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## 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).

## Administration officials, congressional members address NMA board

Cabinet secretaries, senators and congressional representatives visited NMA's Board of Directors in Washington this week to applaud the mining industry's efforts in support of important legislative initiatives and describe the remaining challenges that lie ahead.



*Secretary Bodman addresses NMA Board breakfast.*

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said the energy bill would likely not have passed without NMA's "support and guidance," especially in the early stages when the debate was centering on the need for greater energy independence. "Developing clean and reliable energy through technology is the hallmark of the energy bill" that NMA helped pass, said Bodman. With the clean coal technology incentives in the bill, he said coal will play a large and "even a preponderant role" in the country's energy future.

The secretary saluted the just-announced FutureGen Alliance as "a major step for advancing

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## "Sentinels of Safety" awards commemorate 2004 as safest year ever

Twenty mining companies this week received recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor for outstanding achievements in mine safety during 2004.

The annual "Sentinels of Safety Awards," cosponsored by the department's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and NMA, were presented at a luncheon ceremony during the association's board of directors' meeting.

"Improved safety in both coal and hardrock mining has become one of the great success stories in industrial America," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "As a result of our industry's relentless commitment to improving mine safety, illustrated by this year's winners and an expanded awards program, mining has overcome its legacy to become one of our nation's safest industries."

Initiated in 1925 by then Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover, the Sentinels Award program has helped foster a safety record in U.S. mines that has become the envy of the world. Safety practices recognized in the Sentinels program serve as benchmarks for promoting broader use throughout the industry, helping set consecutive year-over-year records for fewest fatalities in underground and surface mining operations.

Presenting the awards this year was Paul Conway, Labor Department chief of staff. "The dedication to safety by companies such as those we recognize today sets a high workplace standard of which all Americans can be proud," said Conway at a luncheon

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## Board of Directors *from page 1*



Senator Hagel

coal-based technology." "We'll continue to invest in coal's future because coal is vital to keep the lights on," he said.

Nebraska's senior senator, Chuck Hagel (R), told the board that, as a nation, "we've put ourselves in a bind because we've deferred energy decisions" for too long. An architect of the energy bill's climate change provisions, Hagel warned "it doesn't make a lot of sense for the U.S. to take unilateral action" to control its greenhouse gas emissions when the solution requires a global policy that includes the world's fastest growing economies. Hagel counseled that "we need to provide alternative solutions (to the Kyoto Treaty)."

Sen. Michael Enzi (R-Wyo.), a former mayor of Gillette during development of the Powder River Basin, is a strong champion of U.S. mining. "NMA made a significant difference in the effectiveness of the energy bill we passed," he said. He agreed with the need to defeat the proposed explosives tax that would fall heavily on mineral and coal mining. "Next to the carbon tax, it's my least favorite tax," he said. Enzi is leading the Senate's effort to reform corporate pension funds and welcomed the mining industry's advice in the days ahead.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) echoed Hagel's criticism of carbon reduction measures that neglect coal-burning economies such as China and India. Because those countries have recently decided to industrialize, they're suddenly competing with U.S. companies for control of the world's remaining oil reserves, bidding up the energy price to U.S. consumers and industries, said Craig. He blamed "the greens" for contributing to the neglect of the nation's energy supply infrastructure and our subsequent dependence on unstable regions of the world for growing energy imports.

At the same time, he said, "the federal bureaucracy has stubbornly resisted efforts to speed up patents and permits." The result, said the senator, has placed the U.S. "in a mineral and metals lull – asleep at the switch." High gasoline prices may be changing public opinion, said Craig, as now for the first time more Americans than not favor drilling in ANWR. "Maybe \$3.00 gas makes a difference after all," he said.

Rep. Cathy McMorris (R) of Washington state described progress in congressional efforts to reform the National Environmental Policy Act.

Her field hearings gathered testimony from mining and timber companies showing how NEPA has changed from a law for encouraging "democracy in action to one that means bureaucracy in action." The reason, she said: nearly every word in the law has been subjected to costly and time-consuming litigation.

