TEXAS ENERGY POLICY

ALSO INSIDE:
85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
OUTLOOK ON URANIUM
TEXAS COAL FLEET
EAGLES SOAR AT LUMINANT
AND TEACHER WORKSHOPS
EAGLES SOAR AT LUMINANT’S LIBERTY MINE

The majestic bald eagle got a new lease on life recently when Luminant helped the birds ‘move house’ at its Liberty Mine location in a unique collaborative project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and avian experts at Stephen F. Austin State University’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. In preparation for the relocation, crews cut away extra limbs on the tree containing the nest. See page 18. Source: Luminant

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Let me start by bragging on TMRA’s membership. Once again, you answered the bell during our TMRA Annual Meeting and contributed in record amounts toward the funding required to maintain our robust TMRA Teacher Workshops and public outreach programs.

Without your generosity, it would be difficult to maintain the essential programs that provide a unified and fact-based voice for our membership.

On behalf of the TMRA Executive Committee, I also want to acknowledge and thank each of our TMRA Members who produce the outreach publications, programs and events. This team works tirelessly because they believe in our message and embrace the opportunity to share it across Texas.

Thank You!

A New Era for U.S. Energy Policy at the Federal Level

This issue of TXMining will highlight Texas’ energy policy, and will focus on the current state of legislative and regulatory issues that impact the production of coal and uranium. We also include an update on the 2017 Legislative Session from the TMRA Governmental Affairs Committee.

All too often in recent years, the previous president’s administration directed and supported the federal implementation of overreaching environmental regulations on the mining and power industries. TMRA and others have frequently expressed concerns about the basis for various proposed regulations, and the rulemaking processes that followed.

While there has been cooperation to address and correct some of these concerns, there was some increase in the frequency that industry has had to resort to legislative or legal action to address concerns we believed were not adequately considered. These measures have been necessary at times to correct the use of flawed methodology, and the lack of transparency and inclusion during the rulemaking process.

Examples include the current push to establish post-restoration groundwater standards (40 CFR Part 192) for in-situ uranium operations, coal’s Stream Protection Rule (SPR) and the Clean Power Plan (CPP). Some of the regulations contain unreasonable or “one-size-fits-all” compliance requirements that can only be achieved with unproven technology and/or unnecessary and costly practices with little to no environmental benefit.

It seems like we are always dealing with the next issue that could impact the livelihood of the many men and women who are proud to be part of the mining industry’s operating and support companies.

When I first started in mining and began to experience the opinions and efforts of those that thought negatively about our industry, it was my dad who assured me that all would ultimately be okay. I can say his guidance has been correct over the last 40 years.

With that said, there is reason to be optimistic in 2017. Based on the results of recent state and federal elections, it appears we will have an administration that will listen and work with all parties, including our industries, to consider the costs and benefits of regulatory policies and programs that hinder this country’s ability to produce cost-effective fuel and industrial minerals in a safe and environmentally-sound manner.

While it is not a guarantee, we remain hopeful that we will have a path to reasonable dialogue and action.

However, now is not the time to be idle. We need to redouble our efforts and utilize the TMRA Member and Owner/Operator resources to make sure our voice is heard to protect the future of our industry and those who serve it.

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—Brett
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Happy New Year and welcome to our Texas spring! A new year. A new Texas Legislative Session. A new president and federal leadership. 2017 WILL prove to be an interesting and important year for Texas energy policy and for the future of our TMRA Members.

As we all know, a strong, reasonable and responsible energy policy impacts ALL of our economy and our families – whether we are on the energy production side or the energy use side. Our Texas-specific approach has been and must continue to be “All-of-the-Above!”

Texas is not only a leader in the United States for energy development and, quite frankly, energy use, but also a leader for the world. As a state with a history of an “All-of-the-Above Energy Policy,” we have been and continue to be successful for the state’s citizens, its economy and protection and enhancement of our environment.

Our state leadership and our business leaders have never seen our success as a focus on economic benefits over the protection of the environment. To the contrary, the Texas leadership, as well as our TMRA Membership, see our long-term continued success as taking steps to enhance both. It is important, possible and underway.

