MINING CONTRIBUTES TO OUR 21ST CENTURY LIFESTYLE

Why should mining matter to Texans? Mining plays a vital role in the production of goods, services and infrastructure that collectively define the high standards of living we have come to enjoy as Americans. As a developed society, we are fortunate to enjoy the many benefits that lignite/coal, uranium and industrial minerals provide, including low-cost, reliable electricity and the materials necessary to build our homes, schools, hospitals, roads, highways, bridges and airports.

OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPACT

Mining is important for every American, not only because of the raw materials it provides, but also for the positive impact it has on our economy. According to the National Mining Association, the industry provides 34,520 direct jobs and 86,030 indirect jobs in the state of Texas alone. Mining employees earn 14 percent more than the average wage in other fields in the state. Many of these jobs are located in rural Texas, providing an economic boost to communities that need it most. This enhances residents’ quality of life, supports local businesses and schools and contributes tax revenue to local governments. Overall, the mining industry in Texas exceeds $13 billion in positive economic impact.

URANIUM

Uranium is a clean fuel source with an energy production capacity that typically rivals that of alternative fuel sources.

- A metallic element
- Found in low levels within all rock, soil, water and even plants and animals
- Used in the production of nuclear power

URANIUM MINING IN TEXAS

- In-situ recovery (ISR) uses oxygenated water to capture and remove naturally occurring uranium from the ore body; this process minimizes surface disturbance
- ISR has a long history and a proven, safe track record
- Nuclear power is a proven, clean energy source, with uranium mining in Texas a good alternative to importing it from countries with unstable governments

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- $311 million in state economic impact
- 1,160 full-time jobs
- $78 million in wages paid
- $15 million in state and local taxes


INDUSTRIAL MINERALS (Non-metallic mining)

Industrial minerals provide the materials necessary to build essential infrastructure — transportation routes, homes, schools, hospitals and other commercial and industrial facilities.

- Aggregate and clay products, including sand, gravel, clay and lime used in their natural state
- Brick and tile for architectural, paving and landscaping
- Silica for glass, filtration systems, chromatography, foundries and golf course construction

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS MINING in TEXAS

- Extracted from open-pit quarries
- Mining aggregates in Texas reduces the cost of infrastructure development and ensures the availability of needed construction materials

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT

- $3.9 billion in direct contribution to GDP
- $3.8 billion in indirect contribution to GDP
- 25,847 total direct jobs
- 42,442 indirect jobs

*Source - National Mining Association

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

At mining operations around the state, safety is always top-of-mind. Member companies strive to achieve a ZERO Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Non-Fatal Days Lost (NFDL) rating. In fact, the industry has made significant advances in improving the health and safety of its workers and is safer than many other industrial operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP & AWARD-WINNING RECLAMATION

Texas miners care about the environment. In fact, they do everything they can to utilize advanced technologies that result in minimal disturbances to land, vegetation, water, air and natural habitats. Their mandate is to leave the land as good as and, in many cases — better than — they found it. Their reclamation and restoration programs often exceed state and federal environmental regulations and are subject to an open, comprehension and exhaustive permitting process. Many of these reclamation programs are award-winning.

REGULATION

In Texas, the industry is primarily regulated by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RCT) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). TMRA and its member companies work extremely closely with these regulatory bodies — and the communities in which they mine — to ensure compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

Although TMRA opposes unwarranted regulation that has little or no proven net benefit, it strongly supports policies and efforts that ensure reliable, affordable and increasingly clean energy. We applaud Texas’ proven and enviable energy approach, which encourages and promotes a balanced market-driven ‘all-of-the-above’ energy mix — one that includes nuclear, natural gas, renewables AND coal.

THE TRUE STORY OF MINING

TMRA Teacher Workshops provide Texas teachers with science-based education that informs students about the availability, importance and development of natural resources, including lignite/coal, uranium and industrial minerals. The program encourages vocational and professional career choices in earth sciences and related fields, supporting the economic value of Texas mining. More than one million students have now heard the true story of mining and reclamation, with more than 1,500 teachers attending since 1991 (each reaching approximately 130-150 students annually).

About TMRA

The Texas Mining and Reclamation Association (TMRA) serves as a single voice for the Texas mining industry and exhibits integrity, clarity and vision in its efforts to create a balance between mineral production, environmental protection, economic strength and public welfare. The association educates the public, regulators and policymakers on the value of mining to our state’s economy and advocates on issues that include environmental regulation, legislation and public perception.

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