



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **KENAMERICAN RESOURCES VETERAN MINER TAKES TOP SPOT IN ALABAMA MINE RESCUE PRE-SHIFT CONTEST**

*Win is another victory for Murray Energy Corporation, whose subsidiaries also have won mine safety competitions in Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio*

(Central City, KY – May 25, 2010) -- Jeff Clark, a veteran miner at KenAmerican Resources, Inc. took first place in the pre-shift contest at the 34<sup>th</sup> Alabama Mine Rescue Contest held recently at Bevill State Community College in Sumiton, Alabama. KenAmerican Resources, Inc. is an independent operating subsidiary of Ohio-based Murray Energy Corporation.

Clark, who has more than 20 years experience in mine safety and emergency rescue, added his Alabama win to a list of honors that includes a national pre-shift championship in 2007 and a first place finish in the 2009 Western Kentucky Safety Days pre-shift contest.

“Safety is the top priority in any mine, and we are very proud to employ miners who can not only demonstrate their knowledge of safety in a contest, but who demonstrate a commitment to safety every day in the mine,” said Mark Nelson, president and general manager of KenAmerican Resources. “Jeff Clark is a true professional whose extensive knowledge and commitment to mine safety is second to none.”

The Alabama Mine Rescue Contest is a three-day mine safety competition organized by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) District 11 office and the Alabama

Mining Training Consortium. Federal and state mine inspectors served as judges and evaluated participants' abilities to assess hazards, solve problems and utilize best safety practices while carrying out a pre-shift inspection and emergency rescue operation.

During the pre-shift competition, contestants completed a simulated pre-shift mine inspection, assessing potential physical hazards, air quality and equipment to ensure the mine is safe for workers to enter, and recording their findings in a log book. Judges evaluated the thoroughness of the inspection and how well contestants documented their findings. Regulators require such inspections to be performed prior to every shift at a coal mine, and inspections are done every eight hours at KenAmerican's Paradise Mine.

"The pre-shift competition is an important reminder that safety begins before miners even enter the mine and is an around-the-clock priority," Nelson said. "Because safety is so important, we also have had emergency mine rescue teams at all of our mines for years, long before they were required by regulators."

Nelson added that Clark is a member of the West Kentucky Coal Academy composite mine rescue team that includes miners from KenAmerican Resources, Inc. and other mines in western Kentucky. The composite team serves as the on-call mine rescue team for all of the mines whose miners make up the team.

Because of their longevity, Murray Energy Corporation's mine rescue teams have developed substantial expertise and have won numerous other mine rescue competitions. Last fall, the mine rescue team from Murray Energy independent operating subsidiary American Energy Corporation placed first in the state of Ohio's second annual mine rescue competition. In May, the mine rescue team from Murray Energy subsidiary The American Coal Company took first place in the R.E. Jones Mine Rescue Contest in Ina, Illinois, for the second consecutive year.

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Jeff Clark from KenAmerican Resources, Inc. Paradise Mine demonstrates his expertise in mine safety. Clark, the 2007 national pre-shift contest champion, took first place in the pre-shift contest at the 34<sup>th</sup> Alabama Mine Rescue Contest held recently in Sumiton, Alabama.



Jeff Clark