With Texas as the 12th largest economy in the world, we have a substantial responsibility. For some real-world perspective on this, consider just a few facts:

**Lignite/Coal**
- More than $2.2 billion in state economic activity
- More than 10,000 jobs
- $688 million in wages paid
- $129 million in direct and indirect tax revenues
- Coal-fired power generation is responsible for more than $4.9 billion in positive economic activity in Texas

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

**Industrial Minerals**
- $3.9 billion in direct contribution to GDP
- $5.8 billion in indirect contribution to GDP
- 25,847 direct jobs
- 42,442 indirect jobs

*Estimated per annum

TMRA is very engaged in our Texas legislative process, as well as at the federal level to assure that laws and policy reflect sound science, while also considering jobs and the economy.

Our TMRA Governmental Affairs Committee works with our TMRA Leadership and Members to effectively communicate our views to both state and federal leadership and representatives. This effort, with the full support of our TMRA Membership, is critical to the success of our members and, therefore, to TMRA.

TMRA is stronger because of its broad-based and diverse industry support. Our strength from those responsibly mining uranium, industrial minerals and coal or lignite is critical. This is not only to those undertaking the mining and reclamation activities, but also to those utilizing those resources to produce and provide power, goods and services, and who construct our state’s roads, homes and other vital infrastructure. Our strength comes from this broad support, interaction and cooperation.

I challenge you to be active and proactive with TMRA in 2017! Stay in touch and be engaged through our website, at our quarterly committee meetings and, specifically, during our Texas Legislative Session and this first year under President Donald Trump. Above all, right now, join TMRA in all our PR and outreach efforts that promote our message.

Please consider being a TMRA Sponsor and joining other TMRA Owner/Operator and Support Members at our outstanding Sine Die event following the last day of our Texas Legislative Session on Monday, May 29.

—Ches

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"A strong, reasonable and responsible energy policy impacts ALL of our economy and our families – whether we are on the energy production side or the energy use side."
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AN OVERVIEW OF THE 85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BY MANCE ZACHARY, TMRA GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN
The 85th Texas Legislative Session began on Jan. 10 with Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and Speaker Joe Straus presiding over the chambers. The makeup of the legislature is similar to last session, with 20 Republicans and 11 Democrats in the Senate, and 95 Republicans and 55 Democrats in the House.

On the first day of the session, Rep. Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) was unanimously elected to serve as the Speaker of the House for a record fifth term. As the session began, the State Comptroller reported a reduced revenue estimate for discretionary spending. The total decrease was 2.7 percent, which will result in members’ tightening belts across all state agencies.

During the Governor’s State of the State Address, Abbott outlined the priorities and emergency matters he plans to take up within the first 60 days of session. His top items include the overhaul of Child Protective Services (CPS), a ban on sanctuary cities, convening a convention of states and ethics reform. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick’s items of importance were similar, but also included tax reform and bathroom regulation.

In the Senate, the committees of jurisdiction that will impact our members’ business kept the same chairmen from the interim. Sen. Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls) will chair the Natural Resources Committee and Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) will chair the Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs Committee. In the House, Rep. Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) will continue to chair the Energy Committee, where the Railroad Commission of Texas Sunset Bill will originate.

The new chair of the Environmental Regulation Committee is Rep. Joe Pickett (D-El Paso), and the chair of the Natural Resources Committee is Rep. Lyle Larson (R-San Antonio). We will be working closely with these two new members to educate them about TMRA Member issues and the economic impact the industry has on the state.

During this session, TMRA will monitor bills related to the core business interests of its members, covering regulatory oversight, taxes, redundant rules and water management and ownership. The TMRA Governmental Affairs Committee is currently tracking a few bills of interest, including:

**HB 1818 by Rep. Larry Gonzales (R-Round Rock)** is the Railroad Commission of Texas Sunset Bill. The RCT has oversight of mining interests in Texas, regulating the day-to-day operations of electric generation/mining companies. This review will look at the proper name of the agency, permitting practices and deadlines, rulemaking procedures, necessary FTEs and appropriate funding of the RCT. This bill is also a platform for anti-fossil fuel interests to amend the bill with unnecessary and costly regulations.

