



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Miner Dies from Injuries Sustained in November Accident

Frankfort, Ky. (Nov. 15, 2011) – A Kentucky miner has died from injuries sustained in a Nov. 2, 2011, dozer accident at Mill Branch Mine near Louellen in Harlan County.

David J. Middleton, 28, of Baxter, Ky., died yesterday at Wellmont Holstein Valley Hospital in Kingsport, Tenn. Middleton was performing reclamation work at the mine, operating a D-6 dozer when it overturned.

Mill Branch Mine is a surface mine owned by Nally and Hamilton Enterprises, Inc.

Because of recent surface and underground mining accidents, mine safety analysts this week are providing enhanced on-site training and safety reminders to miners and mine operators throughout the state. Kentucky Office of Mine Safety and Licensing (OMSL) Director Johnny Greene says he will make miners more aware of safety issues that have resulted in the increase in accidents.

The interviews and physical investigation regarding Middleton's accident have been completed. OMSL is working on the investigative report, which should be available in about four weeks. This is the eighth mining-related fatality in Kentucky in 2011.

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