2015 Year in Review

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2015 YEAR IN REVIEW


Lignite Committee
Industrial Minerals Committee
Uranium Committee
Planning Committee
Communications Committee
Education Committee
Elected Officials of the Year
Members Serving their Communities

WINTER 2015

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Executive Committee
Chris Sumner, Chairman, Lhoist North America
Brett Wilson, Vice Chairman, Luminant
Rick Ziegler, Treasurer, North American Coal
Derrell Ezell, Secretary, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Mike Altavilla, Past Chairman, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Jason Buenemann, Lignite Committee Chairman, Kiewit Mining Group
Matt Hallmark, Industrial Minerals Committee Chairman, Trinity Construction Materials, Inc.
Craig Wall, Uranium Committee Chairman, Uranium Energy Corporation
Nellie Frisbee, Member, San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Ches Blevins, Executive Director, TMRA

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ON THE COVER
TMRA Past Chairman
Mike Altavilla, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Source: Gittings Photography

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It’s the holiday season, and it’s better to give than to receive. What better gift is there than a lump of coal (or bag of rocks for the non-lignite folks)? We’re miners! What do our friends and family expect?

In the spirit of giving, I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to Mike Altavilla of Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine for his leadership and service to TMRA. Mike’s tenure as chairman coincided with the introduction of Ches Blevins as TMRA’s executive director and the start of the 84th Texas Legislature.

I would also like to give thanks and recognition to all who support TMRA and help to make it the voice of Texas mining; specifically Ches Blevins, Krissy Lilljedahl, Cathy Pierce, Francye Hutchins, Robert Gentry, Christian Goff, Amy Landrum and Jeannine Wheeler. Their dedication and work behind the scenes help to make TMRA’s programs, meetings and outreach a success. And of course, where would we be without Member Companies, Support Members and you? TMRA exists and is driven by you and your participation in committees, meetings and workshops. Thank you!

As is customary, the winter issue of TXMining is a retrospective on the happenings of the past year. The 2015 TMRA Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa was a tremendous success; drawing more than 266 participants. Our silent and live auctions raised more than $218,000 – a record amount – providing continued support for TMRA’s education, outreach and industry support activities. And in another record-setting achievement, 52 companies generously donated nearly $55,000 in sponsorships. Thank you for showing your support and thank you Cathy Pierce and the planning committee for putting on another strong annual meeting.

At the core of TMRA are its industry and functional committees: lignite, industrial minerals, uranium, communications/public awareness, education, environmental, governmental affairs, membership, nominating, planning and safety. Each has its own challenges, whether it’s monitoring legislation, discussing regulatory/safety concerns, communicating policy positions or developing strategies to grow membership. These challenges are not dissimilar to those that TMRA members face on a daily basis: growth, productivity and safety.

While each committee presents its own “year in review” in this issue, I would like to look ahead and take this opportunity to advocate for greater participation in TMRA and its committees. In my time leading up to the chairmanship over the past few years, I made it a point to attend various committee meetings and workshops so I would have a better understanding of the successes and challenges that face our association and members. I have attended TMRA’s Teacher Workshops, a surface mine reclamation workshop and talked with faculty and students from kindergarten to college about geology, mining, education and careers in the mining industry. Attending the teacher workshops this past summer, you see the hard work and value of the program and witness the gratitude expressed by teachers for the experience.

Need New Year’s resolution ideas? Resolve to become more involved in TMRA by attending committee meetings, volunteering at workshops, writing an article for TXMining or speaking at your local schools. Having been a college instructor, I realized the opportunity I had to inform faculty and students on the diversity of Texas’ natural resources and the value of mining to society. Do not let the opportunity of a school career day pass you by.

In closing, I would like to thank you for allowing me to be a part of the association. My first exposure to TMRA was giving a presentation at a reclamation workshop in 1999. A decade and a half later, I have been privileged to serve in various capacities with so many talented individuals. I am honored to serve as chairman and look forward to working in 2016 with TMRA in representing the mining industry and the members it serves.

