



James River Coal Announces Sentinels of Safety Awards for Outstanding Safety Performance

RICHMOND, Va., Sept 24, 2008 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- James River Coal Company (Nasdaq: JRCC), a producer of steam and industrial-grade coal, today announced that two of its subsidiaries have earned the Sentinels of Safety Award.

The Sentinels of Safety is the most distinguished safety award in the United States mining industry. It is awarded on an annual basis by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the National Mining Association (NMA) to mining facilities based on size and mining method.

Blue Diamond Coal Company Mine 77 earned the Sentinels of Safety Award for its outstanding safety performance in the category of large underground coal mines. Mine 77 is located in Perry County, Kentucky. The mine worked a total of 129,000 manhours without a lost-time accident.

Triad Mining's Freedlandville East Mine earned the Sentinels of Safety Award in the category for small surface coal mines. Freedlandville East is located in Knox County, Indiana. The mine worked a total of 53,000 manhours without a lost-time accident. Freedlandville East also won the Sentinels of Safety Award for small surface mines in 2005.

"We are very proud to have received two of the distinguished Sentinels of Safety Awards," said C.K. Lane, Chief Operating Officer. "Our employees at the mines have worked very hard and deserve this recognition for their diligent efforts and for making safety a number one priority. We are especially proud of the employees at Freedlandville East who also won this award in 2005. We will continue to work hard at all of our mines to provide our employees with a safe work environment."

James River Coal Company mines, processes and sells bituminous steam and industrial-grade coal primarily to electric utility companies and industrial customers. The Company's mining operations are managed through six operating subsidiaries located throughout eastern Kentucky and in southern Indiana.

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SOURCE James River Coal Company

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