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Contact: Mark Ellis
Phone: 202-457-0200; 703-927-7665
E-mail: markellis@ima-na.org

Mine Safety Award Honorees Announced

WASHINGTON, DC - The Industrial Minerals Association – North America (IMA-NA) and the U.S. Department of Labor’s Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) today announced the companies and mining operations that will receive their joint safety recognition awards. IMA-NA President Mark Ellis and MSHA Deputy Assistant Secretary John Pallasch presented the awards at the IMA-NA’s Spring Meeting here. The two classes of awards recognize different levels of safety performance.

The IMA-NA Safety Achievement Award recognizes the best reportable injury rate for an individual IMA-NA member company by size category for the preceding calendar year, in this case 2006. The award criteria evaluate a company’s safety performance at all of its U.S. facilities and non-U.S. mining sites in North America. This year’s winners include:

- **U.S. Silica Company**
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia
Large Category (700,000 or more employee hours)
(1,333,358 hours)

- **H.C. Spinks Clay Company, Inc.**
Paris, Tennessee
Medium Category (Fewer than 700,000 but more than 100,000 employee hours)
(148,830 hours)

- **Old Hickory Clay Company**
Mayfield, Kentucky
Small Category (Fewer than 100,000 employee hours)
(87,637 hours)

- **Manley Brothers, Inc.**
Troy Grove, Illinois
Small Category (Fewer than 100,000 employee hours)
(49,813 hours)
- **A.F. Gelhar Co., Inc.**
Fairwater, Wisconsin
Small Category (Fewer than 100,000 employee hours)
(40,818 hours)
- **George W. Bryant Core Sands, Inc.**
McConnellsville, New York
Small Category (Fewer than 100,000 employee hours)
(13,224 hours)

“The safety performance of these IMA members is truly inspiring,” enthused IMA-NA’s Mark Ellis. “U.S. Silica had only 12 injuries while working 1,333,358 employee hours, for an injury rate of 1.8 per 200,000 employee work-hours.” To put that in perspective, the preliminary injury rate for all metal and nonmetal mines in 2006 was 3.28.” “The four Small Category and one Medium Category honorees operated all of their mines throughout 2006 with zero injuries.” “That truly is benchmark mine safety performance.”

IMA-NA and MSHA also jointly recognized 13 individual IMA-NA-member U.S. mining operations for working 200,000 employee hours without a single reportable employee injury. This year’s honorees include:

First-Time Honorees

- **Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Company** (A Division of Imerys)
North American Ceramics
Gleason Mines
Gleason, Tennessee
(211,600 hours)
- **Unimin Corporation**
Dividing Creek Plant
Dividing Creek, New Jersey
(238,070 hours)
- **Unimin Corporation**
Marston Plant
Marston, North Carolina
(254,197 hours)

- **U.S. Silica Company**
Berkeley Plant
Berkeley Springs, West Virginia
(221,852 hours)
- **U.S. Silica Company**
Dubberly Plant
Dubberly, Louisiana
(294,495 hours)
- **U.S. Silica Company**
Ottawa Plant
Ottawa, Illinois
(201,145 hours)

Repeat Honorees

- **Badger Mining Corporation**
Fairwater Plant
Berlin, Wisconsin
(348,956 hours)
- **Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Company** (A Division of Imerys)
North American Ceramics
Sims Mine
Gleason, Tennessee
(396,875 hours)
- **H.C. Spinks Clay Company**
Henry County Mines and Mill
Paris, Tennessee
(559,847 hours)
- **Old Hickory Clay Company**
Gleason Clay Mill
Gleason, Tennessee
(308,381 hours)
- **Old Hickory Clay Company**
Hickory Clay Mill
Mayfield, Kentucky
(452,130 hours)

- **Rio Tinto Minerals**
Boron Operations
Boron, California
(355,039 hours)
- **Unimin Corporation**
Tuscaloosa Plant
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
(410,418 hours)

“MSHA and IMA-NA strive to help the industry achieve its ultimate goal – sending safe and healthy miners home to their families, every shift, every day,” said John Pallasch, deputy assistant secretary of MSHA. “MSHA is happy to help IMA-NA recognize member companies who have compiled excellent safety records and who serve as examples for other companies.”

MSHA is the federal agency responsible for promoting and protecting the safety and health of the nation’s miners. MSHA carries out its mandate at all mining and mineral processing operations in the United States, regardless of size, number of employees, commodity mined, or method of extraction. To learn more, please visit <http://www.msha.gov>.

IMA-NA was formed in April 2002 and has grown to 42 mineral producer members and an associate membership of 61 companies providing goods and services to the industry. Membership is comprised of companies that are leaders in the ball clay, bentonite, borates, calcium carbonate, feldspar, industrial sand, mica, soda ash, talc and other industrial mineral industries. Industrial minerals are critical to the manufacture of glass, ceramics, plastics, rubber, pharmaceuticals and cosmetic goods. They also are used to make foundry cores and molds used for metal castings, paints, cat litter, refractory products and specialty fillers. IMA-NA is the principal trade association representing the industrial minerals industry in North America. To learn more, please visit <http://www.ima-na.org>.

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