—Chris
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In last year’s winter magazine, I started with “Happy New Year!” It certainly makes sense to do so again this year, and add my goal to work with ALL of you for a successful and productive 2016. Our TMRA leadership, support and membership team is strong and continues to gain in strength. For that I’m thankful to all of you. Our TMRA team in 2015 – my freshman year as your executive director – was led by Chairman Mike Altavilla. We had strong support throughout the year from our officers Vice Chairman Chris Sunner, Treasurer Brett Wilson, Secretary Rick Ziegler and Past Chairman Peter Luthiger and our committee chairs Jeff Mason for lignite, Matt Hallmark for industrial minerals, Craig Wall for uranium, Steven Schauwecher for safety, Derrell Ezell for environmental, Gene Jernigan for governmental affairs, Denny Kingsley for membership and Robert Gentry for education. Adding in Christian Goff for communications, Franacey Hutchins for our teacher workshops and Cathy Pierce for event planning/coordination has worked to every member’s advantage. Please take the time to say THANKS to all these people and everyone who pitches in whenever and wherever needed. I am so very proud to be a part of this organization and this industry.

We have a great membership base, many actively participating year after year, some for well over 20 years. That said, new members are vital, adding depth, strength and support to TMRA. I know of at least 12 new members in 2015, many already actively involved with TMRA and then joining us for our TMRA Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa. This is always an outstanding event for our members and supporting education, outreach and other important TMRA activities. I can’t thank Cathy and her team, and each of you, enough for this strong and successful effort.

The year 2015 was, of necessity, focused on our Texas legislative session from January through June. Our success as an association was a focus of our summer magazine. Take a look back and reflect on the hard work and success in protecting and promoting your interests. During our 140-day session, we hosted a TMRA Lunch and Learn at the Capitol, which effectively reached a number of the legislative staff with our message. We are already planning an even more effective event for 2017. Immediately following the session, TMRA – with lots of assistance from others – hosted a highly successful sine die event with more than 1,000 attending at the Long Center in Austin. We’ll continue that tradition in 2017 if YOU continue to provide your support. In contrast to our very supportive Texas leadership there were, and still are, “challenges” from the EPA and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Attacks and overreach by those agencies risk having serious impact on all our members – whether coal and lignite, industrial minerals or uranium.

TMRA has not been sitting on the sidelines but, at your direction, has remained actively involved in filing comments and requests, as well as participating in person. Our efforts don’t stop there. TMRA is also actively involved with other organizations, such as the National Mining Association, in supporting both congressional and legal actions necessary to protect and promote our industry and support our members. My personal work on your behalf has, in part, involved drafting and filing written comments and providing oral testimony before a hearing in Corpus Christi, Texas, and in St. Louis, Missouri, relating to EPA efforts to make unnecessary revisions to regulations affecting in situ uranium mining activities. I made clear that OSM’s proposed Stream Protection Rule is not necessary AT ALL in Texas and is an overreach legally, inconsistent with the Surface Mining Act and Regulations.

For 2016, I want to emphasize that this is YOUR magazine, and we need and encourage your active participation. Watch for our calls for content and join in. Let us know of your work, successes, recognitions, innovation, personnel additions and advancements and, importantly, where you can stand out by adding content in our areas of focus each quarter. Specifically, our spring 2016 magazine will focus for the first time on SAFETY. We all know and promote safety in our operations as a KEY to success. Several TMRA members provide training and/or sell safety-related equipment. Let everyone know just how committed and successful we are as an industry. Training, innovation, awards, new equipment, etc. Start thinking now what you can provide for us to include in that important issue. Our audience is MUCH broader than just our members, including state, federal and local officials. Let them know just how committed and successful we are.

Stay involved and stay in touch! TMRA and I need each and every one of you.

—Ches
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**De Cordova Materials**

Founded in August 2014, De Cordova Materials is an aggregate mining company. After realizing a need to find material for its concrete company, American Concrete, De Cordova Materials acquired its own land to supply this growing industry. Headquartered in Weatherford, Texas, De Cordova has ten employees, specializing in concrete sand, 3/8 pea gravel and one-inch native washed rock.

