

Happy Holidays

In recognition of the holiday season, *Mining Week* will take a short publication hiatus. The next issue of *Mining Week* will be published Jan. 4. NMA extends best wishes for the holiday season and a Happy New Year to all *Mining Week* readers.

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.

FutureGen Alliance chooses Illinois site for home of world's first near-zero emission coal-fueled electricity plant

The FutureGen Alliance announced this week that Mattoon, Ill., will be home to the FutureGen plant, the world's first near-zero emission coal-fueled power plant. The alliance, a consortium of U.S. and international coal-producers and electric utilities partnering with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to build the \$1.5 billion plant, made the announcement on Dec. 18 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Mattoon was chosen over another site in Illinois and two sites in Texas vying to become home to the project. "Officials from Mattoon should be commended for their determination and dedication to the FutureGen program," said FutureGen Alliance CEO Mike Mudd in a Dec. 18 statement.

The alliance said the selection of Mattoon will be finalized after DOE issues a National Environmental Policy Act Record of Decision.

The alliance and Illinois will "now work together to move FutureGen forward at a continued fast pace to develop this much-needed, first-of-a-kind research and development program," said Mudd. The alliance emphasized that with "climate change at the top of Congress' agenda and on the minds of many policy-makers around the globe, Future-

See FutureGen, page 2

Air Force completes first transcontinental Fischer-Tropsch test flight



Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne, Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.) and a delegation of industry leaders, including NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz, pose in front of the C-17 jet that made the first ever transcontinental Air Force flight using a Fischer-Tropsch (FT) jet fuel blend. The C-17 flew from McChord Air Force Base (AFB) in Washington state to New Jersey's McGuire AFB on Dec. 17. The flight marks the latest milestone in the Air Force's efforts to certify the use of coal-based and other types of FT fuels in their entire fleet of aircraft by 2011.

The Air Force this week completed the first ever transcontinental flight of a jet powered by a synthetic fuel made using the Fischer-Tropsch (FT) process, the same technique used to produce coal-to-liquid (CTL) fuels. Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne joined Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.) and a delegation of industry leaders and armed forces personnel at a Dec. 17 ceremony at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey to welcome a C-17 cargo jet powered by an FT fuel blend that took off from McChord Air Force Base in Washington state.

During the Dec. 17 ceremony Secretary Wynne stressed the need for increased production of domestic FT fuels, saying "all the energy we need" can be found domestically and can be used to "secure America's future."

Wynne emphasized the need for the Air Force to be given the authority to negotiate long-term FT supply contracts in order to accelerate the domestic production of such fuels, a point

See Air Force, page 2

FutureGen *continued from page 1*

Gen and its continued progress toward advancing new technologies such as carbon capture and storage is more important than ever.”

The plant will gasify coal to produce hydrogen and electricity, capture carbon dioxide for underground storage and generate 275 megawatts of electricity. The plant will produce enough electricity to supply 150,000 homes and is expected to begin operation in 2013.

U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) said in a Dec. 18 statement that “Illinois has the coal, the geology and the commitment needed to make this project a success.” Durbin stressed that “Illinois has an abundant and reliable supply of water and is geologically suited for the carbon-trapping technology that the FutureGen project would need to develop,” adding that state is home to oil and gas reserves and deep saline aquifers that can store carbon dioxide.

House Energy and Commerce Ranking Member Joe Barton (R-Texas), expressed disappointment that the project will not be housed in Texas, but emphasized the important role the project will play in helping meet the nation’s future energy needs.

“Our nation needs FutureGen, which is why we have all been working so hard to see it become a reality,” said Barton in a Dec. 18 statement. “With demand increasing for all types of energy, we need projects like this one to harness our abundant coal resources, utilizing technology to make it cleaner and more efficient,” said Barton.

Following the announcement that Mattoon will house the FutureGen plant, the alliance issued a detailed report that summarizes the siting process used to identify candidate sites and the rationale for selecting Mattoon as the host site. The report also provides an overview of the costs, revenues and incentives and benefits associated with constructing and operating FutureGen at each of the candidate sites.

