



## In this issue...

DOE seeking applications for third round of Clean Coal Power Initiative...page 2

NMA's Mine the Vote program ready for November elections...page 2

2008 Bluefield Coal Symposium to focus on mine safety...page 3

Coal exports up sharply in first half of 2008...page 3

Mining market snapshot... page 3

DOE project starts carbon dioxide storage in New Mexico coalbed...page 4

Newsbits...page 4

## About Mining Week...

NMA Mining Week is a weekly publication of the National Mining Association. Mining Week archives are always available online at [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org).

## Fewer than six weeks until MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® 2008



MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® 2008, the world mining community's premier exhibition of mining equipment and technology, is now fewer than six weeks away.

Registration is \$200 and includes access to the show's exhibits and 20 educational conference sessions.

The show is scheduled for Sept. 22-24 at the convention center in Las Vegas, Nev., and those interested in attending are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

This year's show will feature over 1,200 exhibitors spread across approximately 600,000 square feet of space, with at least 15 nations organizing official delegations in partnership with the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Buyer Program.

Information regarding the show, including details on registration, a list of current exhibitors and information on the show's 20 educational sessions, is available online at: [www.minexpo.com](http://www.minexpo.com). Hotel room reservations can also be made on the show's [web site](#). ✕

## New Montana CTL project announced

Montana's Crow Nation and Australian-American Energy Company (AECC) recently announced plans to jointly construct a \$7 billion coal-to-liquid (CTL) fuels plant in southeastern Montana. Plans for the plant were unveiled on Aug. 8, with 2016 announced as the likely date for the start of production at the plant.

The "Many Stars Project" is aiming to use 38,000 tons of coal per day to produce 50,000 barrels of CTL fuel per day and will provide up to 4,000 jobs during construction and 900 permanent jobs. Ultimately, plant production could be ramped up to reach 125,000 barrels per day.

"This project means supplying American energy produced by American workers to the country," said Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer (D) in an Aug. 8 statement. Schweitzer said the plant will be a "huge step in ensuring energy security for the United States" and praised the plant's ability to cleanly utilize coal.

"We made a decision to pursue this type of clean-coal project because it provides long-term economic and social benefits for our people for many generations to come," said Crow Chairman Carl Venne in a joint Aug. 8 press release with AECC.

"The Many Stars project is important on so many levels," said AECC Chairman Allan Blood. "It provides good jobs in a part of Montana that needs them, it helps address U.S. dependence on foreign fuels and it will demonstrate this is a technology that can be used in a way that addresses environmental concerns."

Blood noted that the project design calls for capturing carbon dioxide for geo-sequestration and supply to enhanced-oil recovery projects to provide an environmentally responsible project and create additional energy opportunities in otherwise declining regional oil fields.

According to Blood, AAEC has already completed its initial feasibility study for the project and will begin the environmental permitting process later this year, with construction expected to begin in 2012.

## DOE seeking applications for third round of Clean Coal Power Initiative

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week issued a final Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the third round of the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI). The initiative seeks to accelerate the commercial deployment of advanced coal technologies.

In an Aug. 11 announcement, DOE said it anticipates making multiple awards under this FOA and may be able to provide as much as \$340 million in project funding, depending on congressional fiscal year 2009 appropriation decisions.

The projects will be cost-shared, with award recipients providing at least 50 percent of funds. DOE said it will pursue cooperative agreements between government and industry for projects that demonstrate, at commercial scale, new technologies that capture carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from coal-fueled power plants and either sequester the CO<sub>2</sub> underground or put it to beneficial use.

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Jim Slutz said DOE is committed to strengthening the nation's "energy security and addressing global climate change by developing the technologies that will ensure coal can be used to meet our growing energy demand in an environmentally responsible way." Slutz said the latest funding announcement

"brings clean, coal-derived energy, with no greenhouse gas emissions, one step closer to the commercial market and to the consumer."

To qualify for DOE support, carbon capture technologies must operate at 90 percent carbon capture efficiency and at least 300,000 tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> must be captured and sequestered or put to beneficial use.

Initiated in 2002, CCPI is a multi-year program that demonstrates advanced coal-based power generation technology at commercial scale. DOE noted that eight projects are currently active from two previous rounds of competition.

More information is available at: [DOE Clean Coal Funding](#). ☒

### CTL *continued from page 1*

A copy of the joint Aug. 8 press release is available at: [Joint Release](#).

