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NMA Mining Week is a weekly publication of the National Mining Association. Mining Week archives are always available online at www.nma.org.

MESSAGE TO THE NMA MEMBERSHIP ...from Kraig R. Naasz, president and CEO



Naasz

This week marked my first as NMA president and CEO, and I want to thank association members and staff for the warm welcome I have received. Needless to say, I am excited and energized about the challenges and opportunities ahead and appreciate the privilege of leading the association representing one of America's great and essential basic industries.

As I undertake this endeavor, two things are readily apparent. First, I'm relatively new to the mining industry and many in it are probably unfamiliar with my background. Second, people are understandably curious about the approach I will take in guiding an already successful and effective association.

Regarding the first, I join NMA following three years as president of The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), an organization whose membership includes some companies that also belong to the National Mining Association.

While there, we were successful in addressing the fertilizer industry's most pressing image, communications and regulatory challenges while guiding TFI to a position of enhanced strength in the public policy arena. As a result, TFI is well positioned to move its agenda forward over the near and long-term.

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NMA contributes to Red Cross hurricane relief; members continue generous response to recovery

NMA this week sent a \$5,000 donation to the American Red Cross to assist in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

"This is an unprecedented disaster and all of us in the mining industry are saddened by the loss of life and property resulting from Hurricane Katrina," said Kraig R. Naasz, NMA president and CEO. "In addition to our thoughts and prayers for those who have been impacted, we wanted to contribute in a tangible way to the relief effort."

The NMA donation is the latest in a series of positive responses by the association and its members to the disaster. As reported last week (see *Mining Week*, 9-2-05), numerous member companies have contributed materials, money and labor in an effort to assist those affected by the hurricane and flooding. The latest initiatives include:

American Electric Power (AEP) dispatched 1,506 employees and contractors with necessary equipment to assist with power restoration and infrastructure repair or construction in areas hit by the hurricane. The company said it is "by far the largest contingent of AEP personnel ever dispatched to assist after a disaster."

In addition, AEP's river operations unit provided assistance to the efforts to evacuate New Orleans. AEP tugboats have been ferrying evacuees from the flooded city to dry locations on the opposite side of the Mississippi River. The company is the third largest inland barge operator in the United States.

Meanwhile, **J.H. Fletcher & Co.** said it donated \$10,000 to the Red Cross for hurricane relief, and is also matching employee donations, which so far have amounted

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Prior to TFI, I was president and CEO of the U.S. Apple Association, vice president of the Northwest Horticultural Council and also spent several years in staff positions on Capitol Hill, learning the intricacies of the national legislative process.

Perhaps a good summary of my collective experiences is that I am intimately familiar with the crucial operational and strategic roles played by an industry association, as well as the political, scientific and communications capabilities essential to success in today's public policy arena.

Consequently, the approach I bring to NMA is one of first recognizing its strengths, which include being among the most visible and efficient industry associations in the nation's capital. Already in place are the key ingredients of an integrated marketing and lobbying strategy: A highly capable staff, well-recognized political action committee, growing grassroots capability, experienced government affairs and regulatory expertise and an effective communications and media relations program.

My primary objective will be to continue to hone and enhance these capabilities to meet the continually evolving challenges mining currently faces and will confront in the years ahead. This includes the current busy congressional agenda already underway, one in which the NMA staff is fully engaged on such issues as climate change, Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act reform, the Clean Air Mercury Rule and others.

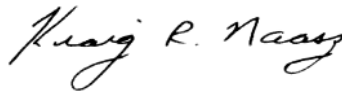
Overall, NMA's members – as well as our adversaries – can expect the association to continue to be an aggressive and effective advocate for mining during my tenure. We will work in consultation with the membership and board of directors to fulfill the industry's strategic objectives and mission of the association. While building on the successes of the past, we will be innovative and insightful in achieving our public policy agenda. While undertaking these initiatives, we will at all times promote a positive public image of an industry that has earned and deserves

national recognition and credit.

In short, NMA will seek to leverage that which has already been achieved as we undertake new initiatives designed to position the association and industry to move forward and attain our objectives in the years ahead.

Of course, essential to our success will be the active involvement, encouragement and guidance of the NMA membership. I look forward to meeting many of you in the weeks ahead, particularly at our fall board and annual members meeting in Washington later this month. Together we will continue the legacy and chart new successes for an industry that is dynamic, vigorous and unsurpassed in its contribution and value to the U.S. economy.