A copy of the site selection summary report is available at: [FutureGen Site Selection Report](#). ✕

Air Force *continued from page 1*

echoed by Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, whose district is home to McGuire Air Force Base. As the Air Force continues its extensive testing program, Wynne said the “next step” has to be securing long-term contract negotiating authority for the Air Force.

The successful test marked an important milestone in the Air Force’s efforts

to certify FT fuels for use in its entire fleet by 2011 and will also accelerate efforts to certify the fuel for commercial aviation, as the C-17 uses the same engine as Boeing’s 757. Both Wynne and Saxton emphasized that the Air Force’s significant testing program will greatly accelerate the certification process for FT fuel use in commercial aviation. Wynne noted that the Air Force is partnering with the Federal Aviation Administration

See Air Force, page 3



NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz (right) talks with Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne (left) following a Dec. 17 ceremony at New Jersey’s McGuire Air Force Base to mark the first ever transcontinental flight of an Air Force jet powered with a fuel made using the Fischer-Tropsch process, the same technique used to produce clean coal-to-liquid diesel transportation fuels.



During the Dec. 17 ceremony, Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, emphasized the need to ensure the Air Force has the necessary authority to negotiate long-term supply contracts for coal-based and other Fischer-Tropsch made fuels. Saxton also emphasized the important role the Air Force’s extensive testing program is playing in helping accelerate the use of Fischer-Tropsch fuels by the commercial aviation industry.

A profile of coal in Illinois

This week’s announcement that the FutureGen project will be built in Illinois presents an opportune moment to spotlight the significant energy resources that state is home to, as well as the important economic contributions made by coal mining in Illinois, which is currently the ninth largest state in terms of annual coal production.

Snapshot of Illinois Coal - 2006

Coal Production:	32.7 million short tons
Value of Coal Production:	\$1.02 billion
Direct Employment (2005):	5,100
Combined Direct & Indirect Employment (2005):	25,000
Number of Mines:	22
Number of Mining Operations:	33
Recoverable Coal Reserves:	38 billion short tons
Years Supply at Current Production Rate:	1,162
Years Supply at Current Consumption Rate:	550

Sources: Energy Information Administration, Annual Coal Report, 200; and NMA’s The Economic Contributions of the Mining Industry, 2005

Air Force *continued from page 2*

to aid that agency's certification efforts, which he said will help "ensure the widespread availability of alternative fuels."

Wynne also underlined that by utilizing enhanced oil recovery and carbon capture and storage technologies, FT fuels will emit less carbon dioxide than the fuels they will replace.

More information on coal-to-liquid fuels is available at: www.futurecoalfuels.org.



To commemorate the first transcontinental flight of an Air Force jet powered with a Fischer-Tropsch blended fuel, the Air Force unveiled an emblem to mark the Dec. 17 flight during a ceremony at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. The black ring in the emblem represents America's unrivalled coal reserves as a potential resource for synthetic fuel production; the white letters represent the cleaner emissions from synthetic fuel; and the gold banner signifies the bright future and sovereign options offered by such fuels.



Following the Dec. 17 ceremony, Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne and a group of journalists flew on the C-17 from McGuire Air Force Base over the New York City skyline on their way to Andrews Air Force Base. The successful transcontinental flight took place on the same day the Wright brothers made their first successful flight in Kitty Hawk, N.C., in 1903. Photo courtesy of the United States Air Force.

**Mining Week archives
are available on the
NMA web site.
www.nma.org**

Massive federal omnibus spending bill boosts funding for key coal, mineral and safety programs

Congress this week gave final approval to a \$516 billion omnibus spending bill (H.R. 2764) to fund federal departments and agencies for fiscal year (FY) 2008. The bill cleared the Senate on Dec. 18 by a vote of 70-25 and passed the House the following day on a vote of 274-141 and will shortly be signed by President Bush. Included in the bill are funding increases for key coal research programs at the Department of Energy (DOE), mineral programs at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and increased mine safety funds, including new funding to support safety technology development. In addition, the bill also calls for the development of rules regarding the use of mine rescue chambers in underground coal mines.

