

INTRODUCTION

These proceedings contain the presentations made during the program of the Sixth Annual Institute on Coal Mining Health, Safety and Research, held at the Donaldson Brown Center for Continuing Education, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, August 26-28, 1975. The papers herein given are reproduced from author-edited manuscripts, or from transcriptions of tape recordings in some cases where manuscripts were not available.

The Sixth Annual Institute on Coal Mining Health, Safety and Research was the latest of a series of conferences held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and co-sponsored by Coal Mine Health and Safety, Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration and the United States Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

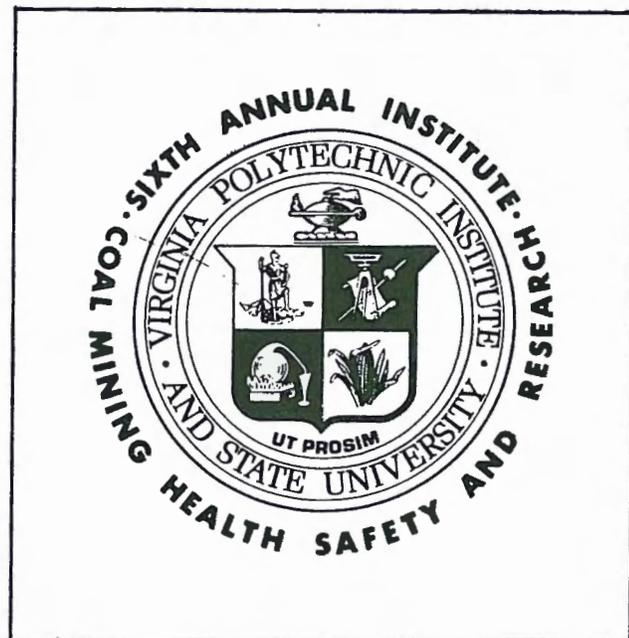
The Institute is designed specifically to assist mine operating personnel in obtaining a broader knowledge and understanding of the various aspects of, and methods for controlling environmental health and safety hazards in coal mines. The program of topics for this conference was selected by the Planning and Advisory Committee to focus on current concerns and developments in mining health, safety and research.

Presentations of these topics were made by outstanding persons from industry, equipment manufacturers, Federal and State governments and academic institutions. Subject matter discussed included education and training programs, health research, use of diesel equipment in underground coal mines, ground vibrations and air-blast standards, fire and explosion research, mine emergency, operator environment on surface mining equipment and the impact of legislation on the coal mining industry.

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