

This is an advertisement

Today's faces of Kentucky coal

By way of explanation:

Today there is no such entity as a "typical" coal miner, even though many who work in the industry do so as part of a multi-generational family tradition.

Accordingly, in this series, we'll be profiling several individuals who are actively engaged mining and representative of a new generation of mining professionals within Kentucky's coal industry.



Paul (Bryan) Horn, Jr., was born in Ashland and raised in Prestonsburg, Kentucky. "The coal industry has played a large role in my life," he begins. "One of my grandfathers and several of my uncles have worked in the mines, so I grew up with both an understanding of and a respect for Kentucky coal."

Horn is 35 years old, is married to the former Stacy Conn, and as Chief Engineer for Beech Fork Processing, he also has oversight of the engineering activities for surface and underground operations for the CZAR Coal mining group which includes Matrix Energy, Czar, and Argus Energy operations in Kentucky. He is a Registered Professional Engineer, having graduated from the University of Kentucky's School of Mining Engineering in 1994. On the job, Horn's passion is the designing and engineering of new mining operations...and what follows is a very basic explanation of what that process involves. "For example our Matrix Energy slope and shaft mine is something I had the opportunity to design. There are 4 operating sections, accessed by a 1500/16-degree slope, descending to a depth of 400 feet. Currently, this mine is our top producer, and I'm very proud of having engineered the design." Horn also notes that the mining industry offers unique and

constantly changing challenges for an engineer—another real 'plus' for him and an aspect of his career that he highlights as potentially a big plus for others contemplating entering the profession.

When asked about the challenges presented to him within the mining industry as a whole, his response is very candid and is one shared by many, many others in Kentucky's coal industry. "The current climate of changing political and regulatory areas of the mine development process is a day-to-day challenge for all of us in the industry. We're required to interpret and then to implement ever changing Federal and state legislation that affects what we do and how we do it."

When asked "If you were able to have 3 ideas implemented that would help Kentuckians better understand and thus come to better respect our vital coal industry, what would those ideas be?" Paul Horn responded, "The Kentucky coal industry should not be viewed in the negative light that is cast upon it by those who basically don't understand the process of mining or the necessities that coal provides to our country. Statistically, the coal industry is one of the most regulated, productive, and, yes, safest industries in America. Coal energy drives our economy by providing an affordable

source of energy for our nation. Coal provides at least 50% of America's electricity, which in turn drives production in our factories and provides a more convenient lifestyle for our families. Coal mining currently is and will continue to be operated in a safe, responsible, and environmentally sound manner. In my view, we ALL need to support the remaining coal resources we have to continue our independence from foreign oil and to remain fiscally strong as a nation."

Coal Facts

17,190 miners earning an average \$47,000 per year.

124 million tons produced in 2005, selling for \$4.9 billion.

73% of Kentucky's coal is exported out of state, bringing \$3.5 billion into Kentucky. 85 cents on each dollar stays in Kentucky.

91% of Kentucky's electricity comes from coal.

Kentucky has one of the lowest electrical rates in the nation because of coal.

The Kentucky coal miner is safer from injuries than the average Kentucky worker.

Paul Bryan Horn, Jr.

**Age: 35
Chief Engineer, Beech Fork Processing, with oversight for other CZAR Coal Group operations.**

Information on Paul Horn, Jr.:

Personal:

- Born in Ashland, raised and currently living in Prestonsburg, Ky
- Graduated from Prestonsburg High School, received a BS in Mining Engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1994
- Married to the former Stacy Conn
- Hobbies: hunting and fishing

Professional:

- Chief Engineer with oversight of Engineering services, including Permitting, Surveying, and Production

Paid for by the Kentucky Foundation.

For more information on Kentucky Coal visit www.kentuckycoal.com



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