cycle Management agreement.

Greg Pawley summarized the purchase "The Beltana operation has enjoyed a close working relationship with Joy Mining Machinery and are very confident that Joy has the necessary technical ability to deliver what will be the worlds most advanced longwall system". *cl*



Foundation Coal Affiliates Receive Safety Award

Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc. (NYSE:FCL) recently announced that three of its affiliates received safety awards. The No.1 and No. 2 mines of Kingston Mining Inc. along with the Camp Creek Mine of Rockspring Development, Inc. received the West Virginia Joseph A. Holmes award for 2007. The award recognizes the mines for their outstanding safety records.

Jim Bryja, Sr. VP of Operations says, "The awards are the result of an intense focus on safety at all of our operations. Our employees are committed to doing their jobs safely and efficiently. Awards like the Holmes Safety Award prove it. We congratulate everyone for their safe, hard work and dedication."

The mines will receive their award at the 25th Annual Meeting of the West Virginia State Council on May 10th at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV.

Foundation Coal affiliates have a long history of incorporating both safety and the environment into their daily business practices. Efforts by all employees provide support to a variety of programs, and their successes are often recognized at local, regional, and national levels.

Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc., through its affiliates is a major U.S. coal producer with 13 coal mines and related facilities in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Through its subsidiaries, Foundation Coal employs approximately 3,000 people and produces approximately 72 million tons annually, largely for utilities generating electricity. *cl*

CONSOL Energy/CNX Gas Support Soldier Phone Card Project

Southwest Virginia area soldiers on tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan will now find it easier to phone home in part due to donations of \$1,000 each from CONSOL Energy

and CNX Gas.

Both companies added \$1,000 to a soldier phone card project being sponsored by John Ratliff Post No. 164 of the American Legion and its Ladies

Auxiliary in Grundy, VA. Through the project, soldiers from the area will be provided with a phone card to enable them to phone home.

CONSOL Energy Inc., a high-Btu bituminous coal and coalbed methane company, is a member of the Standard & Poor's 500 Equity Index and has annual revenues of \$3.7 billion. It has 15 bituminous coal mining complexes in six states and reports proven and probable coal reserves of 4.3 billion tons. In addition, the company is a majority shareholder in one of the largest U.S. producers of coalbed methane gas, CNX Gas Corporation. In 2002, the company received a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Protection Award. *cl*



From left, American Legion Finance Officer Mack Horn; CONSOL Energy District Land Manager Philip Lowe; American Legion Commander Lovevon Bailey; American Legion Ladies Auxiliary President Debra Horn; CNX Gas Maintenance Supervisor Doug Feuchtenberger; CNX Gas Instrument Technician Kevin Clark; and American Legion Member Anthony Holmes.

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Coal Leader Section IB



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Back to the Classroom: CNX Gas Employees Teach Class at Bluefield State College

Seventeen students at Bluefield State College, Bluefield, WV recently had the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the gas business -- from the inside.

In cooperation with CNX Gas Corporation, Bluefield State offered a Petroleum Well Drilling Systems class, but instead of just hearing lectures about well drilling and the Southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia gas fields, students heard from actual CNX Gas employees and its contractors in the field day in and day out, who were the actual teachers of the course. The 15-week course culminated with a field trip to CNX Gas operations in Buchanan and Tazewell counties to visit actual drilling sites and compressor stations, giving students an opportunity to see in action what they had been studying about in the classroom.

"CNX Gas was pleased to work with Bluefield State College and Professor Frank Hart in being able to offer the class to give students in the region a better idea of the career opportunities the gas industry presents to them close to home," said J. Michael Onifer, senior vice president of established business units for CNX Gas.

The class focused on 14 modules developed by CNX Gas in conjunction with Frank Hart, Bluefield State dean of the school of engineering technology and computer science, and was designed to familiarize students with how the gas business operates. Among the topics students learned about included basic coal geology, reservoir technology, compression, fracturing and electrical sys-

tems for the gas field.

"We started at the beginning with land acquisition and took them through permitting, well drilling and to the point the gas goes into a pipeline," said Rocky Malamisura, CNX Gas general manager of drilling and development.

CNX Gas Corporation employees turned teacher in addition to Malamisura included Mike Orlich, Josh Hickman, Bob Staton, Tom Fulmer, Mike Meade, Nathan Horne, Jeff Hamilton, Bobby Berry, Jeremy Jones and Richard Reese. Contractors teaching classes included those from Halliburton, Superior Well Services, Noah Horn Well Drilling, Atlas Coppco and Well Services of Virginia.

