

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Harrisburg



1996

ANNUAL REPORT ON MINING ACTIVITIES

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BUREAU OF DEEP MINE SAFETY

Robert C. Dolence, Acting Director

1996

In May, Mr. James "J. B." Brahosky was named acting director of the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety when the bureau director position became vacant. Mr. Brahosky provided quality leadership and program expertise to the bureau from May 29 through December 13, when he was returned to his permanent position of manager in the Greensburg District Mining Office. His willingness to accept this difficult assignment was greatly appreciated.

The information pertaining to anthracite and bituminous coal is in compliance with Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Mining Act (November 10, 1965, P.L. 346) as amended and the Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Mine Act (July 17, 1961, P.L. 659) as amended.

This 1996 edition represents the 127 consecutive annual report concerning anthracite and bituminous coal mining activities.

Anthracite deep production decreased in 1996 by about 31,897 tons. Industry accounted for 395,409 tons produced. Employment increased over the previous year with about 297 deep miners in 56 operations; a decrease of four operations. There were decreases in accidents with 69 non-fatal and zero fatal.

In the bituminous coal region, 1996 deep mine production increased by 6,360,756 tons for a total of 51,505,194 tons with approximately 4,579 miners employed; a decrease of 502. The number of deep mines in operation decreased by eight to 46. Accidents increased in 1996 from 525 non-fatal to 541 and fatal accidents from zero to two.

In the industrial minerals deep mine region a total of 14 operations employed 253 miners and produced 5,783,533 tons of minerals; an increase of 1,456,470 tons. Non-fatal accidents decreased to 19.

The Bureau continues to train approximately 5,000 miners per year in mine safety techniques and prides itself on maintaining four first-rate mine rescue stations located throughout the coal fields.