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the latest coal processing, preparation and drying techniques.

The CMTF's action plan also includes a coal mine health and safety project, sponsored by the U.S. and Australia, that "seeks to develop a strategic approach toward risk management and to advance toward the goal of zero fatalities and injuries in the coal mining industry." To that end, the CMTF has scheduled a workshop for Dec. 5-7 in Pittsburgh, Pa., to help advance this effort. This workshop will offer NMA members a prime opportunity to interact with government, corporate and safety experts from Australia, China, India and Japan.

The CMTF plan also includes a workforce assessment and training needs project that will develop a strategic approach to address mining skills shortages in APP countries, "including the identification of skills shortages and opportunities for training to reduce technology gaps."

"Our participation in the Asia-Pacific Partnership with five other coal producing nations demonstrates how countries can work together to address environmental concerns in a way that is consistent with economic growth," said NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz.

Separately, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on Oct. 31 unveiled a \$450 million initiative to support seven tests in North America meant to advance carbon sequestration technologies. The funds will be released over the next 10 years to validate that the capture, transportation, injection and long term storage of carbon dioxide can be done safely, permanently and economically, according to an Oct. 31 DOE release. "Carbon sequestration will play a key role in the United States' effort to mitigate climate change and holds the key to the continued environmentally responsible use of coal," DOE Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Jarrett said.

"DOE's decision to fund this important research will help put the United

States in the forefront of worldwide efforts to address climate change. By marshalling the ingenuity of our scientists and research community, we can continue to use coal responsibly to generate the electricity needed to power America's economy," said NMA's Naasz. "This research initiative shows how environmental and economic considerations can be integrated in energy policy, and we commend the administration for supporting it."

More information on the APP projects is available at: www.state.gov/g/oes/climate/app/c19376.htm.

A complete copy of Undersecretary Dobriansky's remarks is available at: www.state.gov/g/rls/rm/75402.htm.

More information on DOE's carbon sequestration funding is available at: www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2006/06062-Carbon_Sequestration_Testing_Suppo.html.

General information on the APP is available at: www.state.gov/g/oes/climate/app/. ☒

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emerging technologies," Domenici said, adding that he hoped the delay will at least result in an "even stronger" implementation of the program.

Bingaman said he shared Domenici's "frustration" over the "latest delay" of the program. "It was one of the most important provisions in the Energy Policy Act of 2005," he said, adding that the program "holds great promise for pushing new clean energy technologies past the final hurdles to commercialization."

A copy of DOE's announcement is available at: www.lgprogram.energy.gov/extension.

A copy of the joint Domenici-Bingaman statement is available at: http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=235128&Month=10&Year=2006&Party=1..☒

NMA salutes storied careers of two employees

NMA on Oct. 31 held a luncheon to honor NMA Senior Economist and Director of International Policy Constance Holmes (left) and NMA Deputy General Counsel Rod Dwyer (right) for their dedication and commitment to the mining industry. Holmes officially retired from NMA on Sept. 29, while Dwyer will officially retire on Nov. 30.

Holmes joined the National Coal Association, an NMA predecessor organization, 32 years ago, while Dwyer joined the American Mining Congress, another NMA predecessor association, 26 years ago. At the luncheon, current and former NMA staff paid tribute to Holmes and Dwyer for the enormous contributions they made during their tenure at NMA that greatly helped strengthen and ensure the continued vitality of the American mining industry.

"Connie and Rod's importance to our industry cannot be overstated" said NMA President and Kraig R. Naasz. "On behalf of the entire mining community I extend our sincere thanks to Connie and Rod and congratulate both for their truly outstanding careers. Needless to say they will be missed. Though I am pleased to announce that while retired, Connie and Rod have kindly agreed to act as consultants for NMA, ensuring that our industry will continue to have access to their unmatched knowledge and expertise." ☒

Britain's Blair calls for urgent climate action following publication of UK report

British Prime Minister Tony Blair this week called for immediate international efforts to curb carbon emissions, warning that a failure to take "bold and decisive" steps would not only end any chance of halting global temperature increases, but also devastate the global economy.