Malamisura said the whole idea for teaching a petroleum well drilling systems class came about last spring after Hart brought a group of students for a field trip tour of CNX Gas operations. It was after that tour that Hart began talking with CNX Gas about the possibilities of a course being taught using CNX Gas employees during the fall semester.

"There's a lot of high technology in the gas industry," Hart said. "We went through the nerve center and to a drilling site and it was impressive to see."

Hart said it wasn't until he



Bluefield State College Professor Frank Hart (seated) and CNX Gas General Manager of Drilling and Development Rocky Malamisura look over the curriculum for the Petroleum Well Drilling Systems course CNX Gas employees and its contractors taught at the college.

visited the gas fields and saw the work ongoing that he realized the economic impact the gas industry has on this region.

"Even though I'd heard all the drillers were here, the full impact of it on our regional economy did not hit me until then," Hart said of that first field tour and what he saw.

Hart spoke to Onifer about the future employment needs of CNX Gas and he said from there he starting looking at how the college could assist CNX Gas in helping to equip students with the kind of education they needed to be good employees in the gas industry. A follow-up conversation ensued and it was agreed that a class in well drilling systems was a definite possibility. Hart contacted some petroleum schools looking for course material, but found there was little available except in the field of geo-science. What CNX Gas and Hart were looking for was something more of an overview and as a result the class taught

by CNX employees developed.

Three to four weeks before the start of the fall semester, Hart called to finalize the arrangements.

"We have always had a good working relationship with Bluefield State and in fact many Bluefield State graduates are now counted in the ranks of CNX Gas employees. They have been

outstanding assets to our operations," Onifer noted.

The curriculum was developed and Bluefield State Professor Eric Baldwin served as a facilitator for the class.

From the very beginning, Hart said, it was evident the class would be a plus.

"That very first week, I had eight to 10 students come in and say it was a great class," he recalled. "There was a lot of excitement by the people teaching the class and there was a lot of realism and our students had their eyes opened wide."

Hart said the first day of class set the tone for what was to come and he credited Malamisura, who is also a Bluefield State College graduate.

"I could tell the excitement was there and it stayed throughout the course," Hart said.

Two key messages, Hart said, were heard over and over again by students and those

messages evolved around safety and the environment and the need to get both right. It was evident from the start, he said, that both are important to CNX Gas, its employees and its contractors.

"Our students had their eyes opened to the gas industry and what it has to offer," Hart said. "They came back to us and said they'd like to have another class in it."

Discussions are underway to offer another class in the fall semester and Hart said from his point of view, Bluefield State and other colleges in the region need to offer something more in the way of teaching about an industry that has so much impact throughout the region. He suggested offering a minor in petroleum technology might be something the college wants to take a closer look at doing.

"A big share of the credit for the success of this program has to go to Rocky Malamisura," Onifer said. "Rocky was responsible for organizing the class and its success is a direct reflection on his hard work and effort."

Malamisura reiterated that a part of CNX Gas Corporation's interest in the class was in opening the avenue to let students know that the gas industry in this region does offer them meaningful opportunities to pursue a career and stay in this area.

Hart said the interest was the same for Bluefield State. "If CNX Gas wants to do it, we are interested," Hart said. "We would be interested in putting a few more tools in the back pockets of our students before they leave here." **d**





Rick Boucher
U. S. House of
Representatives



Don Blankenship

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Mark Costa

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SMICO Manufacturing Company, Oklahoma City, OK provides both stock and customized screening and sifting equipment to various industries, including aggregate, mining, construction, stone, clay, glass and concrete. The company's product line includes: conveyors, separators, feeders, sifters and vibrating screeners ranging in sizes from 12"x 1' to 8"x 20'.

Screen manufacturers are willing to invest hundreds of man-hours of engineering time and thousands of dollars in materials to create heavy-duty, tailor-made screeners, plant managers and engineers can now receive equipment optimized for their specific operation, without sacrificing the

ruggedness previously only available through one-size-fits-all choices. The payoff yields faster installation, increased throughput, less maintenance, and longer equipment life, all of which points to a faster way to profits.