**HB 62 by Rep. Tom Craddick (R-Midland)** and **SB 31 by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo)** relate to the use of wireless communication devices while operating a motor vehicle. HB 62 has been introduced in the last couple of sessions by Speaker Craddick and would mandate that drivers use hands-free communication when driving. TMRA Member Companies with fleets would be affected, and we will track the progress of these bills for potential compliance impact.

**SB 26 by Sen. Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls)** is the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) bill that details various funding avenues/goals to reduce state emissions. Again, fleet impact and grant opportunities are major factors in reviewing a position on this bill.

The TMRA Governmental Affairs Committee will also be tracking the Transportation Sunset Bill, contested case hearing changes, climate change proposals, TCEQ waste disposal rules changes and additional RCT funding in the appropriations process. With Sine Die on May 29, we are mindful of new Republican leadership at the federal and state levels, low power prices and increased public support of the industry in the communities in which we operate, leaving TMRA well-positioned to proactively help shape public policy this session.
Texas uranium industry representatives are active on many fronts this year on legislative and regulatory issues at both the federal and state levels. At the federal level, the election of President Trump and a change in the administration has enabled the uranium mining industry to identify opportunities to address undue regulatory burdens to help the industry grow in the United States.

The uranium mining industry in Texas is involved in several federal rulemaking efforts, including:

- **40 CFR Part 192 Rulemaking** – The resurrection of 40 CFR Part 192 will be a major issue in 2017. Although the proposed rules were withdrawn, new proposed rules were republished and a 180-day comment period was established. The uranium mining industry will be working to have the new proposed rules withdrawn again because of the negative impact the new proposed rules will have on the future of the industry.

- **Financial Responsibility Requirements Under CERCLA §108(b) for Classes of Facilities in the Hard Rock Mining Industry** – This proposed rule establishes substantial financial assurance requirements for hard rock mining, including in situ uranium mining. The industry will be working hard to make certain that the proposed rule does not hurt the industry.

- **Air Emissions Standards for Radon from Uranium Mining Waste Ponds** – The implementation of this rulemaking was delayed by the EPA to give the Trump administration time to review and possibly withdraw the proposed rules.

The 85th Texas Legislature began on Jan. 10. The uranium mining industry is closely monitoring all legislation that is filed (the number of bills will likely exceed 7,000) to make certain that no legislation is enacted that is harmful to the industry. The industry in Texas is always looking for opportunities to increase regulatory certainty and make the regulatory process more efficient. The uranium mining industry will be involved in the legislation that will continue the Railroad Commission of Texas and implement the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission.

On the regulatory front, TMRA Owner/Operator Members of the Uranium Committee filed a petition for rulemaking with TCEQ late in 2016, following years of working on the petition. The rulemaking petition is aimed at addressing unclear rules and making the regulatory process for the uranium mining industry at the TCEQ more efficient. TMRA Members will participate in the rulemaking process at the TCEQ throughout 2017.
Experts Tell Congress Nuclear Must Be Part of Modern Electric Grid

Expert witnesses at a hearing on Capitol Hill in February said that preserving reliable baseload electricity options— including nuclear energy— must be part of the country’s modern electric infrastructure, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI).

“It’s important not just to have enough energy, but to have adequate capacity to fill in the voids,” Electric Power Research Institute President and CEO Michael Howard said. “We’re getting to the point where we’re energy rich, but capacity-poor, and that reinforces the need for baseload generation.”

During the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce subcommittee on energy hearing on modernizing the country’s energy infrastructure, Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Ill.) said nuclear plants are vital.

“Nuclear power plants are a particularly valuable component of our electrical infrastructure because they run 24/7, offer stable prices and operate for up to two years without needing to refuel,” Rush said. “Yet in the absence of action at the federal level to provide full financial recognition of these attributes, it has fallen to the states to take action to preserve nuclear plants as part of their energy infrastructure...If these state-level actions are overturned, thousands of jobs at nuclear facilities would be imperiled.”

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, in 2015 33 percent of the country’s power generation came from natural gas, 33 percent came from coal, 20 percent came from nuclear power plants, five percent came from wind, and 0.6 percent came from solar.*

In Texas, the current mix is 44 percent natural gas, 29 percent coal, 15 percent nuclear and 12 percent wind, according to Balanced Energy for Texas. Hydro, biomass and solar combine to one percent.

