



Richard L. Mullen

With more than 35 years of engineering and operations expertise dedicated to Drummond Company, Inc. Richard Mullen rose from a mining engineer to President and Chief Operating Officer, along the way helping the Company become an international leader in the coal industry.

Richard joined Drummond Company in 1982 after receiving his bachelor's degree in mining engineering from The University of Alabama and later received his master's degree in environmental management from Samford University. He began designing mines, assisting in implementing the first computerized mine planning system for the company.

After taking on more responsibility as an engineer, Richard began work on Drummond Company's expansion into Colombia, South America, playing a vital role in its international aspirations. In 1990, he directed engineering investigations including project design and mine planning work to obtain the initial government approval for the Colombian surface mining project, now the largest coal mining operation in all of South America. With more coal concessions added in the 1990s, Drummond Company now has two open-pit coal mines located in the Cesar Coal Basin near La Loma that produce coal with some of the lowest sulfur and ash exported from Colombia. In 2018, they produced 34.3 million tons of coal.

Richard continued to take on a larger role in the company during the 1990s. As Director of Operations in the last half of the decade, he directed surface operations for all mining activities and was responsible for budgets, mining plans, operations plans and performance of the business unit. During the 2000s, he was briefly Director of Land Management, over all activities associated with Company land assets including coalbed methane leases, coal leases, forestry operations and more than 60,000-surface acres.

In 2003, he was named Director of Engineering for Drummond Ltd., responsible for all planning, budgeting, permitting and operations engineering for South American mining operations and engineering design for project expansion. Richard moved into the Company's leadership team as Executive Assistant to the CEO from 2005-2007. Afterwards, he became Senior Vice President directing mining and transportation operations in Colombia.

In June 2009, Richard was appointed Executive Vice President for Mining. He was responsible for all surface mining operations including those in Alabama and Colombia as well as railroad and port operations and gas development activities in Colombia. He is a member of the business development team evaluating potential mergers and acquisitions.

In November 2016, he was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Drummond Company, Inc. with responsibility for all operating units within the Company, including Drummond Company, Inc., Drummond Ltd., Drummond Energy, Inc. and ABC Coke.

A registered professional engineer, he is the past Alabama chair of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration and is deeply involved in several charitable and religious organizations. In 2013 he was named a Distinguished Engineering Fellow of the University of Alabama College Of Engineering. He had previously served a stint on the Drummond Company, Inc. Board of Directors and currently serves as a Board Member of Drummond International. He has served on the College of Engineering Leadership Board since 2008.

Richard and his wife, Cheryl reside in Vestavia and have two married sons, one a physician and the other a medical school student.