"Before we were running roughly 8-12 tons of dry sand per hour into our bins, but with our new customized screener we can run up to 50 tons," says Rick Hollenbeck, plant supervisor for Bixby, Oklahoma-based Mountain Creek Materials, LLC, a division of Timco Materials. "We can now process the amount of sand we need to keep up with demand, thereby allowing us to satisfy our customers."

Despite the softening U.S. economy, the need for processing aggregates and mining materials shows no slackening. For example, Cleveland-based market research firm, The Freedonia Group, Inc., predicts

that worldwide demand for cement is expected to rise at an annual rate of 4.8% through 2008. In response, the aggregates, mining and construction industries' need for high-output processing equipment keeps rising in lockstep.

"Our old screener wasn't able to keep up with the amount of dry, bulk sand the dryer put on it," recalls Hollenbeck. "We couldn't keep up with demand and suffered monetary losses as a result." Yet, settling for off-the-shelf equipment in the rush for increased throughput or ruggedness often entails extra expense and slowdowns in integrating such inflexible equipment into the operation.

Customized screening solutions involving already heavy-duty equipment allows the most appropriate "set-up" for a long-term balance of efficiency and output. In effect, plant managers can get the best of both worlds.

SMICO begins by collecting pictures, drawings, blue prints and material samples, the latter of which is analyzed in the company's on-site test facility. The company passes along its non-recurring engineering savings onto the customer, given its seventy year history of evaluating materials.

Starting with this information, the process of customizing screens, especially for retrofit applications, continues with the consideration of three "F" words in engineering: form, fit and function.

Harsh environments scream out for application-specific screeners. Take the case of mine tipplers (breakers), where there is usually much structural movement. By employing a 2-bearing, positive eccentric, oil-lubricated screener design, SMICO manages to handle the abuse by allowing the screen surface to wobble within its spring-mounted casing. In this

manner these "GYROSET-STM" absorb tremendous shock and continue operation with little maintenance. Adjustable pitch and eight different strokes increase their application-specificity.

When a plant manager and engineer can simply and quickly integrate the optimized screener into their process, they stand to save their company money in both the short run and over the long haul. Toss ruggedization into the mix and customized solutions help aggregate, mining and construction operations yields greater production and quicker profits.

For more information, contact
Phone: 800.351.9088; Fax: 405.946.1472; E-mail: SMICO@SMICO.com; Web: www.SMICO.com. **d**



WE MINE THE COAL THAT POWERS THE NATION.

Editorial

Energy is the hot topic and in much demand. According to the Edison Electric Institute, a robust Gross Domestic Product growth along with much higher than normal cooling degree-day totals drove electricity output in 2007 to over 4.1 million gigawatt hours (GWh). This was the first time that we have reached the 4 million GWh level

in a given year since they began compiling records 75 years ago. Last year ended with the passage of far-reaching new energy legislation. In addition to setting higher fuel efficiency standards for automobiles, the new energy law should help to increase energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emis-

sions. The new energy law will also help us to make the electric grid smarter. A grid that uses advanced communications and control technologies to enable homes and electric utilities to begin talking to each other will be smarter. This sets the stage for a wide variety of customer and utility benefits. We will need new coal-based

power plants. Today's coal-fired power plants are a proven, reliable and efficient way to generate electricity and are critical to meeting this nation's growing demand for power. Coal generates about 50 percent of the country's electricity today. It is and will remain a vital energy resource for keeping electricity reliable and affordable.



However, the environmental organizations are fighting new coal-fired plants at every corner. Dominion Energy is proposing to build a \$1.6 billion, 585 megawatt coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia. Environmentalists from across the country have convened in southwest Virginia voicing their opposition against the facility.

One might think people would realize the importance coal plays in supplying this country's power demands, yet the problems associated with building coal-fired power plants are multifaceted and complex. This Dominion Energy plant will use Circulating Fluidized Bed (CFB). This technology meets the Clean Air Act Standards established by the federal government, yet opposition from environmental groups is continuing to mount in Richmond and in the coalfields.

The coal industry, "an industry under assault," must now face the very real probability that environmentalists plan to shut the coal industry down any way they can. They are well organized, dedicated, and have several years on our industry spreading their anti-messages about coal.

We must step forward and become proactive in presenting the many positive attributes coal provides this country. When you're called on to attend a hearing or send an email or make a phone call supporting coal, please take the time to do so. Otherwise, this country will be facing economic chaos.