“When you mention Texas and energy, you think big oil and gas,” said TMRA Uranium Committee Chairman Craig Wall. “What doesn’t come to mind is big uranium. However, Texas has some of the largest uranium deposits in the U.S. A recent U.S. Geological Survey report estimated that Texas, especially South Texas, has enough deposited uranium to fuel all U.S. reactors for five years. Yet the U.S. continues to import roughly 90 percent of its uranium to fuel our reactors. This is an alarming statistic, making you question how reliable are these foreign sources and why isn’t the U.S. doing more to secure this clean energy source?”

*Sourced from Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI).
Texas Coal Fleet is State-of-the-Art

By Balanced Energy for Texas

Texas relies on a diverse mix of gas, coal, wind, nuclear and other resources to meet its generation needs: key to its energy security. This balanced portfolio is as diverse as any in the nation and has been essential to Texas’ economic prosperity, which has consistently out-performed the national average.

The Texas coal fleet is the youngest and cleanest in America, thanks to market-driven advances and investments. The youth of the Texas coal fleet means it has decades of useful life remaining that will be essential to responding to population and economic growth.

Texas power providers have taken proactive steps to ensure that this young coal fleet is maintained and upgraded with state-of-the-art pollution control equipment. Due to its youth and the installation of more than $17.4 billion present-day dollars in state-of-the-art environmental controls, Texas coal-fired power plants have some of the lowest emissions rates of any fleet in the country, including emissions of sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, mercury, nitrogen oxide and carbon dioxide. The average \( \text{CO}_2 \) emission rate of coal generation plants in Texas is lower than the average emission rates of those in 32 other states.

In addition, Texas’ coal-fueled power plants have reduced PM-related emissions by 43 percent and emissions of nitrogen oxides by 55 percent since 1999. The Texas coal fleet also has one of the lowest NOx emissions rates of any coal fleet in the nation, far lower than the national average.

For more information, visit Balanced Energy for Texas at www.balancedenergyfortexas.org.

**Texas Coal-Fueled Power Plants Have Reduced PM-Related Emissions by 43%**

**Present-Day Dollars Spent on State-of-the-Art Environmental Controls in Texas**

$17.4 billion

**Texas Coal-Fueled Power Plants Have Reduced Nitrogen Oxide Emissions by 55%**

**ERCOT Generation by Fuel Type**

*January 2017 data. Totals are rounded. Hydro, biomass and solar combine to 1%.*

- Natural gas: 44%
- Coal: 29%
- Nuclear: 15%
- Wind: 12%
How Power Plants Are Reducing Air Emissions

This simplified diagram illustrates the operations at a large coal-fired electric power plant. It explains the various control technologies in place at many U.S. power plants to reduce emissions to air, land, and water. These technologies are designed to control emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and particulate matter (PM). In addition, these control technologies capture a significant amount of other air emissions, including mercury. The diagram also illustrates the ways that byproducts of coal combustion are recycled, sold, and used.

Electric Utilities use coal to generate almost 45 percent of our nation’s electricity and are leaders in developing new ways to produce electricity more cleanly and efficiently.

**STEAM GENERATOR/BOILER**
A large vessel that contains an assembly of tubes in which water is heated to steam that is then used to drive a turbine.

**COAL**
The most abundant and cost-effective domestic fuel for generating electricity.

**PRIMARY AIR FAN/PULVERIZER**
Devices used to prepare coal for burning by grinding it to a fine powder, and drying and mixing it with hot air to create an efficiently combustible fuel.

**NOX CONTROLS**
Devices like low-NOx burners and selective catalytic reduction (SCR) reduce NOx emissions and, as a co-benefit, also reduce mercury emissions.

**SELECTIVE CATALYTIC REDUCTION (SCR)**
Devices used to capture PM and fly ash, and as a co-benefit, also reduce mercury emissions.

**BOTTOM ASH**
A coal combustion byproduct that collects on the walls of the boiler, eventually falling to the bottom where it is collected. Bottom ash is a ceramic-like material that can be utilized to make asphalt, concrete, aggregate, insulation, and landscaping. It is disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws.

