

**Major improvements****Price River Coal takes a look back at 1982**

The year 1982 was one of contrasts for Price River Coal Company. The outset of the year saw longwall operations begin in the No. 5 mine. The longwall system (which includes an Anderson-Mavor 500 hp shearer and Westfalla roof support shields) consistently produced above planned levels. In addition to the longwall system, the No. 5 mine produced from three continuous miner sections. The No. 3 mine produced for the majority of the year from five continuous miner units. In June of 1983, Price River Coal Company established a total mine production record from the reserves which were originally acquired in the mid 1970's.

During 1982, Price River Coal Company continued to make major improvements to its operations. Of greatest significance was the continuation of work on its new surface and shaft facilities located in Crandall Canyon (approximately seven miles north of Helper, Utah, off State Highway 6). By year end, the construction of two vertical shafts neared completion.

**Pacific ports export coal to Far East**

In addition to the Port of Long Beach (see story elsewhere in this issue) there are two other ports on the Pacific Coast that can handle export coal.

**Los Angeles**

The Port of Los Angeles has a bulk loader of 5 million tons a year capacity. The rail system feeds into a belt loader which can accommodate 100 car unitrains. It is equipped with a rotary dumper. There is open storage for ¼ million tons of cargo behind a 60 foot wide wharf. The belt conveyor carries 2,400 tons per hour.

**Stockton**

The Port of Stockton on the Sacramento River can handle seagoing vessels up to 750 feet long and tonnage of 32,000. Facilities include belt conveyor and bunkering. The port can store and ship 40,000 tons of coal at one time and unload 40 railway cars in 8 hours.

Coal handling installations are planned for the near future by the ports of Portland and Astoria, Oregon and Kalama, Washington.

These shafts will serve to transport men, materials and supplies as well as for meeting life-of-mine ventilation requirements. In addition, work was in progress on the hoist and headframe, the fans and heater houses, the substation and overall site preparation. Completion of these facilities will provide multiple-seam access to an estimated sixty million recoverable tons of coal. The site will serve as the focal point for mining operation in the area for the next several decades.

Increased usage of diesel equipment continued in 1982. By year end, the company had effectively converted from battery-powered personnel carriers to the use of diesel vehicles for such purposes. In addition to decreasing travel time, these vehicles provided greater flexibility in use and also minimized maintenance activities. The company continues to use other types of diesel equipment in its operations such as scoops and

road graders.

Mine safety continued to be a "top priority" at Price River Coal Company during the year. In February, the company was presented the "Fuel Supply Award," which is presented annually to the company achieving the best overall safety record within the American Electric Power System. (Price River Coal Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the AEP System.) The company also expanded its "WISE" (Work Instructions for Safety and Efficiency) program during the year. This program, which was developed within the AEP System, is designed not only to create a safer working environment, but is also intended to better coordinate activities from shift to shift, thereby increasing production results. As a sideline to the emphasis placed in this area, Price River Coal Company's mine rescue teams also competed successfully in a number of competitions throughout the year.

The promise of a "boom" production year, however, gradually gave way to the economic slowdown affecting much of the United States. Price River Coal Company ships its production for consumption within the AEP System. The economic slowdown particularly impacted the highly industrialized mid-west and eastern states, some of which are served electrically by the AEP System. As a result, production of electricity at AEP's coal-fired generating plants decreased. This caused coal mining facilities such as Price River Coal Company to drastically curtail output towards the end of the year.

In an attempt to help offset these conditions, Price River Coal Company actively embarked upon a program to seek domestic and industrial markets for its coal. In addition to the excellent characteristics of its coal, the company also operates one of the most efficient, technologically advanced coal

preparation plants found in the United States. A secondary screening plant was acquired during the year which enables the processing of different sizes and qualities of coal for virtually any coal user requirement. Price River Coal Company enjoys ready access to major highway and railway routes for shipping purposes.

The reserves now owned by Price River Coal Company are rich in mining history — from "boom to bust" — from early miners living in company-owned tents to multi-million dollar facilities. Price River Coal Company takes pride in its operations, its high-quality, extensive reserves, its dedicated work force and its contributions to the community. Like its predecessors, Price River Coal Company has the resilience to weather temporary setbacks and to see the coal industry advance and become an even more important factor in ensuring the future energy requirements, both in the United States and abroad.

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