Blair delivered his stark warning on Oct. 30 while unveiling a new report developed by Sir Nicholas Stern, the head of Britain's Government Economics Service and an adviser to the government on the economics of climate change and development. Blair highlighted the need for a number of new initiatives, including one to make all new coal-fueled power stations carbon neutral.

Blair warned that without "radical international measures to reduce carbon emissions within the next 10 to 15 years, there is compelling evidence to suggest we might lose the chance to control temperature rises." The report endorses an international framework for action that includes a global emissions cap and trade scheme, regulations and taxes countries can use to help create a carbon price and encourage investment in existing low-carbon technologies. The report also calls for an acceleration of technological innovation through research and development and demonstration projects, assistance for bringing new technologies to market and

stronger measures to help developing countries.

Among the measures Britain is now considering adopting to further reduce emissions are new "green taxes" on budget airline flights, transportation fuel and high-emission vehicles.

In explaining the methodology used to arrive at the report's conclusions, Stern said his assumptions "had to be built around the economics of risk" and incorporate near-worst case climate scenarios from the Third Assessment Report of 2001 issued by Britain's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as a pessimistic economic outlook on the effect of current efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. In addition, Stern said his choice of models for the report was "guided by our desire to analyze risks explicitly." He concluded that any such modeling "requires caution and humility, and the results are specific to the model and its assumptions." Stern said the results "should not be endowed with a precision and certainty that is simply impossible to achieve."

The findings in Stern's report stand in marked contrast to those contained in a report released last year by the Economic Affairs Committee of Britain's House of Lords, which said British energy

and climate policy appeared to be based on "dubious assumptions" about the roles of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Lords' report called on the British government to review and substantiate its climate change cost estimates. The report argued that due to the lengthy time lags in climate systems, and the risk that international negotiations will not produce "large-scale and effective mitigation action," a more balanced approach to the "relative merits of adaptation and mitigation is needed, with far more attention paid to adaptation measures." The Lords also raised doubts over the objectivity of the IPCC, concluding that some of the IPCC's emissions scenarios and summary documentation appeared to be influenced by political considerations.

A complete copy of the prime minister's remarks is available at: www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page10300.asp.

A complete copy of the Stern report and related materials is available at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Independent_Reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm.

A complete copy of the House of Lords report is available at: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200506/ldselect/ldeconaf/12/12i.pdf. ☒

Peabody Energy, NMA attorneys named to DOI royalty committee

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne last week named Peabody Energy Senior Counsel Edward Sullivan and NMA Senior Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel Hal Quinn as members of the Department of the Interior's (DOI) Royalty Policy Committee. Sullivan will join the committee as a primary member for a two-year term, while Quinn will act as an alternate member for Sullivan.

The committee gives policy advice to the secretary and others within the department regarding the performance of discretionary DOI functions involved in the management of federal and Indian mineral leases.

Kempthorne sent separate letters to Sullivan and Quinn on Oct. 26 announcing the appointments, saying he is

looking forward to "seeing the important contributions" that both can make to the "management of minerals revenue and other minerals related policies." Kempthorne also notified NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz of the appointments in an Oct. 26 letter, as Naasz had nominated Sullivan and Quinn for the committee assignments.

"Secretary Kempthorne could not have selected two more qualified and knowledgeable candidates to serve the committee," said Naasz. "Edward Sullivan and Hal Quinn each possess an extensive and impressive knowledge of mineral issues, and their appointments will ensure that the committee is presented with first rate advice on how best to utilize America's vast mineral resources to spur economic and societal advances." ☒

NMA Supreme Court filing challenges claim EPA can regulate greenhouse gas emissions

NMA and its partners in the Utility Air Regulatory Group (UARG) last week urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a lower court ruling that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not have the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions using the Clean Air Act (CAA).