"Our hearings have turned up too many examples where it's been easier to go abroad than get a permit here in our own country," said McMorris. ✕

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## Mining's contributions to environmental stewardship, communities, recognized during presentation of DOI awards

Ten U.S. coal and mineral mining companies won annual awards from Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies this week for outstanding reclamation and environmental accomplishments at more than a dozen mining operations across the country.

The annual awards were presented in ceremonies during a dinner in conjunction with NMA's fall Board of Directors meeting.

"These awards testify to the extraordinary progress made by modern mining in exceeding the environmental expectations of the American people and demonstrate our deep commitment to the communities in which we operate," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "We're very proud of our winners and grateful to the Department of Interior for acknowledging their efforts."

Jeff Jarrett, director of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), presented the 2005 Excellence in Surface Mining Awards to company winners in several categories for their exemplary compliance with requirements of the Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act.

Jarrett said, "Today, what we see across this country is a lot of people doing great reclamation." He said many

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Senator Enzi



Senator Craig



Representative McMorris

**DOI** from page 2

coal operators "have certain land use in mind" before even starting the reclamation process.

Seven coal mining operations were recognized under the "National" category for outstanding active mine reclamation efforts. Three mining operations won "Good Neighbor" awards for cooperative efforts with local communities in reclaiming mined land and one coal mine won the 2005 "Director's Award" for excellence in reclaiming abandoned mined land.

Kathleen Clarke, director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), presented the agency's 2005 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards to four companies for their outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and community outreach.

Clarke told the winners she "believes in what you do and what you bring to the quality of life" of the communities in which they operate. "I think it is important we help the nation understand how vital your industry is to the quality of life in the United States. Thank you for your willingness to take risks and make investments in local communities."

Two western operations won for "Community Outreach and Economic Security," one company won the "Environmental" award category for 2005 and one company won the "Small Operator" award that recognizes achievements for small mining operations.

The Department of Interior 2005 award winners are as follows:

**OSM Excellence in Surface Mining Awards for Coal Companies****National Award:**

Peabody Energy's Black Mesa and Kayenta Mines in Kayenta, Ariz.

Red River Coal Company, Humphries Enterprises, Inc.'s Job #1 and #2 operations in Norton, Va.

Foundation Coal Affiliate, Delta Mine Holding Company, Harrisburg, Ill.

Peabody Energy's Universal Mine in Universal, Ind.

Western Energy Company's Rosebud Mine in Colstrip, Mont.

United Coals' Stenger/Bond Surface Mine in Lost Creek, W.Va.

Kennecott Energy's Spring Creek Mine in Decker, Mont.

**Good Neighbor Award:**

Peabody Energy's Farmersburg Mine in Pimento, Ind.

Peabody Energy's North Antelope Rochelle Mine in Gillette, Wyo.

Peabody Energy's Black Mesa and Kayenta Mines in Kayenta, Ariz.

**Director's Award:**

Arch Coal of Wyoming's Seminoe #1 Mine in Hanna, Wyo.

**BLM Awards for Hardrock Mineral Companies****Community Outreach and Economic Security Award:**

Newmont Mining Corp.'s Eastern Nevada Operations in Carlin, Nev.

Molycorp Inc.'s Questa Molybdenum Mine in Questa, N.M.

**Environmental Award:**

Kennecott Minerals Company's Ridgeway Mine in Ridgeway, S.C.

**Small Operator Award:**

"Diamond" Jim Olmstead, Lessee, Gold Creek Claims in Chandalar Quadrangle, Alaska. ✕

**Partnership will help reforest hardwood region**

NMA this week committed the nation's coal companies to join with the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and seven states in the Appalachian region in an ambitious reforestation program designed to protect and expand growth of the region's valuable hardwood forests.

The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative was signed by NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz during award ceremonies honoring mining companies for their reclamation and environmental achievements. Reforestation is among the most desirable ways to reclaim mined lands in the region.

"The mining industry is delighted to join this important partnership for restoring the vibrant hardwoods that

have for generations provided both commercial and environmental benefits to the people of Appalachia," said Naasz. "Voluntary partnerships such as this one between the private and public sectors are often the most effective means for improving our environment."

Joining Naasz in the signing ceremony were OSM Director Jeff Jarrett and Gary E. Slagel, director of government affairs for CONSOL Energy Inc. and member of the Pennsylvania Coal Association Board of Directors. State authorities throughout Appalachia are participating with mining companies and the federal agency to promote the region-wide reforestation effort.