Sincerely yours,



Craig R. Naasz

**Hurricane** *continued from page 1*

to \$5,000. **CONSOL Energy** said it was following President Bush's request to donate money to the recovery efforts.

ConocoPhillips announced it will contribute \$3 million to assist relief efforts. "It is our sincere hope that this contribution will help those most affected begin rebuilding their lives and communities," the company said.

The **Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.** is using its famous fleet of airships to encourage an ongoing stream of donations in support of the relief efforts. The only airships with electronic day and night signs, the Goodyear blimps are being used in an awareness campaign to alert the public where donations can be made. In addition, the company is also exploring alternative work opportunities for Goodyear associates affected by the disaster and is considering establishing emergency service centers in the area. The company is also providing tires for police cruisers, utility trucks, tractors, loaders and other work vehicles being used in the relief effort.

Railroads were heavily impacted by the storm, and two NMA members, **CSX** and

Norfolk Southern, have been doing their share to help in the recovery. CSX said it is providing guaranteed pay and benefits through September, as well as temporary job assignments at other locations, for approximately 300 employees who were significantly affected by Hurricane Katrina. In addition, the company is providing an estimated \$600,000 to \$700,000 in employee and community assistant through various initiatives.

Norfolk Southern (NS) is providing \$1 million for community recovery efforts while enhancing its other relief-related programs. In communities along its lines in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, the company said it will contribute a total of \$500,000 directly to local and state emergency responders and other community organizations. At the same time, NS is matching employee donations to designated national relief organizations, up to a maximum corporate donation of \$500,000.

The company is also providing temporary jobs and food and lodging assistance to employees who sustained hurricane-related losses; promoting local relief campaigns; and donating flares for use by law enforcement officials.

Caterpillar Inc. continued to assist efforts in the region, providing 60 CAT power modules (each capable of powering 200-to-300 homes) to the Gulf Coast region at the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). CAT's most recent efforts also included: support of oil and gas customers by the Solar Turbines Division to restore production as quickly as possible; diversion of additional equipment to the region by the North American Commercial Division; donation of two material handlers for use by municipalities in Louisiana and Mississippi by the Wheel Loaders and Excavators Division; and supplying personnel from CAT and its dealers from across the country to assist in the recovery.

Other NMA members who have responded to Hurricane Katrina or other natural disasters recently and want to be mentioned in future *Mining Week* reports should send information to Tom Johnson at tjohnson@nma.org. ✕

Shimkus visits NMA, discusses current issues facing returning Congress

Rep. John Shimkus (R-III.) a key member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, visited NMA this week to brief staff, guests and member company representatives on key issues facing the returning Congress. Among the issues discussed by Shimkus were the reconciliation process, Medicaid and Social Security reform, and the possibility of additional action on energy issues. He is a member of three Energy and Commerce subcommittees: Energy and Air Quality, where he is vice chairman; Telecommunications and the Internet; and Health. He began his congressional service in 1997 and is currently in his fifth term representing the 19th Congressional District. ✕



Shimkus, left, with NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz.

Clean Coal Power Conference scheduled Nov. 21-22 in Washington, D.C.

A conference exploring the promise of rapidly advancing clean coal and advanced power systems will take place at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., Nov. 21-22.

World government and industry experts will gather to discuss the latest technology advancements and their prospects for meeting the economic and environmental demands of the 21st century.

Sessions will explore the significance of coal as a viable energy source, supply and demand issues and other topics. Assessments will be made of the dynamic changes resulting from increasing competition in fuel markets, the restructuring of the utility industry, changing and tightening of environmental regulations and the potential impact of emerging global climate change initiatives.

Among the discussion topics will be the new challenges that coal users will face in meeting environmental concerns, including global climate change, and the role of coal in the increasingly competitive electricity and fuel markets.

For more information, visit www.fossil.energy.gov/news/events/cleancoal/, or contact Faith Cline in the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Coal at (202) 586-7920, or faith.cline@hq.doe.gov. ✕

Nickel conference scheduled for the Dominican Republic, Sept. 26-28

Key issues facing the worldwide nickel industry will be explored during "The America's Nickel Conference," Sept. 26-28 at the Intercontinental V Centenario in the Dominican Republic.

The conference, which will include a welcoming address by Dominican Republic President Leonel Antonio Fernandez Reyna, will focus on such topics as nickel supply and demand, meeting the global demand for nickel, implications of mining nickel in the Americas, global nickel concentrate and intermediate markets, and other similar issues.