On Oct. 24, UARG filed a brief with the Supreme Court in the case of *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*. The case is an appeal, launched by several state governments and environmental groups, against a previous ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The circuit court upheld an EPA decision that it could not use the CAA to regulate greenhouse emissions; a decision EPA reached following a request from environmental groups to regulate such emissions using the CAA. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case on Nov. 29.

The UARG brief argued that the environmental groups and state governments lacked the standing required by the Constitution to bring the appeal to the Supreme Court, as they cannot show any immediate harm from EPA's decision not to regulate greenhouse gases using the CAA. UARG's brief also argued that the petitioners could not show that regulating greenhouse gasses via the CAA would solve the problems they claim are caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

UARG's brief said Congress did not delegate authority to EPA to address global climate change through the CAA, holding that the petitioners based their case on two CAA definitions related to "pollutants." UARG contended that the two definitions cannot be reasonably construed as empowering EPA to develop a regulatory program of unprecedented dimensions and consequences.

Read in its proper context, as well as against the backdrop of congressional action, UARG argued that the CAA does not grant EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, particularly

given that both Congress and the president have rejected mandatory controls of greenhouse gas emissions. The brief also noted that when global climate change is mentioned in the CAA, it is done so only in the context of non-regulatory actions. ✕

Weekly uranium price hits 38-year record high

The weekly spot price for uranium oxide hit a 38-year high, according to data released this past weekend. According to figures released by TradeTech, the most recent weekly spot uranium price indicator came in at \$60.25/pound, marking a 7 percent price increase.

TradeTech reported that the price surge is the result of flooding that occurred at Cameco Corporation's Cigar Lake uranium project. TradeTech noted that the spot price for uranium was \$50 per pound only two months ago. TradeTech's CEO Gene Clark told StockInterview.com that many analysts expect uranium prices to further increase, likely by increments of \$10 per pound.

Strathmore Minerals President David Miller told StockInterview.com that while "there is plenty of uranium in the ground around the world" at the \$60

price, he cautioned that producers still face tremendous permitting obstacles that impair production.

TradeTech's latest price report is available at: <http://www.uranium.info>.

Interviews with Gene Clark and David Miller are available at: www.stockinterview.com/News/10302006/uranium-price.html. ✕

Newsbits

The **National Research Council's Committee on Coal Research, Technology and Resource Assessments to Inform Energy Policy** will hold its last meeting Nov. 13-15 in Washington, D.C., at NRC's headquarters. The meeting includes a Nov. 13 session open to the public that will feature presentations by: **Joy Mining Machinery** regarding equipment trends; **CRC Mining** on technology and research; the **Department of Defense** on coal research; and the **United Mine Workers of America** on energy from coal. The rest of the meeting is closed to the public. In 2005, Congress funded this \$1 million, two-year study and instructed NRC to broadly examine how coal research and development is being conducted in the U.S. and formulate an appropriate, integrated roadmap for future needs. More *continued*

Mining Market Snapshot		
Coal Figures	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
<i>Week ended October 21, 2006</i>		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	941,904	3.0%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	3,251,642	0.0%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	86,773	5.0%
Metal Figures		
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 10/20/06		\$7,644.30
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 10/20/06		\$594.59
Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week		

Newsbits

information is available at: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/meetingview.aspx?key=189&MeetingId=1444...>

U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman this week named **Jeffrey Kupfer** as his new chief of staff. "I welcome Jeff to the Energy Department. I had the opportunity to work with him while we were both at the Department of the Treasury and I look forward to working with him again," Bodman said

in an Oct. 30 release. Previously, Kupfer served for nearly a year as a special assistant to the president for economic policy at the White House, and prior to that he was the executive director of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform. From 2001-2005, he held a number of positions at the Treasury Department, including executive secretary and deputy chief of staff.



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