**BURNER**
A device, generally located in the boiler’s lower walls, which introduces the pulverized coal in the boiler and mixes it with the correct amount of air to burn the fuel efficiently and to reduce NOx and carbon monoxide emissions.

**FLY ASH**
A light, gray fan powder that is the largest byproduct of coal combustion. Fly ash becomes entrained with fuel and carried out of the boiler by the hot exhaust (flue) gases. It is collected and then used similarly to bottom ash.

**EMISSIONS MONITORING**
Inlets continuously measure many different types of air emissions.

**STACK**
A chimney used to exhaust and disperse the hot flue gases from the boiler.

**GRANITIZER**
A device used to remove SOx from the boiler exhaust (flue) gas and as a co-benefit, also reduces mercury emissions.

**GENERATOR**
A machine that transforms the mechanical energy of the turbine into electric energy.

**TURBINE**
A device consisting of fan-like blades attached to a shaft that is spun by expanding steam, converting the kinetic energy of the steam into mechanical energy.

**CONDENSER**
A device that converts the steam from the turbine back into water to be redirected to the boiler, where it is heated and used again.

Electric Utilities have reduced air emissions significantly, while increasing electricity production and tripling the use of coal since 1970.

Source: Edison Electric Institute
April 2021

**TRANSFORMER**
An electromagnetic device that increases the output voltage of the generator while reducing the current (amperage), making the transmission of electricity more efficient.
Railroad Commissioner Wayne Christian toured Luminant’s Three Oaks Mine and Alcoa Inc.’s Sandow mine reclamation area in Bastrop, Lee and Milam counties in late January, which was his first site visit since taking office earlier that month.

During the visit, Commissioner Christian emphasized the importance of coal to the state’s energy supply. He also discussed the Commission’s commitment to ensuring safe, responsible mining operations, including the reclamation of mined land when operations are complete.

“Texas is the nation’s largest producer of lignite coal, and about 40 percent of the coal burned in Texas is lignite,” Commissioner Christian said.

“Luminant is the largest power generator in Texas, with not only coal-fueled generation, but also a portfolio of natural gas, nuclear and wind-generated electricity," said Luminant’s Caroline Atkins.

“Since 1974, Luminant has reclaimed about 80,000 mined acres, and planted more than 38 million trees, planting more trees on an annual basis than any other mining company in the United States,” Christian said. “The companies and people that have worked to supply our coal-fueled energy, including Luminant and Alcoa, have done a wonderful job in restoring formerly mined land that includes not only ponds and pastureland for cattle, but also natural habitat for Sandhill cranes, as well as bald eagle nesting sites.”

In January, the Commission unanimously voted in an open meeting to join a coalition, including the Texas Attorney General’s Office and other states contesting the U.S. Department of Interior’s Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) Stream Protection Rule, which has since been set aside.

A lifelong conservative businessman, Wayne Christian was elected to join the Railroad Commission of Texas in November 2016. In 1996, Christian was elected to the House of Representatives as the first Republican elected from Deep East Texas since Reconstruction after the Civil War. During his time in the Texas House, Christian served as Vice-Chair of Regulated Industries and as a multi-term member of the Energy Resource Committee. On these committees, he had direct oversight of the Railroad Commission and accumulated a strong record of standing for free markets and against burdensome regulations.

*Story sourced from the Railroad Commission of Texas.*
Commissioner Christi Craddick, who was unanimously elected chairman of the Railroad Commission in December of last year, has divulged the agenda she will carry forward at the agency.

“We are in a pivotal time for enormous energy growth in the United States, and particularly in Texas,” Craddick said in December. “Through innovative regulatory oversight, the Railroad Commission has been a thought leader for energy states in keeping the public and environment safe. I am honored to serve as chairman as we continue to drive Texas and the nation forward during this important time for American energy development.

“My priorities for the agency continue to include our focus on maximizing efficiency throughout our processes and rules so that we are able to do our job better and at less expense to taxpayers and industry,” Craddick said. “As part of that efficiency effort, our modernization of the Commission’s IT programs and processes will bring more data online for public use, improve productivity and increase transparency across all divisions.

