



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Investigation Complete After Mining Fatality at Buchanan #1 Mine in May

Big Stone Gap, VA – The Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy) completed its investigation and finalized the [fatality investigation report](#) into the death of 27-year-old Brock Anthony Jackson at Buchanan Minerals LLC, Buchanan #1 Mine in Buchanan County this past May. The investigation found that the roof bolt operator died of blunt force trauma to his torso after rocks fell onto him from an unsupported roof area.

After coal is removed in an underground mine, roof bolters use machines to insert long bolts as roof supports into the rock above the coal seam. These supports are designed to prevent the rock from falling on the workers inside. The investigation found that Jackson was observed traveling through a 17-foot-long area where the roof bolts had not yet been installed, twice. On the second pass through, a rock weighing over 3,500 pounds fell and pinned Jackson to the floor. Witnesses stated they saw rocks falling from the section of the roof and warned Jackson to not walk through the area.

Several Notices of Violation were issued including a closure order stopping mining from happening in that section of the underground mine during the accident investigation. The company was issued additional violations for not following the approved roof control plan, not having the required emergency supplies, and for not following the emergency response plan. Retraining on potential hazards associated with unsupported mine roofs is recommended for the employees.

The fatality investigation was a joint effort between Virginia Energy and the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

Coronado Global Resources Inc. is the parent company of the Buchanan Minerals LLC, Buchanan #1 Mine. The Buchanan #1 Mine is the largest producer of metallurgical coal in Virginia, producing nearly four million tons in 2023. It is the only mine in the Commonwealth that uses a longwall mining operation and employs 718 coal miners. Metallurgical coal is used in the steel making process.

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