

## **Arch Coal's West Elk Mine Earns Awards for Environmental Care and Employee Safety**

February 13, 2003 1:22 PM ET

ST. LOUIS, Mo./ Feb. 13, 2003 - Arch Coal (NYSE: ACI) today announced that its Mountain Coal Co. subsidiary had received special recognition for outstanding safety and environmental performances at its West Elk mine in Somerset, Colo.

The Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology and the Colorado Mining Association recognized West Elk mine for outstanding safety performance in achieving a total incident rate of 1.01 in 2001, ten times better than the underground bituminous mine national industry average of 10.03.

The Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology and the Colorado Mining Association also presented West Elk mine with the "Outstanding Steep-Slope Reclamation Award" for successfully restoring the original steep slopes from what once was a mine ventilation facility. West Elk was one of only three underground mines honored with a reclamation award at the 105th National Western Mining Conference this week.

In addition, West Elk mine was recognized for its outstanding contributions to Colorado's Pollution Prevention Program. As a leader in the industry, West Elk mine provided initial input to help shape the code of standard practices, and also was one of the first organizations to participate in this voluntary program.

"We're proud to be recognized as industry leaders in safety and reclamation," said Gene DiClaudio, president of Mountain Coal Co. "West Elk strives for continuous improvement. Our dedicated employees have worked more than three consecutive years without an environmental violation. We want the citizens of Colorado to be reassured knowing that West Elk takes special care and responsibility for our state's precious resources every day."

St. Louis-based Arch Coal is the nation's second largest coal producer, and employs more than 300 people in Colorado. West Elk mine produces more than six million tons of low-sulfur coal annually. Through its subsidiary operations in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, Arch provides the fuel for approximately 6 percent of the electricity generated in the United States.