“Just after the New Year, I will launch a number of specific initiatives to help our overall efficiency goals,” Craddick said. Those initiatives will include:

- Meetings with Texas operators to outline a five-year plan that will allow us to better understand where the industry is headed technologically to ensure the agency employs best practices that keep pace with industry innovation;
- Sessions with our district office staff throughout the state to ensure we are consistent in the application of our rules and enforcement actions carried out at the district level;
- Input from staff involved in our day-to-day operations on potential ideas for cost-saving and efficiency measures; and
- Tours of South Texas, Eagle Ford Shale and West Texas, Permian Basin regions throughout the spring to meet with local leaders about the effect the downturn has had in their communities as we work to understand regulatory impacts on industry and resulting economics within those communities during this time.

“It is critical we focus on hiring high-quality staff and place an emphasis on work force recruitment, development and retention,” Craddick said. “Next year, we will enhance the development of our technical experts, including cross training for inspections and permitting, updated training for oil and gas inspectors and succession planning within each agency division.

“As we begin the Legislative Session in January, we look forward to continued work with legislators to complete the agency’s Sunset review,” Craddick said. “We have also put a great deal of effort into our budget request for the upcoming biennium. We will make our case for necessary consistent revenue sources for the agency, as well as immediate funding so that we are able to fully carry out the agency’s important functions.

“Earlier this year, I was appointed to the National Petroleum Council, and I look forward to working with the new administration’s Secretary of Energy on ways to protect states’ regulatory authority of energy production for the benefit of local industry growth and state economies,” Craddick said.

*Story sourced from the Railroad Commission of Texas.*
A pair of bald eagles moved house last year to a soaring ‘loft apartment’ set high above in a loblolly pine tree, thanks to a unique Luminant project at its Liberty Mine facility.

It all began last September when the eagle’s nest was moved away from mining activities to a new location on company property near Martin Creek Lake in Rusk County. The relocation was a collaborative effort between Luminant’s environmental team, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and avian experts at Stephen F. Austin State University’s (SFA) Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture.

“The eagles built their nest in 2015 near the company’s lignite coal mining operations,” said Pete Okonski, Luminant environmental specialist. “Although no longer listed as endangered, eagles are still protected and Luminant is required to maintain a 660-foot buffer with no mining activity around their nests,” said Okonski. “We wanted this eagle pair to thrive so last spring we began working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and SFA to determine the new nest location and the best structure design to support the nest.”

Following permit approval by the federal agency, Luminant’s environmental team completed a 10-day monitoring period of the nest to ensure there was no eagle activity. With no eagles in sight, it was time for moving day.

“The nest was integrated into the top branching system of a 70-foot loblolly pine tree, which meant we needed to find a way to keep the nest intact,” said Sid Stroud, Luminant environmental manager. “After cutting away the extra limbs, we removed and transported the section of the tree with the nest and secured it on top of a platform made from repurposed utility poles. This new vantage point provides the eagles with excellent visibility for locating fish and other prey.”

The nest, which is nearly four feet in diameter or approximately the size of a semi-truck tire, is now located more than 1,000 feet from the old nest site and is far removed from mining activities. According to Okonski, the relocation effort took innovation and teamwork to new heights.

“The entire project was extremely impressive,” said Okonski. “To see the way our teams and employees worked together, you would think we performed nest relocations on a regular basis. We take great pride in our reclamation practices, including our wildlife recovery, enhancement and management programs. We’re hopeful that the eagles will decide to make this new location their permanent home.”

“We’re respectful of the eagles and other wildlife that live at our facilities and reclaimed land,” Stroud said. “Over the years, we’ve seen an increase in eagle numbers across several of our sites. They truly are a majestic bird.”

**BALD EAGLE FACTS**

- The average bald eagle nest is four- to five-feet in diameter, according to the National Eagle Center.
- Each year, an adult pair will add up to two feet of new material to the nest.
- The largest recorded nest, located in St. Petersburg, Florida, was nearly 10-feet in diameter, 20-feet deep and weighed nearly three tons.
Top Left: The nest is approximately four feet in diameter. Source: Luminant

Top Right: The nest was placed on a platform made from repurposed utility poles. Source: Luminant

Bottom Left: The project is a unique collaborative project between Luminant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and avian experts at Stephen F. Austin State University’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. Source: Luminant
Educating Texas Students – One Teacher at a Time

TMRA is ready for another exciting year of conducting its popular TMRA Teacher Workshops, which bring the true facts about energy, coal mining and environmental stewardship to science teachers across Texas. In addition, TMRA Teacher Workshops focus on the industrial minerals and uranium industries, bringing all these industries into the classroom.

