

Media Contact: Jessica Emery Jessica@buchananpr.com (610) 649-9292

Three Years and Counting, Blaschak Coal Corp. Again Sets Sales Record in 2013

In the face of soft pricing and reduced export potential, Blaschak's continued growth leads to new sales record

MAHANOY CITY, PA (January 30, 2014) — For the third year in a row, <u>Blaschak Coal</u> <u>Corporation</u>, one of the country's top anthracite producers, has achieved record sales tonnage. The 77-year-old company's prepared coal sales were more than 315,000 tons in 2013 – up five percent from the year prior.

With an experienced and skilled workforce, flexible and reliable capacity to mine and process coal and a continued, proactive effort to promote the benefits of anthracite, Blaschak expects additional growth in 2014.

"With prices declining and growing competition from around the globe, 2013 presented a number of challenges for those in the anthracite market," said Greg Driscoll, President and CEO of Blaschak Coal Corp. "Those challenges remain as we enter 2014, but with the clear "value in use" advantages offered by anthracite – and our proximity to significant market demand – we and our colleagues in the Pennsylvania Anthracite industry are confident that the future remains bright."

By successfully integrating production, processing and distribution, Blaschak is well-suited for increased capacity beyond its record-breaking sales tonnage from the last three years.

"We are actively working to promote the benefits of anthracite and offer customers the kind of consistent quality and reliable supply needed to attract and retain business," Driscoll said. "Even in this difficult market, the high fixed carbon, low sulfur and other characteristics of anthracite make it an environmentally beneficial and economically sound alternative to other sources of carbon in many industrial applications; these are the features that will pave the way for continued growth."

Since its acquisition by <u>Milestone Partners</u> in 2009, Blaschak has acquired a new mine site and processing plant in Lattimer, Pa., as well as expanded investment to upgrade mining and processing equipment. The company has the current capacity to produce 1 million run-of-mine tons of anthracite, and its processing capability yields up to 450,000 prepared tons annually.

Based in the heart of coal country in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Blaschak sits atop one of the largest known anthracite fields in North America. According to the Pennsylvania Anthracite Council, there are 4 to 6 billion tons of reserves of anthracite left in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region.

<u>About Blaschak Coal Corp.</u> Blaschak Coal Corp. (<u>www.blaschakcoal.com</u>) is a miner, preparer and marketer of Pennsylvania anthracite. Blaschak is a market leader and one of the few fully integrated U.S. anthracite companies with a large reserve base, multiple mines, multiple preparation plants, a bagging plant, both rail and truck loading facilities and extensive marketing operations serving a wide range of end markets, including home heating, steel and water filtration.

#