A copy of Gov. Schweitzer's press statement is available at: [Schweitzer Statement](#).

More information on CTL fuels is available at: [www.futurecoalfuels.org](#). ☒

**Looking ahead:** *Here's a look at what's ahead for the mining community in Washington, D.C.*

- The House of Representatives and the Senate adjourned for the August congressional recess and are not scheduled to reconvene until Sept. 8.

## NMA's Mine the Vote program ready for November elections



The November presidential and congressional elections are rapidly approaching and issues of great significance to the mining community will be prominently featured throughout the campaigns.

To ensure the mining community can mobilize and effectively make its voice heard, NMA is once again promoting its highly effective Mine the Vote online campaign program.

Mine the Vote helps supporters of the mining community, such as employees, family, friends and retirees, effectively participate in federal elections, ensuring that political candidates understand the vital role coal, minerals and metals play in ensuring America's economic well-being and national security.

Mine the Vote provides voters with information on how to register, the location of their local polling place and information on where candidates stand on issues important to the mining community.

To enroll in Mine the Vote, visit: [Mine the Vote](#). ☒

**NMA Outreach:** *NMA regularly participates in various conferences, events and other forums to highlight key association initiatives and spotlight important developments in the mining community. Here's a look at upcoming events.*

- Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc. Chairman and CEO and NMA Chairman James Roberts will deliver a keynote mine safety address on Aug. 27 at the Bluefield Coal Symposium in Bluefield, W.Va.



## Become a CTL grassroots supporter

America's ever-growing dependence on increasingly expensive imported energy is one of the greatest challenges to the nation's future economic prosperity and national security. Through the construction of a nationwide network of grassroots supporters, America can put itself on the road to energy independence using clean, American-made coal-to liquid (CTL) transportation fuels.

The Coal-to-Liquids Coalition's grassroots program gives supporters the power to connect with their members of Congress to urge them to support strengthening American energy independence using domestic CTL fuels.

Show your support for CTL fuels by becoming a grassroots supporter. You can make your voice heard in Congress by signing up at: [CTL Grassroots Network](#). ☒



## 2008 Bluefield Coal Symposium to focus on mine safety

Leading mining community representatives and government officials will examine efforts to strengthen coal mine safety at the forthcoming Bluefield Coal Symposium, scheduled for Aug. 26-27, in Bluefield, W.Va.

Among the private sector and government officials scheduled to address mine safety at the symposium are Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc. Chairman and CEO and NMA Chairman James Roberts, CONSOL Coal Group President Pete Lilly, Alpha Natural Resources Chairman Michael Quillen and Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health Richard Stickler.

The symposium will also include presentations from representatives from the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and leading mining equipment manufacturers.

A copy of the symposium's agenda is available at: [Symposium Agenda](#). ☒



**Mining Calendar** Events and conferences covering important mining issues are routinely held across the nation. The following may be of interest to members of the mining community:

### August 26-27, 2008 Bluefield Coal Symposium Bluefield, W.Va.

Leading mining community representatives and government officials will examine efforts to strengthen coal mine safety at the forthcoming Bluefield Coal Symposium, scheduled for Aug. 26-27, in Bluefield, W.Va. More information, including registration details, is available by contacting the Greater Bluefield Chamber of Commerce at (304) 327-7184 or visiting [www.bluefieldchamber.com](http://www.bluefieldchamber.com).

*continued*

## Coal exports up sharply in first half of 2008

The latest edition of the *NMA International Coal Review* reveals a dramatic increase in coal exports for the first half of 2008, while also documenting a drop in imports.

In total, coal exports jumped almost 51 percent in the first six months of 2008 versus the same time frame in 2007. Total coal exports stood at 38.6 million short tons, versus 25.6 million short tons in 2007.

The export surge can be attributed in part to continuing strong demand in Asia, particularly China and India, as well as a weak U.S. dollar, which makes American coal a better value to overseas buyers.

According to the report, steam coal exports jumped nearly 54 percent, totaling almost 17 million short tons compared to 11 million tons in the first six months of 2007.

Exports of metallurgical coal increased approximately 49 percent, with nearly 22 million short tons exported between January and June, compared with 15 million tons in 2007.

The review also documented a nearly 4 percent decrease in imports for the first half of 2008, marking a turnaround from the first six months of 2007, when imports had increased slightly from the previous year.