For more information or to register, visit www.informa.com.au/americasnichel. ✕

Newsbits

Nevada-based **Meridian Gold** has won Chile's coveted Benjamin Teplizky Lijavetzky Award, established in 1998 by former Chilean President Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle to promote the sustainable development of the mining industry . . . President Bush has nominated **Lyons Gray** to be chief financial officer of the **Environmental Protection Agency**. Most recently,

he was president of the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, a member and advocacy organization leading efforts to revitalize and strengthen the city through business and economic development . . . **P&H Mining Equipment** has announced the following organizational changes: **Grant Harrison** has been appointed director, human resources – Australasia; **Steve Lennard** has assumed the role of general manager, sales, marketing and service support, P&H MinePro Services, Australasia; **Alejandro Leon** has been named general manager, P&H MinePro Services – Chile; and **Antonio Carlos Lopes** has joined P&H MinePro Services – Brazil as aftermarket sales manager . . . **Anant Talaulicar** has been named a vice president for Cummins Inc.; he is chairman, Cummins India Ltd. and has been with the company since 1988 . . . Following the recent acquisition of Montreal-based mining products company, SIAMtec, **Cattron Group International** has announced an internal reorganization and the creation of a global mining products group. The new group will be headed by **Eric Brouillette**, vice president, marketing and sales – mining. In addition, the company has named Paul-Andre Corbeil as engineering manager for

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Naasz urges Senate to reject Leahy-Collins joint resolution

NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz this week urged the Senate to reject Joint Resolution 20, sponsored by Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), aimed at rescinding the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Mercury Rule. A vote on the measure is expected early next week.

The Leahy-Collins proposal is raised as a Congressional Review Act resolution. Congress established the review policy in 1995 as a way to examine executive branch regulations shortly after they take effect, but it has rarely been used. To take effect, a resolution must achieve a simple majority in both chambers of Congress, as well as the president's signature. Congress can override a veto. Besides returning EPA's rule to the

drawing boards, if successful, the Leahy-Collins resolution also would bar the agency from pushing a similar version of the policy at a later date.

"The nation's electricity supply and economic security will be jeopardized by the Leahy-Collins resolution to abandon the Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR), and we urge the Senate to reject this onerous proposal," Naasz said.

"Under CAMR, mercury emissions from coal fired power plants will drop an additional 70 percent nationwide through a cost-effective cap and trade program. If the Senate arbitrarily pushes aside this landmark regulatory effort, regulation of these emissions will be indefinitely delayed. Further, the forced

adoption of traditional command-and-control regulations, as envisioned by the resolution's supporters, would impose harsh penalties on America's electricity users in increased costs and supply disruptions with minimal environmental benefit," he said.

"At a time when we are struggling to cope with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the multitude of tragedies it has visited upon this nation, we should be seeking ways to ensure, rather than undermine, affordable and reliable electricity for all consumers. Senate Joint Resolution 20, the Leahy-Collins proposal, is the wrong policy at the worst possible time and should be rejected," Naasz concluded. ✕

Budget reconciliation process postponed until after Oct. 10-14 recess

Congressional leaders announced that the budget reconciliation process will be postponed until after the Oct. 10-14 recess, delaying a decision on whether the administration's proposed "user fee" on explosives will be included in the overall reconciliation package.

The "user fee" is essentially a tax proposed to generate \$120 million

annually, 90 percent of which would come from the mining industry. It would amend Section 846 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code, Chapter 40. The Congressional Budget Office now considers the proposal a "revenue enhancer" and the Senate Budget Committee will soon decide if the Judiciary Committee will be allowed to use revenues from the

tax in its contribution to the overall reconciliation package.

NMA is strongly opposed to the measure and with its members is formulating and implementing aggressive coalition, grassroots and communications activities to urge exclusion of the fee from the reconciliation package. ✕

Newsbits

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mining products . . . **CONSOL Energy** has announced several organizational changes, including: **Albert Aloia** and **Bart Hyita** as senior vice president – coal operations; **Robert Pusateri**

as president of CONSOL Energy Sales Co.; **Ronald Stovash** as senior vice president – planning and administration; **James McCaffrey** as vice president – material and supply

chain management; and **Thomas Hoffman** as vice president – external affairs, assuming responsibility for government affairs as well as investor relations and public relations.



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