

Annual Report

Indiana Department of Labor Indiana Bureau of Mines 2007



“Hoosier coal mines are an important aspect of Indiana’s economic comeback. Coal mining provides the state with valuable employment opportunities while also providing a necessary resource for energy. The Indiana Department of Labor, Bureau of Mines is dedicated to providing Indiana’s miners with the healthiest and safest work environment, but there is still more work to be done as Hoosier health and safety is a top priority.”

Mitch Daniels

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor, State of Indiana

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Under the direction of the Indiana Commissioner of Labor, Lori A. Torres, the Indiana Bureau of Mines and Mine Safety is staffed by the Deputy Commissioner, the Chief Mine Inspector and the Indiana Mining Board. By law, the Commissioner of Labor is required to administer the Mine Safety Fund, adopt any necessary rules for the prevention of injuries and illnesses and forward the Annual Mining Report to the Indiana General Assembly. This report serves as the annual report that is required to be submitted to the General Assembly by the Commissioner on behalf of the board.

In 2007 the mining industry experienced some positive outcomes, but also some tragic events. Two construction company employees and a guest of the company fell to their deaths in a mine shaft under construction in Gibson County in August. Although the victims were not underground coal miners, this event serves as a grim reminder that diligence is required on everyone’s part when working at a coal mine.

Some news, however, was more positive. The General Assembly funded the position of Chief Mine Inspector, and there is now a state inspector in each of the six active underground coal mines nearly every day. All inspection reports are available on the Indiana Department of Labor website at <http://www.in.gov/dol/3570.htm>. There were 75 inspections done in 2007 by the staff of the Bureau. The Bureau, along with Vincennes University, was also a recipient of a competitive federal grant that is allowing the Bureau to conduct quarterly training to better prepare the mine operators and the mine rescue teams in the event of an emergency.

Archived mine maps and records of mining in Indiana are maintained by the Bureau and made available to the public on digitized disks on the Indiana Geological Survey website at <http://igs.indiana.edu/geology/maps/coal/cmis/index.cfm>.

The Bureau of Mines is dedicated to the safety and well being of all who work in the underground coal mines in the State of Indiana. The Bureau is committed to the principle that each underground coal mine in Indiana can achieve the highest standards in safety and still be profitable contributors to Indiana’s economy.

Sincerely,

Don "Blink" McCorkle

Don “Blink” McCorkle
Deputy Commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Mines

Indiana Underground Active Coal Mines in December 2007

Black Beauty Underground, Inc.
Air Quality Mine #1
Monroe City, Indiana, *Knox County*
Employees: 337

Black Beauty Underground, Inc.
Francisco Mine
Francisco, Indiana, *Gibson County*
Employees: 72

Five Star Mining, Inc.
Prosperity Mine
Petersburg, Indiana, *Pike County*
Employees: 348

Gibson County Coal, LLC
Gibson Mine
Priceton, Indiana, *Gibson County*
Employees: 290

Sunrise Coal Company
Carlisle Mine
Carlisle, Indiana, *Sullivan County*
Employees: 130

Triad Underground Mining
Freelandville Mine
Edwardsport, Indiana, *Knox County*
Employees: 58

White River Coal Company*
Hazleton Mine
Hazleton, Indiana, *Gibson County*
Employees: 110
**Mine ceased coal production in August 2007.*

Annual Statistics Report for 2007 Underground Mining in Indiana

<u>Mine</u>	<u>Tons of Coal Produced</u>	<u>Coal Seam**</u>
Air Quality Mine #1	2,052,000	#7 Seam
Carlisle Mine	972,502	#5 Seam
Francisco Mine	893,650	#5 Seam
Freelandville Mine	594,092.21	#5 Seam
Gibson County Mine	3,463,113	#5 Seam
Hazleton Mine*	245,269.40	#7 Seam
Prosperity Mine	2,632,318	#5 Seam

Total Tons of Clean Coal for 2007 10,852,944.61

***A coal seam is a stratum or bed of coal layered throughout the earth's strata. Each number identifies a different seam of coal.*

The Indiana Mining Board

Appointed to a four-year term by the Governor of the State of Indiana, the Indiana Mining Board has many responsibilities. Quarterly certification examinations are administered by the Indiana Mining Board in the classifications of Mine Foreman, Mine Examiner, Belt Examiner, Hoisting Engineer and Shot Firer. The Board is also responsible for issuing discipline or revocation of the issued licenses. The Indiana Mining Board also collects and distributes information concerning the nature, causes and prevention of mine accidents and the improvement of methods, conditions and equipment in the mines. The Mining Board exercises its authority to require mines to provide adequate personnel for the Indiana Mine Rescue Teams.