The initiative draws on the reclamation and forestry expertise of federal and

state agencies, mining companies and local universities and conservation organizations to promote tree planting and seeding on mined and abandoned mine lands. Native tree species such as red maple, oak and yellow poplar will be used wherever possible to create wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, soil conservation and high-quality timber.

A healthy forest in the hardwood region can also help capture emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. At the same time, hardwood forests, which grow naturally throughout the region, can provide a valuable source of revenue to support a strong local lumber economy and a revenue base for state and local taxes. ✕

## Sentinels *from page 1*

ceremony attended by representatives of the winning companies and by senior officials from the Department of Labor.

The Sentinels of Safety Awards recognize mining operations in various categories that record the most hours in a calendar year without a single lost-time injury. Beginning this year, a minimum of 4,000 hours is required for consideration, and the award categories have been expanded to allow greater recognition of the safety accomplishments of both small and large mines. Ten companies won Sentinels of Safety awards in the new "small" category.

Also new this year are two new categories to recognize the safety accomplishments of those involved in coal processing facilities and mills.

In addition to these Sentinels of Safety Award winners, six other coal and hard rock mining facilities earned special recognition for outstanding safety practices throughout 2004.

### Large Company Award Winners:

The Calmat Company's Sun Valley Plant in Sun Valley, Calif.

Consolidation Coal Company's Loveridge No. 22 processing facility in Fairview, W.Va.

Martin Marietta Aggregates' Fairfield Gravel operation in Fairfield, Ohio.

J. M. Huber Corporation's Sandersville Mill non-metal operation in Sandersville, Ga.

American Colloid Company's Belle Colony open pit mine in Belle Fourche, S.D.

Martin Marietta Aggregates' Three Rivers quarry in Smithland, Ky.

Paramont Coal Company Virginia LLC's Lovers Gap #3 surface mine in Coeburn, Va.

ICG Knott County LLC's Clean Energy underground coal mine in Kite, Ky.

The Doe Run Company's Brushy Creek underground metal mine in Bunker, Mo.

Mississippi Lime Company's Peerless underground non-metal mine in St. Genevieve, Mo.

### Small Company Award Winners:

Chick Trucking Inc.'s Newmarket Sand & Gravel operation in Newmarket, N.H.

CAM Ohio LLC's Nelms Prep coal processing facility in Cadiz, Ohio.

Central Sand & Gravel Company's Pit #73, Bellwood dredge operation in Bellwood, Neb.

Stoneco's Ottawa Lake Quarry mill in Ottawa Lake, Mich.

Perkins Cinders Inc.'s Owens Pit in Show Low, Ariz.

Stonewall Materials of Oklahoma LLC's Stonewall Materials of Oklahoma quarry in Mineral Walls, Texas.

Robert Clear Coal Corporation's Area #8 surface mine in Lafollette, Tenn.

Enterprise Mining Company LLC's Mine #4 underground coal mine in Whitesburg, Ky.

Genesis Inc.'s Troy Mine, an underground metal mine in Troy, Mont.

Nally & Gibson Georgetown LLC's Nally & Gibson Georgetown underground non-metal mine in Georgetown, Ky.

### Special Safety Recognition to:

Fordyce, Ltd's Briggs Plant dredge operation in Victoria, Texas.

Kennecott Utah Corporation's Bingham Canyon open pit mine in Bingham Canyon, Utah.

Coteau Properties Company's Freedom surface coal mine in Beulah, N.D.

CAM Ohio LLC's Nelms underground coal mine in Cadiz, Ohio.

The Doe Run Company's Fletcher underground mine and mill in Bunker, Mo.

Texas Crushstone Company Inc.'s Georgetown Quarry and Plant operation in Georgetown, Texas.

To see the official Sentinels of Safety homepage, visit the [Mine Safety and Health Administration](#) web site. ☒

## Naasz: Mining industry welcomes ESA reform legislation

Bipartisan legislation introduced by House Resources Chairman Richard Pombo (R-Calif.) and 15 cosponsors to reform the embattled Endangered Species Act (ESA) won the backing of the U.S. mining industry for its emphasis on science-based decision-making and provisions for giving private landowners a greater voice in consultations with federal agencies.

