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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Energy
Division of Mineral Mining
900 Natural Resources Drive, Ste.400
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(276) 523-8100

TO: All Virginia Mineral Mine Operators
FROM: Jeffrey D. Stewart
SUBJECT: Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards
DATE: April 27, 2026

Virginia Energy's Mineral Mining Program and the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) are accepting applications for the annual Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards, a very successful program that since its inception in 2007 has recognized 136 companies and 752 mineral miners for outstanding safety achievements in Virginia's mineral mining industry. The 752 mineral miners recognized represent an outstanding cumulative total of 18,556 years working without a lost time injury. In 2025, Virginia Energy and VTCA recognized 134 miners who have worked an amazing 3,417 years in the mineral mining industry without a lost time injury.

As in recent years, Virginia Energy and VTCA will again recognize individuals reaching 15-, 20-, 25-, 30-, 35-, 40-, and 45-years without a lost time injury milestones in calendar year 2025.

The company award program will follow the same procedures as last year:

- mine companies **will not need** to submit an application to be considered for the mine company awards. Virginia Energy/VTCA will determine the winner based on CY2025 data for all mines within a category.
- the quarry category will include the following 4 award ranges: 0 to 25,000 employee hours; 25,000 to 50,000 employee hours; 50,000 to 75,000 employee hours; and, 75,000 and above employee hours.
- the open pit category will include the following 4 award ranges: 0 to 5,000 employee hours; 5,000 to 10,000 employee hours; 10,000 to 30,000 employee hours; and, 30,000 and above employee hours.

In addition to the company and individual safety awards, Virginia Energy/VTCA would like to recognize those companies with exemplary safety records that deserve recognition, but do not receive an award in one of the above award categories. For example, if your mine site has worked for 10 or more years without a lost time accident or has other notable safety achievements, Virginia Energy/VTCA will review and consider how best to recognize notable achievements. Please contact your Area

Compliance/Assistance Specialist or Jeff Stewart (jeff.stewart@energy.virginia.gov) if you would like to nominate your mine site for special recognition.

A listing of the awards criteria is described below and attached for your information. **No application is necessary to be considered for a company award. Individual award nominations will be accepted through June 26, 2026.** Applications may be emailed to jeff.stewart@energy.virginia.gov or mailed to Jeff Stewart at the Department of Energy, Division of Mineral Mining, 900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 400, Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Award Criteria

Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Awards will be evaluated for the following categories: Quarry (Surface and Underground) and Open Pit (Sand, Clay, Dredge, Dragline, etc.). Four awards will be given in each category to recognize various size operations. The period covered for the safety awards program is from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

<u>Quarry</u>	<u>Open Pit</u>
0 – 25,000 employee hours	0 - 5,000 employee hours
25,000 – 50,000 employee hours	5,000 – 10,000 employee hours
50,000 – 75,000 employee hours	10,000 – 30,000 employee hours
75,000+ employee hours	30,000+ employee hours

The mine operations having the highest number of employee hours with no occupational injuries in each category, will receive the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award. If no mine meets this requirement, an award may be given to the mine having the lowest incident rate (employee hours worked vs. occupational injuries) for the calendar year, in that category. The company mine safety awards will be presented at a still-to-be-determined date and location.

Individual employee safety awards will be considered for persons who reach fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five or more, forty or more, or forty-five or more consecutive years in the mining industry without a lost time injury during the calendar year. All individual award winners will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement. Individual employee safety awards will be presented to the winners at their work location either by Virginia Energy/VTCA or mine management personnel.

Virginia Energy and VTCA believe that the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award program provides an incentive to your employees to work with care and instills pride in those responsible for a winning effort. We hope that you will participate in this safety program.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact any Division of Mineral Mining representative or call Jeff Stewart at (434) 996-5696. We look forward to receiving your response.

2026 INDIVIDUAL SAFETY AWARD
Application For Consideration

Name of Miner nominated for award: _____

Occupation of Miner: _____

Name of Employer: _____

Name of Operation: _____

Address of Operation: _____

Virginia Mine Permit No. _____ MSHA I.D. No. (if applicable) _____

Individual Categories: (**INDICATE ONLY ONE MILESTONE REACHED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2025**)

- Individual working 45 or more years without a lost time injury as of the award year
- Individual working 40 or more years without a lost time injury as of the award year
- Individual working 35 or more years without a lost time injury as of the award year
- Individual working 30 years without a lost time injury as of the award year
- Individual working 25 years without a lost time injury as of the award year
- Individual working 20 years without a lost time injury as of the award year
- Individual working 15 years without a lost time injury as of the award year

NOTE: Individuals may receive only one safety award within each category.

Period of time worked by miner. (Give dates and locations worked and account for required time within category applied for. Use additional space if necessary.)

I hereby certify that the information submitted on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Person Completing Application _____
(all information is required) Print Name

Signature

Title

Application Deadline: June 26, 2026
To verify injuries and work hours the applicant must be willing to allow reasonable access to work and accident records. Send to Jeff Stewart @ jeff.stewart@energy.virginia.gov

Date

Telephone

e-mail

2026 VIRGINIA MINERAL MINE SAFETY AWARD CRITERIA

*Virginia Department of Energy, Mineral Mining Program
Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance*

Mine Categories

Virginia Mineral Mines that have outstanding safety performance will be considered for awards in the following categories (no application required):

Quarry

0 – 25,000 employee hours
25,000 – 50,000 employee hours
50,000 – 75,000 employee hours
75,000 + employee hours

Open Pit

0 – 5,000 employee hours
5,000 – 10,000 employee hours
10,000 – 30,000 employee hours
30,000 + employee hours

All Companies Must Meet the Following Requirements

- No mine operation will be considered that has incurred a **serious personal injury** or **fatality** during the award period.
- Employee-hours should not include office work.
- Each mine operation must have a Virginia Mine Permit Number and, if applicable, an MSHA I.D. Number.

After review by the Virginia Mineral Mining Program, the mine operation having the highest number of employee-hours with no occupational injuries in each category, will receive the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Award. If no mine meets this requirement, an award may be given to the mine having the lowest incident rate (employee hours worked vs. occupational injuries) for the calendar year, in that category.

Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Company Awards will be presented at a location and date to be determined.

Individual Categories

Individual Virginia miners who have outstanding safety performance may be nominated for awards in the following categories:

- **Individuals** working 45 years or more without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 40 years or more without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 35 years or more without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 30 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 25 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 20 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.
- **Individuals** working 15 years without a lost time injury as of the award year.

NOTE: Individuals may receive only one safety award within each category. The 15-, 20-, 25-, and 30-year awards will only be presented if the milestone is reached in calendar year 2024. The 35-, 40-, and 45-year awards will be presented for 35 or more, 40 or more, and 45 or more years reached in **calendar year 2025**.

All Applicants Must Meet the Following Requirements

- The employee's experience must have been primarily in the field, on a mine site. Office workers are not eligible for the award.
- A minimum of 130 days must have been worked at a mine site during each calendar year.
- All work must have been in the Virginia mining industry or with a contractor serving the industry.

A responsible individual will be required to sign an affidavit stating that the submitted information is true and correct. **In order to verify injuries and work hours the applicant must be willing to allow reasonable access to work and accident records.** MSHA and DMM accident files will be reviewed prior to selection of the award winners.

Individual Mine Safety Awards will be presented at the individual's work location.

Application Deadline: June 26, 2026