TMRA Teacher Workshops provide an opportunity for science teachers to experience the mining and reclamation processes first-hand. The curriculum, which meets state requirements, includes hands-on labs that teachers can take into the classroom to educate students about energy, mining and protection of the environment. Teachers attending the workshops receive resource materials, lab activities and field experiences to better prepare them to teach their students about energy, mining and the environment. Science teachers are also able to observe mining and reclamation activities through site visits to TMRA Member lignite-coal mines, as well as power generation plants and other facilities important to providing energy and minerals to Texas residents and businesses.

The workshops are more popular than ever. “Over the last three years,” says TMRA Education Committee Chairman Robert Gentry, “there has been an increase in the number of teachers attending our workshops. The majority of teachers attending are not aware that coal mining exists in Texas and are amazed at the restoration/reclamation of the land following completion of mining,” said Gentry. “The knowledge and perception of mining in Texas by most teachers is dramatically reversed – from negativity and doubt to admiration and respect. These teachers then carry that knowledge, respect and positive attitude into their classrooms.”

Last summer alone, TMRA Teacher Workshops reached 130 classroom teachers, who are now able to convey the real story of energy, mining and environmental stewardship to students, as well as fellow teachers, administrators, parents, etc. “Each year, we carry our story to another estimated 20,000 students,” said Francye Hutchins, who coordinates the workshops as director of Education for TMRA, as well as instructing and facilitating the workshops. “The number of teachers and students that the workshop program reaches expands exponentially every year that we continue to educate science teachers.

“The program has now reached nearly 2,000 classroom teachers – from fourth grade through high school – since its inception in 1991,” said Hutchins. “This translates to more than one million students who have now learned the true facts about energy, lignite-coal mining and the commitment to the environment by the Texas mining industry.”

TMRA Teacher Workshops
June 11-16 (Lignite-Coal) Sabine Mine
June 19-23 (Industrial Minerals) Round Rock
June 25-30 (Lignite-Coal) Walnut Creek
July 9-14 (Lignite-Coal) Three Oaks
July 23-28 (Lignite-Coal) San Miguel
July 30-Aug. 4 (Uranium) Corpus Christi

TMRA Teacher Workshops include hands-on labs that teachers can take into the classroom to educate students about energy, mining and protection of the environment. Source: Jeannine Wheeler
The National Mining Association (NMA) President and CEO Hal Quinn recently issued a statement following President Trump’s signing of the congressional resolution of disapproval that overturns the stream rule:

“By signing legislation Congress recently passed to overturn the stream rule, President Trump made a major down payment on his campaign pledge to revive the coal industry and preserve the livelihoods of one-third of our nation’s miners whose jobs would have been sacrificed by this massive regulation.

“His action nullifies a duplicative, unnecessary yet extremely costly regulation targeting coal miners and their families who for eight years have borne the brunt of a full-scale regulatory assault on their livelihoods. From across the country, state mining agencies have rejected the stream rule and the deeply flawed process that prevented their consultation. With the president’s action today, they can now exercise their lawful authority as Congress intended.”

Added Quinn, “The president has seized a dramatic opportunity early in his term to revive not only an industry and its employment base, but also the primacy of democratic decision-making over government by regulation.”

The NMA is the voice of the American mining industry in Washington, D.C. Membership includes more than 325 corporations involved in all aspects of coal and solid minerals production, including coal, metal and industrial mineral producers, mineral processors, equipment manufacturers, state mining associations, bulk transporters, engineering firms, consultants, financial institutions and other companies that supply goods and services to the mining industry.

*Story sourced from the National Mining Association.
HOLT Ventures Launched, Kick Starts with SXSW Pitch Competition

New Corporate Venture Capital Firm Focused on Furthering Industrial Innovation

With a heritage of innovation, the Holt family has announced the formation of HOLT Ventures, an investment arm within HOLT CAT®, which will invest in new technologies and companies focused on solving challenges in the industrial and manufacturing industries.