The "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005" (TESRA) was introduced in Congress on Sept. 21 and approved by the House Resources Committee on the following day. The bill comes after many years of mounting frustration with a costly and cumbersome ESA regulatory process that has alienated private landowners and failed to recover endangered species as intended.

"The mining industry knows first hand about the shortcomings of this law and welcomes this measured approach for reforming it," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz. "It doesn't solve all the problems we've experienced, but by insisting on the best available science for making listing and habitat conservation decisions, this bill will make a weak law stronger."

The bill, H.R. 3824, eliminates the controversial concept of "critical habitat" in favor of an integrated planning process that identifies areas that are deemed of "special value" to species conservation. Permit and license applicants are granted a larger role in the process, and "jeopardy" determinations are limited to instances actions which can reasonably be expected to "significantly impede, directly or indirectly, the conservation in the long-term of the species in the wild."

NMA supports ESA reform efforts that improve the scientific integrity of decision-making and expedites decisions by officials of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. ☒

## Katrina relief contributions from NMA members now top \$11 million

NMA member companies have now contributed more than \$11 million to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, according to the association's latest compilation.

As noted in recent issues of *Mining Week* (see 9-2, 9-9 and 9-16), the efforts of members have included matching employee contributions; providing equipment, personnel and housing; participation in a U.S. Department of Homeland Security online registry; and also on the U.S. Department of Labor jobs bank.

The latest additions to member company contributions include:

**Freeport McMoRan**, the single member company that has felt the most impact from Katrina, has temporarily moved its headquarters operations from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, La. Many of its employees were affected by the storm. The company has contributed \$1 million to hurricane relief, plus two individual executives have contributed \$250,000 each to the relief fund.

**Kennecott Utah Copper Corp.** and its owner, **Rio Tinto Plc.** in London, have joined with other U.S.-based Rio Tinto companies to pledge more than \$350,000 to support Katrina relief efforts. This includes \$100,000 to the American Red Cross and \$250,000 to the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Fund

established by Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. Besides the corporate effort, many Kennecott employees have made individual contributions, which all American based Rio Tinto companies are matching.

**Newmont Mining Corp.** has focused its efforts on the needs of families who have been relocated to Colorado by partnering with the United Way and Red Cross. The company has initiated both short and long-term plans for aiding those affected by the hurricane, including a \$100,000 donation to the American Red Cross to help those with immediate needs; a Newmont Employee Double Match Program in which the company will match double the amount employees contribute to qualified relief agencies; and a donation of \$100,000 to the Dave Matthews Band Concert for Hurricane Relief, where 100 percent of all ticket sales and proceeds will be donated to relief efforts.

Additionally, Newmont says employees have committed to weekly drives where they will donate blood, food, clothing, baby basics and school supplies. On a long-term plan, Newmont is currently looking for opportunities to help displaced individuals and families who have been relocated to Colorado. "We anticipate assisting with housing,

employment, education and training, among other needs," the company said.

**Mississippi Lignite Mining Co.** (MLMC) and its parent, **The North American Coal Corp.** (NAC), are also actively participating in the Katrina relief effort. MLMC carried 900 gallons of drinking water and 20 cases of snack food to the Mississippi coast in the immediate aftermath of the storm. Following a request from employees, the company cancelled its annual picnic and a couple of other employee appreciation functions and contributed the available funds to the Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund.

MLMC also donated the employee picnic gifts of stadium blankets, t-shirts, soft-side coolers and toys to the relief effort. The company continues to accept employee contributions with a dollar-for-dollar match by NAC. Other NAC locations in Florida, Louisiana, North Dakota, Texas, Ohio and Pennsylvania are also participating in the employee match.

NMA members not previously mentioned in *Mining Week* coverage of Katrina or other natural disaster relief should send information to Tom Johnson at [tjohnson@nma.org](mailto:tjohnson@nma.org). We will continue to publish additional stories as long as new information is received. ✕

## Stickler nominated to head MSHA

President Bush has nominated Richard Stickler, a 30-year veteran of Bethlehem Steel's mining unit, to become assistant secretary of labor in charge of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

Stickler, 61, most recently was the top underground mine safety official in Pennsylvania, a position he held for six years. He would succeed David Lauriski, who resigned earlier this year; the agency has since been run by David Dye, deputy assistant secretary.