The latest *NMA International Coal Review* is available to NMA members at: [International Coal Review](#). ☒

| U.S. Coal Trade *                     | Jan.-Jun. '08     | Jan.-Jun. '07     | Percent Change |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
|                                       | (Mil. Short Tons) | (Mil. Short Tons) |                |
| Exports:                              | 38.6              | 25.6              | 50.8%          |
| Steam                                 | 16.9              | 11.0              | 53.6%          |
| Metallurgical                         | 21.7              | 14.6              | 48.6%          |
| Imports:                              | 16.6              | 17.2              | -3.5%          |
| * Bituminous                          |                   |                   |                |
| Source: NMA International Coal Review |                   |                   |                |

| Mining Market Snapshot  |                         |                       |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Coal Figures  | Cumulative year to date | Change over last year |
| Week ended August 2, 2008   |                         |                       |
| EIA Coal Production (000 tons)                                    | 679,864                 | 1.1%                  |
| Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)                | 2,428,992               | 0.7%                  |
| American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons) | 64,955                  | 2.4%                  |
| Metal Figures   |                         |                       |
| Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 8/1/08             | \$8,138.70              |                       |
| Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 8/1/08       | \$913.65                |                       |
| Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week         |                         |                       |

## DOE project starts carbon dioxide storage in New Mexico coalbed

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its Southwest Regional Partnership (SWP) recently began injecting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in a large New Mexico coalbed, while simultaneously recovering valuable natural gas.

In an Aug. 4 statement, DOE said the SWP plans to inject up to 35,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> as part of a six-month demonstration at the San Juan Basin near Navajo City, N.M. Unlike other enhanced coalbed methane recovery projects, DOE said this demonstration is geared towards developing ways to maximize permanent underground CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

DOE said the San Juan Basin was selected for the project as it is considered one of the top-ranked basins worldwide for coalbed methane recovery and, thus, is also a prime candidate for value-added CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration.

In addition to CO<sub>2</sub> injection, DOE said the SWP intends to make use of the project's produced water, including desalinating some water for use to irrigate nearby areas suffering from prolonged drought. DOE said the resulting vegetation growth would induce additional CO<sub>2</sub> uptake.

The SWP is led by the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, and includes the states of Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Utah, and portions of Arizona, Kansas, Texas and Wyoming. The partnership is currently conducting five field tests designed to validate the most promising carbon sequestration technologies and infrastructure concepts.

More information is available at: [DOE CO<sub>2</sub> Injection Project](#). ✕

## Newsbits

The **Norwest Corporation's** board of directors recently appointed **Joe Aiello** to the new position of managing director; **Craig Acott** as the new president of Norwest in Canada; and **Richard Dawson** and **Steve Cameron** as senior vice presidents. As managing director, Aiello will report to the board and have overall responsibility for Norwest's operations. The presidents of Norwest's four business units will report to Aiello. Norwest provides specialty consulting services to energy and mining companies, financial institutions, electric power producers, legal firms, and government agencies. The company serves a worldwide client base through offices in the U.S. and Canada. More information is available at: [www.norwestcorp.com](http://www.norwestcorp.com).

*Mining Week is published as a service to members of the National Mining Association, James Roberts, chairman, Kraig R. Naasz, president and publisher.*

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**Mining Calendar** Events and conferences covering important mining issues are routinely held across the nation. The following may be of interest to members of the mining community:

### September 4-6, 2008

#### 2008 Nevada Mining Association Annual Convention

##### Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Information regarding the convention, including registration details, is available at [www.nevadaminig.org](http://www.nevadaminig.org).

### September 17, 2008

#### Safety Summit for Small Coal Mines Logan, W.Va.

Federal and state officials, in cooperation with numerous state associations, will host the first Safety Summit for Small Coal Mines. The summit will provide attendees with up-to-date information on a wide variety of safety issues important to mines employing less than 50 miners in West Virginia and Kentucky. More information about the summit is available by contacting NIOSH's Lou Prosser at [Pittsfp2@cdc.gov](mailto:Pittsfp2@cdc.gov) or (412) 386-4423. There is no cost to register, but all attendees must register with NIOSH.

### September 20, 2008

#### Mine Safety and Health Law Special Institute

##### Las Vegas, Nev.

Sponsored by the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the event will explore the latest in mine safety management. A registration discount is available for those attending MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® 2008. More information, including registration details, is available at: [www.emlf.org](http://www.emlf.org).