John Zachary

E-Mail: coalleader@netscope.net

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Coal Leader Product News

AMR's Tagging & Tracking Approved

AMR's Tagging and Tracking System has been approved under the State of WV Legislative Rule Title 56, Series 4.

The Tagging and Tracking



System allows mine operators to track the movement of individuals and equipment in the mine continuously and receive messages from underground. The system design consists of an active tag attached to the miner's helmet or mine equipment and readers placed in selected zones throughout the mine. The miner can send coded messages to the surface through the smart tag.

The Two-Way Text Messaging Device will meet the 2009 requirements by allowing the miner to compose, send, receive, and save messages through a handheld RF device. Not only will this device provide two way communications but it will also provide memory for safety measures, mine directions, and contacts.

Both systems will work in conjunction with our existing atmospheric monitoring system or as a stand-alone system. We hope that our systems will provide a step forward in enhancing mine rescue efforts as well as become an essential in taking the safety of your miners to the next level.

AMR products and service offerings have expanded to satisfy the needs of surface mining, underground mining, and the aggregates industry over the past 25 years. Continuous improvements in feature content and product designs have broadened the scope of the products and their applications. Where applicable, many of these products are MSHA-approved. AMR offers the attractive combination of safety and productivity in its total product line.

AMR further diversified its offerings to include monitoring,

control and automation services to the water and wastewater industries recently.

For more information or to schedule a demonstration at your location, contact Amanda Ruble 276-928-1712 ext. 221 aruble@americanminere-search.com or visit www.americanminere-search.com.

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Strata Safety Products Delivers Emergency Refuge Chambers

Strata Safety Products, LLC announces the commencement of delivery on their Emergency Refuge Chambers. Steel Walk-In Chambers and Portable, Inflatable Chambers are being delivered to customers nationwide. These chambers are Strata Safety's solution to meet the new State and Federal requirements of providing 96 hours of breathable air to miners trapped underground.

In late 2007, NIOSH per-



formed survivability evaluations on all Refuge Chambers originally approved by the State of West Virginia. Strata Safety's chambers successfully passed all evaluations and met all requirements. The Chambers were to meet four main criteria: Carbon dioxide scrubbing, Oxygen Supply, Apparent Temperature and Duration of Operation.

Strata Safety expects all orders currently on the schedule to be delivered by the end of 2008.

For more information, please contact Paula Gunnels or Rory Paton-Ash at 1-800-691-6601 or visit our website at www.strata-safety.com

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Suspended Belt

Magnets

Suspended Belt Magnets are constructed with an oversized Plate Magnet. They are designed for suspension above a belt conveyor and are engineered to remove ferrous contaminants from high volume deep burdens. As product passes under the magnet, metal contaminants are drawn out of the material to the face of the magnet. This style of magnet should be installed at the discharge of the head pulley if possible.

Material will be flowing more freely and can be thrown into the face of the magnet increasing the separation results over an installation that has the magnet suspended over a troughed belt. This can be supplied with a wiper arm or stripper plate to simplify cleaning. For automated continuous cleaning, a POW-R CLEAN option can be selected which incorporates a set of pulleys, belt, motor, and reducer that travels around the Suspended Belt Magnet discharging metal contaminants automatically.

Suspended Belt Magnets can be installed in an in-line or cross belt configuration. Used in such industries as: feed & grain, concrete recycling, mining operations, municipal recycling, scrap yards, and other recycling and bulk processing industries. For more information contact: Andrea Ezyk, Puritan Magnetics, Inc., 465 S. Glaspie St., Unit B, Oxford, MI 48371 Phone: 248-628-3808; Fax: 248-628-3844 Email: andrea@puritanmagnetics.com or visit website: www.puritanmagnetics.com

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Jennmar Offers Advanced Ground Control Engineering

Keystone Mining Services is the engineering affiliate company of Jennmar Corporation that oversees research and development. KMS conducts extensive ground control engineering for Jennmar. KMS has made improvements to its computer modeling packages, including primary and supplemental bolting, pillar design, optimum long-wall orientation and mining sequence, and seam interaction stresses.



The ultimate goal of Keystone Mining Services and Jennmar is to utilize existing and new products and advanced ground control engineering to improve mine safety and productivity.