Stickler's confirmation hearing will

take place before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. According to the White House, Stickler held a number of positions, including manager, superintendent and shift foreman, during his time with Bethlehem's Beth Energy Mines.

From 1996 to 1997, he served as assistant to the president of Performance Coal Co., a subsidiary of Massey Energy Co. From March 1997-July 2003, he was director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of

Deep Mine Safety in the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Mineral Resources Management. During his tenure the state made great strides in mine safety. ✕

Mining Week archives  
are available on the  
NMA web site.

## Highlights from NMA's Congressional Reception



*Representative Jim Gibbons (R-Nev., left) with NMA's Ric Fenton, vice president, congressional affairs.*



*NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz and Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.).*



*From left to right: Heather Naasz, Kraig R. Naasz and Secretary of Interior Gale Norton.*



*Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho), who was also one of the speakers at a Congressional Forum attended by NMA staff and members earlier in the day.*



*From left to right: Sen. Craig Thomas, (R-Wyo.), Suzie Thomas and NMA's Craig Montesano, director, government affairs.*

## EPA proposes TRI burden reduction rule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week said it will propose a "Phase 2" TRI Burden Reduction Rule aimed at expanding the use of reporting form A, the shorter reporting alternative to TRI's Form R.

EPA also announced it has informed Congress the agency is considering a possible change in the frequency of TRI reporting, from annually to biennially.

According to the agency, the proposed rule will be posted on the EPA web site (see below) and should appear in the *Federal Register* in about one week. EPA said the proposal will have a 60-day comment period, which is unlikely to be extended.

The agency intends to promulgate a final rule by December 2006; if that date can be met, the provisions for expanded use of Form A would take effect with the 2007 filing of reports (on 2006 data).

The proposal tries to expand use of Form A in two ways. First, the threshold of 500 pounds would be raised to 5,000 pounds for all "non-PBT" chemicals. Second, use of Form A would be allowed

for "PBT chemicals," a category that until now has been excluded from Form A reporting. However, under the proposed rule a facility could utilize Form A for reporting of a PBT chemical (other than dioxin for which Form A remains unavailable) only if (1) the facility maintained no more than 500 pounds of that chemical on-site and (2) had no releases of that chemical. EPA estimates these two changes could save up to 165,000 burden hours annually while still accounting for 99 percent of the data currently reported.

Under the provisions of the Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), EPA must inform the Congress in advance of any change in reporting frequency; no change can take place for at least 12 months following the notice to Congress but any change must be made within 24 months from the date of notice to Congress.

This means that there will be no change in reporting frequency until at least September 2006, and it could be as long as September 2007. Any change must be consistent with the intent of EPCRA section 313 (that created the

TRI program) and must balance "the needs of data users with the concerns of data reporters and states."

The agency anticipates that a change to biennial reporting could save EPA upwards of \$2 million annually. These funds could be re-invested in TRI in several ways: (1) improving the TRI-ME software program; (2) doing more analysis of TRI data, including trend analysis; and (3) pushing for more electronic reporting including web-based TRI-ME. The EPA letter specifically mentions possible improvements in "data quality and consistency," analyses of chemical or sector specific "patterns of waste management" and "risk implications of toxic chemical releases."

The agency said it would form a stakeholder group to discuss the possible change in reporting frequency. One fundamental issue up for discussion is whether – if the biennial reporting frequency is adopted – a facility would report data from the previous 12 months or the previous 24 months.

More information can be found on EPA's TRI web site: [www.epa.gov/tri/](http://www.epa.gov/tri/). ✕

## Worldwide nonferrous exploration budgets increase for third consecutive year, MEG says

Worldwide commercially oriented nonferrous exploration budgets increased for a third consecutive year to almost \$4.9 billion in 2005, a 38 percent rise over the previous year, according to Metals Economics Group (MEG) preliminary analysis of the 2005 edition of *Corporate Exploration Strategies* (CES).