Department of Energy

The bill gives DOE's loan guarantee program \$38.5 billion, of which \$6 billion must be allocated for coal-based generation and industrial gasification activities and \$2 billion for advanced gasification. The bill provides \$353 million for base coal research and development programs, marking an increase of \$107.5 million over the administration's FY 2008 budget request. This amount includes \$120 million for underground carbon storage research, which is \$40.9 million more than the administration's request.

However, the \$75 million in funding for the FutureGen project contained in the bill is a decrease of \$33 million from the president's budget request. The \$70 million allocated for the Clean Coal Power Initiative is a \$3 million decrease from the administration's budget request.

Department of the Interior

Under the bill, DOI's Bureau of Land Management's Mining Law Administration Program receives a \$2 million funding increase over FY 2007 levels, with the bill providing \$34.7 million in fund-

See Omnibus, page 4

Mining Market Snapshot

Coal Figures	Cumulative year to date	Change over last year
Week ended December 8, 2007		
EIA Coal Production (000 tons)	1,080,948	-1.1%
Edison Electric Institute Electricity Output (GWh)	3,865,369	2.6%
American Iron and Steel Institute Raw Steel Production (000 tons)	100,294	-2.7%

Metal Figures	
Copper Prices (\$/mt - week avg. Grade A Cash) 12/7/07	\$6,655.70
Gold Prices (\$/troy ounce - week avg. London Final) 12/7/07	\$793.75

Source: NMA Weekly Statistical Summary/Platts Metals Week

Omnibus *continued from page 3*

ing for FY 2008. The increased funding will help the program more expeditiously process mining claims.

The bill reverses a massive proposed budget cut to the Minerals Resources Program (MRP), providing MRP with \$50.8 million instead of the \$25.6 the administration requested. The bill also reversed a \$5.1 million funding cut proposed by the administration for the Minerals Information Team (MIT), giving MIT \$15.4 million.

For DOI's Office of Surface Mining (OSM), the bill provides the agency's regulation and technology programs with \$120.3 million, marking an almost \$5 million increase over the funding requested by the administration. NMA has long urged Congress to provide increased funding for these programs to ensure state regulatory programs are provided matching funds at the full 50 percent rate of their actual costs.

The bill also includes language that directs OSM and the Army Corps of Engineers to develop a more efficient process for expediting permit decisions associated with surface coal mining operations.

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health/Mine Safety and Health Administration

The omnibus bill contains \$50 million to support mine safety technology research at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the largest amount of funding Congress has ever approved to support NIOSH's vital mine safety research efforts. This funding comes on top of an additional \$13 million approved earlier this year in a FY 2007 supplemental appropriations bill.

The omnibus bill also directs NIOSH to collaborate with the University of Utah and West Virginia University on a study on the recovery of coal pillars through retreat room and pillar mining practices in underground coal mines at depths greater than 1,500 feet. The bill requires the study be provided to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees two years after the enactment of the omnibus bill.

The bill provides the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) with \$339.8 million, representing an increase of \$46 million above the administration's request. The increased funding is targeted at ensuring MSHA can complete all required mine inspections, with MSHA directed to submit a detailed operating plan describing how the increased funds will be utilized and the specific outcomes the agency expects the new funds will yield.

In addition, the bill requires the secretary of labor to propose regulations requiring the use of mine rescue chambers "or facilities that afford at least the same measure of protection" in underground coal mines. The bill set a deadline of Dec. 31, 2008, for the secretary to issue these rules.

Department of Homeland Security

The bill includes an NMA supported exemption from new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rules covering the sale and transfer of ammonium nitrate (AN). Specifically, the bill exempts producers, sellers or purchasers of AN from the new rules when AN is being used exclusively for the "production of an explosive under a license or permit issued under Chapter 40 of title 18, United States Code." Originally this exemption included only the word "license" and NMA successfully urged the inclusion of "permit" in order to allow mining operations to be covered by the exemption.