HOLT Ventures aims to provide funding, along with real world mentorship and guidance. The newly minted organization is committed to helping companies fast track growth and commercialize big ideas through access to the internal workings of the largest Caterpillar® dealership in the nation and a deep-seated advisory committee that includes mentors from across the company.

“The Holt family’s great success in the commercial dealership arena over the past 40 years is partially due to the company’s values-based leadership platform,” said Charlie Strickland, HOLT Ventures managing director. “As a capital partner and advisor, HOLT Ventures is furthering the Holt family’s legacy of fostering innovation by helping emerging companies and entrepreneurs in our industry.”

“As we enter a new phase in industrialization, HOLT Ventures will focus on solutions that drive efficiencies across our business and the services we provide. Companies that have a strong vision in developing efficient, innovative solutions, from process improvement to smart technologies, are what we are looking for,” said Peter John Holt, HOLT CAT executive vice president and general manager. “There is an opportunity to connect influencers from all subsets of construction and infrastructure, and to cultivate innovative ideas specific to the industries we serve.”

Peter John Holt and Corinna Holt Richter, current leaders of HOLT CAT, will serve as members of the HOLT Ventures Advisory Committee. They also represent the fifth generation of the Holt family business, which traces its heritage to Benjamin D. Holt, inventor in the 1880s of the first successful track-type tractor, widely known today as the “Caterpillar.”

In line with the company’s strategic objectives and goals, 15 startups were selected to showcase their potential to bring disruptive technology to the industrial space through a pitch competition, which was held at the South by Southwest Conference® in Austin, Texas in March. HOLT Ventures teamed up with Caterpillar Ventures, Brick & Mortar Ventures and Cottonwood Technology Fund to host the Industrial Technology Pitch Competition, which was divided into three separate one-hour sessions, in which the winners were awarded a cash prize and/or potential strategic partnership opportunity. There was a total cash payout of $50,000 across all three categories.
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Save the Date and Plan on Being There!

TMRA Annual Meeting
Oct. 29-31
Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa

Are you going to TMRA’s Annual Meeting this fall? We know that Shea Holder of Certified Labs will be there. Why? Because he won the drawing for one FREE Annual Meeting registration. If you attend, you might be the next winner!

Sponsorships will be accepted in June and registration will open mid-August. Questions? Please contact Cathy Pierce at cathy.pierce@tmra.com or 903-238-6624; or contact the TMRA office. Hope to see you there.

Why are these men on the left laughing? They’re having a great time at TMRA’s Annual Meeting. Save the date! From left to right, Derrell Ezell, Ches Blevins and Robert Gentry. Below: As seen around the 2016 Annual Meeting. Source: Larry Jones
Past issues of *TXMining* are available as a pdf on the TMRA website so you can always check back for stories and information important to the association and the industry.

Here’s a sneak peek at what you can expect to see in *TXMining* this year.

**Summer 2017**

**Leaders in Mining**

This issue will feature industry leaders (past and present), including Mike Nasi on legislative and regulatory issues, Harry Anthony on in-situ mining and others. We will explore the positive contributions they have made to Texas mining, as well as gain insight into their thoughts about the future of the industry.

**Fall 2017**

**Technology**

This issue will explore how the industry uses technology to cut costs, lessen emissions and meet or exceed regulatory requirements. We will also include a special report from our Education Committee.

**Winter 2017**

**Year in Review (Digital)**

TMRA Committee Chairs will recap the year and take a look ahead. This is a digital report only that will be posted online in December.

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TMRA 2017 QUARTERLY MEETINGS
March 1-2 | June 7-8 | Sept. 6-7 | Dec. 6-7

NON-TMRA EVENTS
May 11-12 Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Texas Meeting
June 14-16 Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association Annual Meeting
June 25-27 Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Annual Meeting
Oct. 4-6 Surface Mine Reclamation Workshop

SPECIAL EVENT May 29
TMRA Owner/Operator Support Member Reception
Threadgill’s World HQ 4-6 p.m.

Sine Die Party The Long Center, Austin, TX

TMRA Annual Meeting
Oct. 29-31 Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, Bastrop, TX

Check www.tmra.com for a full schedule.

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