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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2022

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Virginia Department of Energy's Danny Mullins Takes Top Award in Pre-Shift Contest Hosted by the Virginia Mining Institute *Paramont Contura named Grand Champion of Mine Rescue*

Blacksburg, Va. – The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) brought home a first place trophy from Blacksburg. Danny Mullins, a mine safety inspector and member of the mine rescue team, outscored all other competitors in the pre-shift competition. Paramont Contura was the Grand Champion of the event.

This is the second time Mullins has earned this honor. He serves as Captain of Virginia Energy's Mine Rescue Team. "Danny continues to make us proud and serves as a great example to the kind of person that should be leading a mine rescue team and ensuring the safety of Virginia's coal miners in his role as inspector," **said Virginia Energy Director of Coal Programs Randy Moore.** "This is the most important training all the teams involved get throughout the year and what these participants accomplish on the field could mean the difference in life or death in a real mine emergency."

The rescue and safety contest was sponsored by the Virginia Mining Institute (VMI). Virginia Energy employees, along with regulatory agencies from other states and retirees from the coal industry, assist with setup and judging for the event.

An annual event, this competition puts teams across Appalachia against each other on a field where an underground coal mine emergency is simulated. The mine rescue teams use their training to solve problems and rescue anyone trapped. Those with the least mistakes that finish in the least amount of time are deemed the winners.

The teams competed to conduct rescue and recovery operations in a staged mine disaster scenario. Miners also competed in a First Aid skills competition and a bench contest in which they identified problems within breathing apparatuses.

Awards were presented on Thursday, August 4th at a celebratory banquet at The Inn at Virginia Tech wrapping up the week's events.

Grand Champion of Mine Rescue: Paramont Contura

1st Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Wellmore Coal Company

2nd Runner-Up of Mine Rescue: Arch Resources Leer Mine

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 1: Wellmore Coal Company

2nd Place Team Day 1: Paramont Contura

3rd Place Team Day 1: Arch Resources Leer Mine

1st Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Southern Pocahontas

2nd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Paramont Contura

3rd Place Mine Rescue Team Day 2: Arch Resources Beckley

First Aid 1st Place: Alpha Metallurgical Resources Southern West Virginia

First Aid 2nd Place: Paramont Contura

Combination Award 1st Place: Paramont Contura

Combination Award 2nd Place: Arch Resources Leer Mine

*The combination award goes to the team with the best combined score for mine rescue and first aid.

Bench 1st Place: BG4- Robbie Middleton, Paramont Contura

Bench 2nd Place: BG4- Seth Porter, Alpha Metallurgical Resources Southern West Virginia

Bench 1st Place: 240R- Shannon Moore, Wellmore Coal Company

Bench 2nd Place: 240R- Wade Boggs, Arch Resources Leer Mine

Pre-Shift 1st Place: Danny Mullins, Virginia Energy

Pre-Shift 2nd Place: Joey Sykes, Paramont Contura

Pre-Shift 3rd Place: James Thomas, Alpha Metallurgical Resources Southern West Virginia

Mine Rescue Teams:

Alpha Metallurgical Resources Southern West Virginia Team, Beckley, WV

Arch Resources/Beckley Complex Arch Beckley Team, Beckley, WV

Arch Resources, Inc. Leer Mine Team, Grafton, WV

Paramont Contura Paramont Team, Norton, VA

Prairie State Generating Company Lively Grove Black Team, Marissa, IL

Southern Pocahontas Mine Rescue Team, Pineville, WV

Virginia Energy Team, Big Stone Gap, VA

Wellmore Coal Company Wellmore Team, Grundy, VA