



NEWS RELEASE

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AMERICAN ENERGY CORPORATION TAKES TOP SPOT AT 2011 OHIO MINE SAFETY COMPETITION

Murray Energy Corporation subsidiary places first in all three components of the competition: field exercise, smoke event and bench contest

(Beallsville, OH – June 30, 2011) – The expert mine rescue team from American Energy Corporation’s Century Mine took first place in all three components of the 2011 Ohio Mine Safety Competition, held June 22 at the J.L.S. Mine Training Center in Cadiz. American Energy Corporation is an independent operating subsidiary of Murray Energy Corporation.

This is the third time a Murray Energy subsidiary has won the Ohio Mine Safety Competition. In the state’s inaugural contest in 2008, the mine rescue team from subsidiary The Ohio Valley Coal Company Powhatan No. 6 Mine took first place, edging out the Century Mine rescue team, which finished second. In 2009, the Century Mine rescue team finished first, as it did again this year.

“Safety is the primary concern in all our mining operations, and having a well-trained rescue team provides a level of preparedness and safety that benefits all of our miners,” said Kevin Hughes, superintendent and general manager of American Energy Corporation in Beallsville.

“We are extremely proud of our mine rescue team and support them in their dedication to emergency preparedness. There simply is no substitute for being prepared and knowing what to do in an emergency.”

There were three components to this year's competition. In the field exercise, mine rescue teams were required to solve a hypothetical mine rescue problem while judges rated them on how well they followed safety procedures and completed specific tasks. In the second exercise, the teams completed a similar challenge, but in a simulated mine where smoke reduced visibility and required use of self-contained breathing apparatuses. The bench competition required team members to test breathing apparatuses to detect problems and to correct those problems so the units functioned properly. The Century Mine Team finished first in all three; the mine rescue team from The Ohio Valley Coal Company finished second in the field exercise and third in both the smoke and bench contests.

Despite a friendly rivalry between the Murray Energy subsidiaries and all of the teams that competed, emergency mine rescue preparedness is a serious aspect of mine safety. Hughes said federal law requires mine operators to have trained rescue squads – although Murray Energy had such teams at all of its mines long before they were required by law -- and regulators see the competitions as an important way for mine rescue teams to continue building their skills. The Ohio Mine Safety Competition counts toward federally required mine safety and rescue programs that miners must complete annually.

“The men on this team are committed to being the first line of response to saving our fellow miners in an emergency; all the teams here feel that way,” Century Mine team captain Jason Dornon said. “When there is a real emergency, we want to be prepared and ready to go because that helps save lives. It is important and demanding work and we take it very seriously.”

Workers at the mine volunteer for rescue team duty and undergo specialized training in mine emergency rescue operations. The team holds frequent practice and training sessions – to prepare for competitions, and more importantly, to be ready to respond in the event of an actual mine emergency.

Members of American Energy Corporation's winning rescue team are Captain Jason Dornon, David Adams, Mike Lodi, Casey Orndorf, Matt Hoover, Rick Wilson, Ernie VanDyne and Dan Panepucci.

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