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Cat 854K Wheel Dozer Features New Engine with ACERT Technology, Advanced Cooling System, Enhanced Operator Station

The Caterpillar 854K wheel dozer incorporates innovations to lower engine emissions and boost fuel efficiency, improve reliability and serviceability, and optimize operator efficiency and comfort. Specifically, the 854K uses a highly efficient Cat C32 engine and a new radiator with improved heat transfer capabilities. A variable speed demand fan aids efficiency. For the operator, a new, larger cab includes a trainer's seat, and a new low-effort joystick controls all blade functions.

The 854K replaces the 854G and retains the best features, including the impeller clutch torque converter for superior operator control and optimum power to the ground, lockup clutch for direct drive efficiency, and STIC™ control system for reduced steering and transmission control effort.

The 854K is the largest wheel dozer in the Caterpillar line and is engineered for demanding work in large dozing applications, such as mining and bulk materials handling, where mobility increases productivity.

The Cat C32 engine, rated at 800 net horsepower (597 kW) features ACERT Technology, an exclusive Cat emissions reduction solution. The 12-cylinder engine is a V configuration with displacement of 1,960 cubic inches (32.1 liters).

A combination of technologies makes the Cat C32 engine clean, quiet, fuel efficient and compliant with US EPA Tier 2 standards and EU Stage IIa

standards.

The next generation modular radiator (NGMR) is a Caterpillar technology that improves serviceability and increases cooling efficiency. The copper core provides greater heat transfer rates when compared to steel.

The 854K also features a true demand fan for enhanced fuel efficiency and quieter operation. The system adjusts the speed of the fan based on the coolant temperature.

The 854K drive train features the proven impeller clutch torque converter (ICTC). The system allows the operator to modulate rimpull efficiently using the left pedal for smooth operation and extended tire life.

The cab is spacious and provides superior visibility to the work area. Interior sound levels are low. The Comfort Series seat has an air suspension and is adjustable to fit the operator. A trainer seat promotes proper operational and



safety training. Wide platform access stairs and an optional window-washing platform also enhance movement around the outside of the cab.

The new blade control is a low-effort, pilot-hydraulic joystick. The joystick controls lift/lower, tip and tilt. An integrated switch allows single or dual-tilt operation. The control is floor mounted and is adjustable fore and aft. An adjustable armrest enables operators to find a comfortable position. To aid the operator even further, high intensity discharge lights are an option as is a rear vision camera.

To speed maintenance work, Cat Product Link is available from the factory. It allows the owner or the dealer to remotely monitor machine health, service needs and location. For more information contact the local Cat dealer or visit the Cat web site at www.cat.com. *cl*



Rick Boucher
U. S. House of
Representatives



Don Blankenship

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Tour of Eastman Coal Facility for Conference Attendees will be May 19 (Monday) beginning at 11:45 a.m. Tour approximately one hour. Yes () No ()

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES: (Before April 30, 2008)

Conference Registration includes Reception, Breakfast, Luncheon, Breaks,
Conference Materials, and tour of Eastman's Coal Facility. Check the appropriate boxes:

_____ Have a Golf Foursome for only	\$400.00	_____ Golf Tournament at Cattails at MeadowView	
_____ (Golf handicap _____)	\$125.00		
_____ ECC Member	\$350.00	_____ Non-Member	\$475.00
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES: (After April 30, 2008)			
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****IMPORTANT**** List Equipment – Product Service to be Exhibited: _____

Electricity Needed for Booth? Yes () No ()

All exhibits and exhibitors are subject to the regulations and rules established by the Eastern Coal Council (sponsor). Exhibit shall be arranged as not to obstruct the general view or hide another exhibitor. Any pre-built booth MUST be approved by the Eastern Coal Council Expo Committee. The sponsor will not be liable for loss or damage to the property of the exhibitor or his representatives or employees from theft, fire, accident, or there cause. However, exhibit area will be locked when not in use. The Sponsor will not be liable for injury to exhibitors, their employees, or third persons, which claims for damages, injuries, etc., may be incident to or arise from, or be in any way connected with their use of occupation of display space. The exhibitor shall indemnify the sponsor for any costs or expense, exclusive of counsel fees, arising from any such claim. Exhibitors shall, at no cost to the sponsor, obtain adequate and reasonable liability and property damage insurance from responsible insurance companies. The exhibitor assumes all responsibility for compliance with local, state, and federal ordinances, laws and regulations covering fire, safety and health, and all rules and regulations of the Meadowview Conference Resort & Convention Center. PAYMENT IN FULL for all booths must be made by May 1, 2008. For additional information contact Eastern Coal Council.

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