The Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research was created by an Act of the Virginia General Assembly on March 30, 1977, as an interdisciplinary study, research, information and resource facility for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Derived from its legislative mandate and twenty-four years of experience, the mission of the VCCER involves three primary functions:

- Researching interdisciplinary coal and energy issues of interest to the Commonwealth
- Coordinating coal and energy research at Virginia Tech
- Disseminating coal and energy research information and data throughout the Commonwealth

The Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research conducts and coordinates research for the Virginia General Assembly, state utilities, Virginia Tech, and other corporate, government, and academic sponsors. Typical areas of study include environmental effects, mining systems, coal transportation, renewable energy source, energy efficiency, socio-economic effects, and technological advances. The center has excellent access to laboratory facilities throughout the campus.

The Center is developing new programs addressing environmental impacts of energy resources extraction and utilization, public policy issues related to energy, marketing and transportation of energy fuels, integration of high technology in systems design, international energy development and issues related to deregulation. The center also plans to be proactive in areas of economic development, energy consumer information, and continuous education and training.

The Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research is pleased to publish the 2000 edition of its annual directory, Virginia Coal, online, in conjunction with the Virginia Energy Patterns and Trends project. This directory has been one of the prime sources of statistics on Virginia coal production, mining methods, and sales, tracking the performance and production of fuel source companies throughout the state. The statistics reported in Virginia Coal are derived from a number of sources, particularly the Virginia Division of Mines, Minerals and Energy.

As the data available in our online database has become more complete, more timely, and more accessible, the demand for the printed version of Virginia Coal has diminished. This volume will be the first available only through Virginia Center for Coal and Energy Research Web site. This change will allow us to update the statistics more frequently, as new data becomes available, rather than waiting a full year between editions. We expect this change to allow us to be more responsive to public, government and industry needs for up to date information, and to reduce the costs associated with publishing this data.

Michael Karmis
Director