MEG said it estimates the CES includes more than 95 percent of worldwide budgets covering more than 1,400 companies. "Allowing for budgets that could not be obtained, the estimated 2005 worldwide exploration budget total is \$5.1 billion, just shy of the high mark of \$5.2 billion set in 1997 at the peak of the last exploration boom," MEG said.

"Regionally, Latin America continues to be the most popular destination for exploration spending, followed by Canada, and then Africa. Nationally, Canada retains the top spot for the third year running, and the gap with second-place Australia is widening."

MEG said while gold exploration budgets "continue to exceed base metal budgets in dollars, base metals budgets show the greatest dollar increases in 2005. Copper exploration budgets increased substantially, but the real standouts are zinc exploration budgets, which increased about 90 percent, and nickel exploration budgets, which increased almost 65 percent."

The company said late-stage exploration has become "increasingly important" in the current exploration cycle, as juniors prepare projects for joint-venture or acquisition, and miners push to bring projects to production in order to take advantage of historically high metals prices. "The total budgets for late-stage exploration (including feasibility work) have exceeded grassroots exploration budgets for the first time since we began publishing the *Corporate Exploration Strategies* series of studies in 1989," MEG said.

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of CES will be published in October 2005. For more information, visit [www.metalseconomics.com](http://www.metalseconomics.com). ✕

## Naasz meets with WMC; expresses strong support

NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz expressed strong support for the Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) during a meeting in Washington with top representatives of the group this week.

Naasz and Ric Fenton, NMA vice president, congressional affairs, met with WMC President Terah Burdette and members Debra Struhsacker, Kinross

Gold USA Inc.; Janet Gellici, American Coal Council; Laura Skaer, Northwest Mining Association; Ann Carpenter, a consultant who is an independent mining geologist; and Ruth Carraher, Gold Summit Corp.

Working with NMA, WMC conducts an extremely effective annual visit to Washington each spring, where they

conduct extensive visits to House and Senate offices, as well as key regulatory agencies. "The WMC is an important and positive presence for mining whose members represent a broad spectrum of the mining industry across the nation. We look forward to continuing and enhancing our relationship in the future," Naasz said. ✕

## UN report: CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration could cut global emissions by 40 percent

A new report commissioned for the United Nations (UN) says sequestering carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) could cut global emissions by 20 percent to 40 percent between now and 2050.

The report found that 220 billion

to 2,200 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> could be economically stored underground between now and 2100 in geological structures, such as empty oil and gas fields, and also in deep oceans. The process could cost anywhere from \$15 to \$75 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report estimated.

The IPCC commissioned the report in 2003 and is expected to present the findings at its meeting in Montreal, Canada, from Sept. 22-28. ✕

## Newsbits

**Hecla Mining Co.** this week announced it has terminated an agreement to acquire **Triumph Gold Corp.**'s interest in mineral concessions in the **Guariche Mining District** in Venezuela. Hecla decided to terminate the transaction because the companies failed to reach a consensus on certain conditions of closing. Hecla President and Chief Executive Officer **Phillips S. Baker Jr.**, said the company has a "large number of excellent exploration targets and properties in Venezuela on which we are currently working" . . . **CONSOL Energy Inc.** said it has idled the Buchanan Mine near Mavisdale, Va., following a problem with the

mine's skip hoist mechanism that caused a loaded skip and an unloaded skip to fall to the bottom of the mine shaft. No one was injured during the incident and, with the exception of the hoist shaft, all other areas of the mine were unaffected by the incident. It is expected that repairs will take at least several weeks; while repairs are being made, it is anticipated that approximately 200 mine employees will be laid off, CONSOL said . . . **Bucyrus International Inc.** announced a major dragline components upgrade order from **Peabody Energy**. Peabody recently awarded Bucyrus, and its service subsidiary **Minserco**,

component and installation orders to help increase productivity on two draglines located at the Kayenta Mine in Northern Arizona . . . **Arch Coal Inc.**'s **Greg Schaefer** has been appointed to be a member of the Roadless Area Conservation National Advisory Committee. The group, which consists of 13 members from environmental, industry and recreation organizations, is charged with reviewing state roadless petitions and providing recommendations to the **U.S. Department of Agriculture** secretary on whether or not to accept the petition. His nomination to the panel was supported by NMA.



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

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