Members of the Indiana Mining Board

Tim Emmons, Chairman
John Stachura
Terry Mooney
Bob Mowery
Chris Whitehead

The Indiana Mine Rescue Team

A fully equipped mine rescue station is housed under the supervision of the Indiana Bureau of Mines at Vincennes University. This station consists of an Emergency Mine Rescue van that has the materials to fully equip and maintain two mine rescue teams. The van is equipped to also be a mobile work station to keep all the equipment on line and operable. The state has two fully trained mine rescue teams who train to not only meet, but exceed recommended training requirements. Teams compete in at least three competitive mine rescue contests each year. These contests present the teams with different scenarios of mine disasters which the teams are to solve. This ranges from mine fires, explosions, floods, roof falls, etc. Both teams are trained by Greg Xanders, Senior Instructor at Peabody's Midwest Training Center, Steve Riley, Chief Mine Inspector for the State of Indiana and Don "Blink" McCorkle, Deputy Commissioner for the Indiana Bureau of Mines. The teams competed in three mine rescue drills in 2007, including the Western Kentucky Mine Rescue Contest, the Indiana State Mine Rescue Contest and the Illinois Mine Rescue Contest. Indiana mine rescue teams consist of volunteer miners from each of the six underground mines in southwest Indiana.

Members of the 2007 Indiana Mine Rescue Team

Brian Austin	Tory Hinton	Terry Thombleson
Cory Baker	Joby Johnson	John Wheaton
Rick Bolding	Scott Kent	Tony Wilson
Kenneth Creedon	Shane Meadows	Mike Workman
Brandon Elliot	Bob Mowery	
Troy Goodman	David Roach	
John Helm	Thomas Schaffer	

Brookwood/Sago Grant Awarded in 2007

In 2007, the Indiana Department of Labor along with Vincennes University were co-recipients of a \$50,000 federal Brookwood/Sago Grant. The grant was awarded for enhanced training of the Indiana Mine Rescue Teams and underground mine management in mine emergency response drills. With the help of this grant, the six active mines and the Indiana Mine Rescue Teams will receive additional training in command center, fire fighting and mine emergency response, which will further prepare the underground mines in the state to be ready whenever they are called upon to assist in rescue and recovery operations.

The Indiana Bureau of Mines is also a member of the Indiana Mine Rescue Association (IMRA) which is a member of the National Mine Rescue Association. Such associations contribute to uniform mine rescue team training throughout the country.

Certification Examinations

The state issues the certification tests the second Saturday of the first month of each quarter. The study guides for the testing are on computer disks. Disks are available at each mine and are updated on a regular basis. The tests include a ventilation map, questions on topics such as gases, roof control, mining laws, first aid, ventilation, general mining practices and formulas for calculating air velocity and the Self Contained Self Rescuer (SCSR) and its use. Two practical parts of the test are an air reading and gas test which must be taken by each applicant at the conclusion of the written test. The tests are graded electronically except for the ventilation map, which is hand graded. The testing is governed and overseen by the members of the Indiana Mining Board.

Number of Permits, Licenses & Certifications Issued in 2007

<u>Permit/License/Certification Issued</u>	<u>Number Issued</u>
Miner's Permits Issued	116
Miner's Licenses Issued	168
Mine Foreman	34
Mine Examiner	16
Belt Examiner	2
Hoisting Engineer	9
Shot Firer	0

2007 Reportable Accidents by Mine

<u>Mine</u>	<u>Total Reportable Accidents</u>	<u>Lost Time Accidents*</u>
Air Quality Mine #1	20	8
Carlisle Mine	30	10
Francisco Mine	1	0
Freelanville Mine	4	2
Gibson Mine	22	4
Hazleton Mine	2	2
Prosperity Mine	10	9
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Totals	89	35

**All accidents that required time away from work*

A Message from the Commissioner of Labor

Governor Daniels, the Indiana Department of Labor and the Bureau of Mines are grateful for the cooperation and courtesy that the employees and management at each mine show to the staff of the Bureau. The State and industry work hand-in-hand to resolve any issues that may arise, so that the final outcome is a safer working environment for all miners. Safety is the top concern and this is evident in the way Indiana's mines are operated and by the men and women who work in them. Indiana has found a way to collaborate with the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), neighboring states, the Indiana Coal Council, as well as Indiana mine operators, to truly advance the safety of underground mining in Indiana. And while the deaths in Gibson County are a tragic loss felt deeply by all who labor in the coal industry, it doesn't deter us from our goal of perfection in underground coal mining safety.

Respectfully,



Lori A. Torres
Comissioner of Labor