



## FAST FACTS AT A GLANCE Coal Mining in Virginia

### **Virginia powers America.**

- Coal supplies half the electricity consumed by Americans.<sup>1</sup>
- Virginia is the 11th largest coal-producing state in the country, producing 24.5 million tons of coal in 2008 alone.<sup>2</sup>

### **Virginia powers Virginia.**

- Almost half of Virginia's electricity is generated from coal.<sup>3</sup>

### **Virginia mining helps fuel the U.S. economy.**

- In 2007, coal mining in Virginia generated more than \$7.1 billion in output.<sup>4</sup>

### **Virginia families depend on coal mining for good jobs.**

- Coal mining provides jobs for the long-term.
  - Coal mining in Virginia supports over 31,000 jobs,<sup>5</sup> paying hundreds of millions of dollars in annual wages.
  - Virginia coal directly employs more than 9,000 people<sup>6</sup> – including nearly 5,000 coal miners<sup>7</sup> – throughout the state, the majority of whom are employed in Southwest Virginia.
- Coal mining jobs fuel other jobs.
  - For every coal mining job, an additional 3.5 jobs are created elsewhere in the economy.<sup>8</sup>

### **Coal mining jobs are well paid.**

- The average wage for a coal worker in Virginia is about \$61,000, roughly 35 percent more than the average wage for jobs in other industries in the state.<sup>9</sup>

### **Economically healthy coal mining equals a healthy community.**

- Coal mining creates an economic cycle of good jobs and opportunity that benefits families and strengthens communities.
- Personal income and payroll taxes from Virginia mining jobs amounted to \$763 million in tax revenue in 2007 alone<sup>10</sup> – and millions more in property and other taxes – which in turn is invested into vital government services, such as K-12 education.

### **Virginia invests in protecting the environment.**

- Virginia coal invests millions of dollars in coal mine land restoration, or reclamation, projects.

**Surface mining is a sophisticated mining technique that is the safest way – and at times the only way – to mine coal near the surface of the earth. It improves productivity and protects the environment.**

- Surface mining operations alone provide enough energy to power more than 25 million American homes.<sup>11</sup> In Virginia, surface mining techniques yield almost a third of the state's coal.<sup>12</sup>
- Before mining even begins, companies must submit – and both the government and the landowner must approve – a comprehensive land restoration and reclamation plan. Some areas are reforested, others commercially developed to improve the quality of life for residents. For example:
  - A surface mining project in Southwest Virginia was reclaimed and converted into land that was more suitable for hay land pastures, commercial and residential development – thus rendering the property more environmentally and economically valuable.

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\* The National Mining Association compiles and analyzes data from a variety of official sources, including the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Energy Energy Information Administration (EIA), and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), among other U.S. and international agencies.

<sup>1</sup> National Mining Association, Fast Facts about Coal. <[http://nma.org/statistics/fast\\_facts.asp](http://nma.org/statistics/fast_facts.asp)>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Energy/Energy Information Administration, Annual Coal Report 2007, Table 6. < [http://www.nma.org/pdf/c\\_production\\_mines\\_state\\_type.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/c_production_mines_state_type.pdf)>

<sup>3</sup> Energy Information Administration, March 2008, Cost per kWh & Percent of Coal Generation. < [http://www.nma.org/pdf/c\\_map\\_use\\_cost\\_electricity.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/c_map_use_cost_electricity.pdf)>

<sup>4</sup> The Economic Contributions U.S. Mining in 2007 – <http://nma.org/pdf/states/econ/va.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> The Economic Contributions U.S. Mining in 2007 – <http://nma.org/pdf/states/econ/va.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> MSHA 2007 employment (using EIA surface & underground ratios). Note - Employment numbers include contractors and all prep plant workers.

[http://www.nma.org/pdf/pubs/mining\\_economic\\_report.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/pubs/mining_economic_report.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Virginia Energy Patterns and Trends Electronic Database;

[http://www.energy.vt.edu/vept/coal/coal\\_prod\\_eia.asp](http://www.energy.vt.edu/vept/coal/coal_prod_eia.asp)

<sup>8</sup> National Mining Association. Fast Facts about Coal. [http://nma.org/statistics/fast\\_facts.asp](http://nma.org/statistics/fast_facts.asp).

Multiplier (3.5 avg.) from NMA Economic Contributions study (2007)

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>10</sup> The Economic Contributions U.S. Mining in 2007 – <http://nma.org/pdf/states/econ/va.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> National Mining Association. Mountaintop Mining Fact Book. (p.2).

[http://www.nma.org/pdf/fact\\_sheets/mtm.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/fact_sheets/mtm.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Energy / Energy Information Administration < [http://www.nma.org/pdf/c\\_production\\_method.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/c_production_method.pdf)>