



for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health, Inc.

Press Release

Alpha Foundation Announces \$5.5 million for Latest Round of Research Grants

August 10, 2015

Lenoir City, TN- The Alpha Foundation for the Improvement of Mine Safety and Health has announced approximately \$5.5 million in additional research grant awards directed towards fulfilling its mission to improve mine health and safety through funding research and development projects by qualified academic institutions and other not-for-profit organizations.

The Foundation published a call for research proposals in its second major grant cycle, in May 2014. Following the submission of 69 concept papers, 24 full proposals were received and peer reviewed, from which eleven have been selected for funding by the Alpha Foundation Board of Directors. The projects targeted for award include all of the Foundation's four main focus areas: 1) Health and Safety Interventions; 2) Mine Escape, Rescue and Training; 3) Safety and Health Management and Training; and, 4) Injury and Disease Exposure and Risk Factors. The eleven grants that have been awarded are listed below.

The Foundation was established as part of a non-prosecution agreement entered in December 2011 by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia, the United States Department of Justice and Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. and Alpha Appalachia Holdings, Inc. Pursuant to that agreement, Alpha agreed to establish an independent foundation with \$48,000,000 to fund projects designed to improve mine safety and health.

The funded project titles and lead institutions are:

Development of Guidance for the Selection and Use of Atmospheric Monitoring	Penn State University
Enhanced Ground Control Assessment for Improving Safety in Mine Design	University of Kentucky
Improved Face Ventilation For Extended-Cut Continuous Mining Using a Wing Regulator and Scrubber Control System	University of Kentucky
Numerical Tools for Mitigation of Methane Explosions in Coal Mines	University of Maryland

Low Noise Efficient Rim Driven Auxiliary Ventilation Fans	Virginia Polytechnic institute and State University
Effective MERD Training-Design, Implementation, Retention and Evaluation	UMWA Career Centers, Inc.
Characterization and Effectiveness of Safety and Health Management Systems in the US. Mining Industry	University of Utah
Revisiting Lung Cancer Risk from Silica Exposure in Miners: Proposed Standards, Prevailing Biases, and Modern Methodology	University of California, Berkeley
Management with Bag Barriers of Dust Explosion Risks in U.S. Underground Coal Mines	Missouri University of Science and Technology
Free and Open Source Professional Development for the Mine Ventilation Community: An innovative Approach to Improving Competence	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Full-Wave Electromagnetic Simulator for Statistical Characterization, Optimal Deployment, and On-the-Fly Reconfiguration of Wireless and Through-the-Earth Communication and Tracking Systems	University of Michigan

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