Also included in DHS's portion of the omnibus bill is legislative language that allows states to have stricter chemical security rules than the federal government.

Army Corps of Engineers

The bill provides the Corps with \$180 million to administer the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit program and a memorandum of understanding between the Corps, OSM, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which encourages a coordinated review of 404 permits. The Corps is also directed to dedicate sufficient personnel and the financial resources needed to support

a consistent program for permit review and issuance.

Environmental Protection Agency

The bill provides a \$7.6 billion budget for EPA that includes funding for several global climate change programs including \$20 million for Global Change Research intended to support future rulemaking efforts on greenhouse gases; \$1 million for research on the human health effects and environmental impacts of carbon capture and storage to better inform regulatory decision making; \$4.4 million for the Methane to Market program; and \$3.5 million within the Federal Support Air Quality Management program for EPA to use its existing authority under the Clean Air Act to develop and publish a rule requiring mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions above appropriate thresholds in all sectors of the economy.

The bill directs EPA to publish a draft rule requiring mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions no later than nine months after the date of enactment of the bill, with a final rule due no later than 18 months after the date of enactment. In the rule, EPA must report on emissions resulting from upstream production and downstream sources, to the extent the EPA administrator deems it appropriate. In addition, the EPA administrator is tasked with determining appropriate thresholds of emissions above which reporting is required and to determine how frequently reports shall be submitted to EPA.

The bill retains a sense of Congress climate change finding, originated in the House, stating that greenhouse gas emissions are increasing the frequency and severity of floods and droughts, requiring mandatory market-based limits and incentives that will not significantly harm the U.S. economy and comparable action by other nations. An attempt to remove this item from a previous version of the bill in June by Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) was defeated by a vote of 153-274. ✕

Countries agree to new climate negotiations roadmap at United Nations meeting

Officials from nearly 200 countries, gathered in Bali, Indonesia, for a two-week long series of United Nations (UN) climate change talks, agreed on Dec. 15 to a new roadmap for negotiating the successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, which is scheduled to expire at the end of 2012. The "Bali Roadmap" calls for a significantly accelerated work schedule with the aim of completing a Kyoto successor agreement by 2009. At least four major UN climate meetings are now expected to be held next year as part of the process of implementing the roadmap.

The U.S., joined by Australia, Canada and Japan overcame strong pressure from the European Union (EU), supported by developing nations, to exclude text from the new roadmap that references specific greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and schedules. The U.S. and others argued that including such a reference would prejudge the results of future negotia-

tions. The EU was seeking to include language in the roadmap that would force parties to negotiate a Kyoto successor agreement mandating emission reductions of 25-40 percent by 2020, with steeper reductions to follow.

Importantly, the roadmap leaves open the possibility that the next agreement may focus more on technology-based approaches as opposed to targets and timetables. This is an important opening and recognition that external agreements, such as the Asia Pacific Partnership and the Major Economies Meeting, may be integrated into the UN climate talks. The roadmap also calls for developing country participation in the next UN climate accord.

NMA Vice President of Government Affairs Glenn Kelly attended the climate talks, joining a select group of representatives advocating on behalf of various domestic industries.

More information is available at: [UN Bali Roadmap](#). ✕

President Bush signs energy bill

President Bush on Dec. 19 signed into law new energy legislation primarily focused on tightening automobile emission standards and promoting personal energy efficiency savings. The president signed the bill after the House of Representatives on Dec. 18 overwhelmingly approved a modified version of the "Energy Independence and Security Act" (H.R. 6) following Senate approval of the bill late last week. The House cleared the bill by a vote of 314-100.

Importantly, the version of H.R. 6 signed into law excludes an unworkable nationwide renewable portfolio standard (RPS) for electricity generation that threatened to increase the cost of energy for U.S. consumers and industry. The RPS would have

required the nation to meet 15 percent of its electricity needs by 2020 using renewable sources of energy, something many states would have been unable to do.

