

UBB Miners Memorial Receives Major Pledge from Alpha Natural Resources

Alpha pledges \$250,000 Challenge Grant and Support

WHITESVILLE, WV- The Upper Big Branch Mining Memorial Group announced it received a major pledge for the proposed UBB Miners Memorial from Abingdon, VA based coal producer Alpha Natural Resources. At a meeting with the memorial group, CEO Kevin S. Crutchfield pledged to match the first \$250,000 raised and Alpha's support in building the memorial. The total estimated cost of the memorial project is \$500,000.

Crutchfield said: "This is a thoughtful and deserving project, honoring those who lost their lives in the tragic accident at the Upper Big Branch mine and also recognizing miners everywhere, on whose backs this great nation was built. We hope that Alpha's support can help bring this tribute from concept to reality for the community of Whitesville. We welcome others to join us in supporting the memorial."

"Alpha Natural Resources has shown their support for our miners and their commitment to the communities in which their businesses operate. We welcome their donation to the UBB Miners Memorial project and we welcome them to our community," said UBBMMG President Sheila Combs. The offer is the largest pledge to date. Earlier this month the Upper Big Branch Miners Memorial Group received the project's first corporate contribution of \$25,000 from Martin Engineering.

After its recent acquisition of Massey Energy Co., Alpha has approximately 150 mines and 40 coal preparation plants, with more than 14,000 employees. Alpha was formed in 2002 and is headquartered in Abingdon, VA. It is currently America's third largest producer of steam and metallurgical coal with mines in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Wyoming.

The Upper Big Branch Mining Memorial Group, INC is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) established in February of 2011 to raise funds to construct a memorial plaza located in Whitesville, WV. The memorial will commemorate the events that occurred at UBB, pay homage to all fallen coal miners and recognize the importance of the coal mining industry to the Mountain State. For more information please contact Sheila Combs or Mike Gwinn at ubbminersmemorial@gmail.com.