

Peabody Energy's Big Sky Mine Earns Third Governor's Award For Workplace Safety

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Montana Commissioner Mike Foster has presented Peabody Energy's Big Sky Mine with the 2001 Governor's Award for outstanding achievement in safety, marking the third time Big Sky has received the award in four years. The award is presented annually to companies with the most effective safety program.

"Our ultimate goal is to be the safest coal mine in the nation," said Operations Manager Terry Traylor. "It is great to be recognized among our mining peers and especially among Montana employers. The credit for the achievement goes to all of our employees who continue to focus on innovative practices to keep our workplace safe."

Big Sky Mine offers some of the safest operating conditions in the industry and has achieved numerous milestones in recent years. In August, Big Sky celebrated a five-year anniversary without any accidents causing an employee to miss work. On October 1, Big Sky had worked more than 2,200 days and more than 1.18 million operating hours without a lost-time injury.

Additionally, workers have operated injury-free for more than a year and recently earned a Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Sentinels of Safety Award, marking the fifth consecutive year Big Sky has received the honor.

Big Sky Mine operates five miles south of Colstrip and last year shipped approximately 1.7 million tons of coal to utilities in the upper Midwest. The mine employs about 60 people and annually injects \$2.8 million into regional economies.

Peabody Energy is the world's largest coal company. Its coal products fuel more than 9 percent of all U.S. electricity generation and more than 2 percent of worldwide electricity generation.

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