Following the Dec. 19 House vote, Ranking Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Member Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) praised the bill for increasing automobile efficiency standards, encouraging energy efficiency gains and omitting any RPS language. "It is also important to note that this bill does not contain provisions that the House originally proposed which would have increased energy costs for consumers, both at the pump and in their homes," said Domenici. ✕

New bipartisan House legislation aims to aide hardrock mine site clean up efforts

Reps. Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) and Mark Udall (D-Colo.) last week introduced new legislation designed to encourage voluntary third-party efforts to clean-up abandoned hardrock mines through the creation of a new public-private foundation.

The "Minerals Reclamation Foundation Bill" (H.R. 4685) calls for the establishment of a public-private foundation that will work with the Department of the Interior to encourage mine site cleanup projects. The bill authorizes up to \$4 million over a two year period to accommodate initial costs and authorizes upwards of \$3 million annually for a five year period to match funds from private contributions.

The bill directs the secretary of the Interior to choose the initial board of directors for the foundation, with board positions limited to those with experience in mining, mine reclamation and other related fields.

The foundation is meant to provide a means of soliciting contributions from the broader public to help address environmental issues at abandoned hardrock mines, something federal agencies cannot do as they are prohibited from soliciting contributions from the public. ✕

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

- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on Jan. 24 to receive testimony on reforms to the Mining Law. William E. Cobb of Freeport McMoran Inc. is scheduled to testify at the hearing on behalf of NMA. The hearing was originally scheduled for Dec. 13.
- Following approval earlier this month by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the full Senate could consider the "Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act" (S. 2191) as early as February.

MSHA study backs belt air use for ventilation

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) this week released a report regarding the use of belt air to ventilate mines that was prepared by a technical study panel (TSP) mandated by section 11 of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006. The "Final Report of the Technical Study Panel on the Utilization of Belt Air and the Composition and Fire Retardant Properties of Belt Materials in Underground Coal Mines" was released on Dec. 18.

The report recognizes that belt air can be used safely to ventilate working sections of mines when certain operational precautions are implemented as part of that practice. The TSP's findings echo those made by prior advisory groups.

The report will now serve as the basis for the regulatory revisions envisioned by the authors of the MINER Act. Based upon language contained in a fiscal year 2008 omnibus spending bill (H.R. 2764), MSHA must propose regulations consistent with the recommendations of the TSP no later than June 20, 2008, with regulations having to be finalized by Dec. 31, 2008.

A copy of the report is available at: [MSHA Belt Air Report](#). ✕

Senate approved farm bill extends CTL tax credit

The Senate last week overwhelmingly approved legislation reauthorizing federal agricultural support programs that includes a one-year extension of an important tax credit that will help accelerate the production of clean, domestic coal-to-liquid (CTL) fuels. The "Farm Bill Extension Act" (H.R. 2419) cleared the Senate 79-14 on Dec. 14 and will now be subject to an effort between leaders in the Senate and House to reconcile competing versions of the bill.

Included in the tax portion of H.R. 2419 is a provision that extends an existing 50 cent per gallon fuel excise tax credit for CTL until 2010 and requires

CTL producers to capture and store 50 percent of carbon dioxide emissions. CTL producers could be required to capture and store 75 percent of carbon dioxide emissions should an independent arbitration panel determine that such a level is commercially feasible. Without an extension, the tax credit, created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, is set to expire in September 2009.

The credit was first approved unanimously by the Senate Finance Committee following an effort by Sens. Jim Bunning (R-Ky.), Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) and Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) to include the provision as part of a tax package for H.R. 2419.

For more information on the Coal-to-Liquids Coalition, visit the coalition's web site at: www.futurecoalfuels.org. ✕

NMA Chairman to address West Virginia Coal Association 2008 symposium

NMA Chairman and Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc. President and CEO James F. Roberts will speak on behalf of NMA at the West Virginia Coal Association's 2008 mining symposium. The event is scheduled for Jan. 9-11 in Charleston, W.Va. Joining Roberts at the event will be West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin (D) and U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.).

More information is available at: www.wvcoal.com. ✕

OSM announces AML grant amounts available to states and tribes

The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) announced this week that \$274 million is available in fiscal year (FY) 2008 grants to states and tribes to restore abandoned mine lands (AML), treat acid mine drainage and other uses. In a Dec. 17 release, OSM said the FY

2008 funds are more than double the size of grants available in FY 2007.

OSM said grants will be distributed in accordance with the requirements of amendments passed by Congress in 2006 to Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA). The 2006 amendments provide that, in addition to the funds distributed to eligible states and tribes based on AML fee collections from coal production in FY 2007, each state and tribe will be paid the equivalent of one-seventh of its unappropriated state or tribal share balance from Treasury funds.

"Eight states have already applied for their grants," said OSM Director Brent Wahlquist. "So far, more than 215,000 acres of priority one and two abandoned coal mine sites have been reclaimed since SMCRA was enacted in 1977," Wahlquist noted.

More information on the grants is available at: www.osm.gov. ✕

NMA's Naasz named chairman of National Energy Foundation board of directors

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) announced this week that it has selected NMA President and CEO Kraig R. Naasz as the new chairman of the foundation's board of directors. NEF is non-profit educational organization based in Salt Lake City, Utah. Naasz has been a member of NEF's board of directors for the past two years.

Serving as NEF's chairman, Naasz will lead the ten-member board that governs the affairs and property of the foundation and will preside over all board meetings.

More information on NEF is available at: www.nef1.org. ✕

DOE awards \$66.7 million for large-scale carbon storage project

As part of its ongoing Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership Program (RCSPP), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) this week awarded \$66.7 million to the Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium (MGSC) to undertake the regional partnership program's fourth large-scale carbon project. The partnership, led by the Illinois State Geological Survey, will conduct large volume tests in the Illinois Basin to demonstrate the ability of a geologic formation to safely, permanently and economically store more than one million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂).


The award announced this week is the fourth of seven awards the RCSPP will distribute.

"These projects demonstrate the potential of carbon sequestration technology, which will play a crucial role in achieving President Bush's goal to harness advanced clean energy technologies to meet growing demand and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Under Secretary of Energy Bud Albright said in a Dec. 19 statement. "We continue to make robust investments aimed at moving carbon sequestration technology from the laboratory to actual large-scale field demonstrations and

ultimately to the marketplace with the help of our regional partners."

The partnership will demonstrate CO₂ storage in the Mount Simon Sandstone Formation, a prolific geologic formation throughout Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and portions of Ohio. DOE said this formation "offers great potential to store more than 100 years" of CO₂ emissions from major point sources in the region. DOE said the partnership will inject one million tons of CO₂ into one of the thickest portions of the Mount Simon Formation in order to test the effectiveness of storage and demonstrate that the massive seals can contain "CO₂ for millennia."

MGSC plans to drill a CO₂ injection well and then inject about 1,000 tons per day of carbon dioxide over a three-year time period before closing the injection site and monitoring and modeling the injected carbon dioxide to determine the effectiveness of the storage reservoir.

More information is available at: [DOE CO2 Partnership Awards](#). 

Newsbits

CONSOL Energy Inc. recently announced the promotion of **Steven E. Winberg** to vice president of research & development. Winberg will be based at CONSOL's South Park, Pa., research & development facility. Winberg joined the company in 2002 as director of project development and was promoted to general manager in 2004. Winberg has 29 years of experience in the energy industry, ranging from power generation equipment design and installation to the use of innovative fuels. For CONSOL, Winberg has been actively involved in a variety of emerging energy initiatives including greenhouse gas reduction technology, clean coal combustion technology, coal conversion technology

and pollution control technology. Winberg represents CONSOL on the FutureGen Industrial Alliance board of directors, serving as the board's secretary/treasurer and represents CONSOL on numerous technology and environmental issues...The Senate on Dec. 13 approved **Ronald Tenpas** for the position of assistant attorney general for the **Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division**. Tenpas had been acting assistant attorney general since May and will now officially oversee the division that enforces environmental laws and defends federal regulations in lawsuits.



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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