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**Hydraulic Works, Inc.**

Hydraulic Works Inc., located in Bryan, Texas, is a full-service company focusing on hydraulic and pneumatic sales, hydraulic and pneumatic design and repair, and the rebuild of a wide variety of hydraulic and pneumatic type control systems. The company has two locations in Bryan, Texas, one for its hydraulic & machine shop and the other for its equipment division. Services include hydraulic & pneumatic sales & service, motors & pumps, cylinders & valves, mill & lathe machining, custom designs, heavy equipment, field services and a hydraulic hose shop.

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**Liebherr Mining Equipment**

Liebherr is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of mining and earthmoving equipment. The Liebherr Group’s mining division supplies the international mining industry with large machines for the extraction of raw materials in open-cast mining environments. These activities are coordinated by the division’s parent company, Liebherr-Mining Equipment SAS, in Colmar (France). Liebherr’s distribution is mostly conducted by its own sales and service organizations. This approach brings Liebherr companies closer to customer operations for a better understanding of their needs and requirements. It also allows the experienced engineering teams to adopt customer feedback into the mining equipment design. By focusing on the needs of the mining industry, Liebherr offers productivity, efficiency, low operating cost and customer service, as well as industry-specific safety and environmental solutions.

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One function of TMRA is to bring together mining companies, contractors, suppliers and legislative and regulatory agencies to ensure the reclamation successes of mined lands. The association also provides education for teachers and the general public on the significance of mining to our state’s economy.

TMRA has three industry areas, including lignite, industrial minerals and uranium. The TMRA Lignite Committee focuses on topics specific to the lignite industry, such as safety, power generation, ground control plans and workforce development. The committee meets quarterly, with regular updates from the TMRA Environmental Committee about industry issues and the TMRA task force concerning regular meetings with Railroad Commission of Texas staff.

More than One Million Trees Planted

This past June, TMRA was a bronze sponsor for the annual American Society of Mining Reclamation conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The Texas mining industry was well represented, with attendees from mining companies, contractors and vendors. One of the focus areas at the conference was reforestation of mined lands. We had several presentations highlighting the tremendous accomplishments in our Texas reforestation efforts. I had an opportunity to visit with an attendee from West Virginia who was amazed to learn that Texas companies typically plant more than one million trees every year.

Many of us have been personally involved with mining and reclamation in Texas for more than 20 years and certainly understand and believe that our reclamation efforts are some of the best in the nation.

A Year of Regulatory Pressure

This year continued to see new federal regulatory pressures on the coal mining and generation industry, with the Lignite Committee helping to coordinate responses and challenges to these pending regulations. These proposed rules attempt to limit power plant emissions, redefine regulated waters of the United States, add unnecessary protections to stream channels and require redundant surveys of threatened and endangered species.

The Texas mining industry believes these regulations to be costly and needless. It continues to excel in reclamation of mined lands, as evidenced by leading the nation in successfully releasing thousands of acres from bond obligations and receiving numerous state and national reclamation awards.

Mining’s Value to the Texas Economy

On a local level, the committee continues to work with the RCT to develop clearer guidelines on subjects that include releasing lands affected by oil and gas operations, quail habitat performance standards, timely bond release inspections and approvals, and streamlining the overall permit revision process. We also supported the process to develop a Regional Environmental Impact Study from the Corps of Engineers, which should simplify our future permitting processes.

TMRA once again commissioned an update of a study by the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas to quantify the impacts of lignite coal mining, the manufacture of activated carbon from lignite coal and coal-fired electric power generation in Texas. The study shows that these activities create more than $7 billion in annual economic activity and support more than 24,000 Texas jobs. The entire study is available on the TMRA website at www.tmra.com.

Committee Gaining Influence

In addition to the ASMR meeting, there were several local events that allowed TMRA members the opportunity to network with other industry and regulatory individuals. In March, the TMRA Lunch and Learn was held with the goal of educating legislators and their staff on relevant industry legislation. In May, the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Texas Regional Meeting was held at Horseshoe Bay, Texas and the TMRA Support Member Conference immediately followed at the same location. In June, TMRA again hosted the popular sine die party.

For 2016, the TMRA Lignite Committee will again take the lead on topics that could potentially impact our industry and affect our ability to use our state’s natural resources to provide value to the Texas economy.
With quality equipment and an experienced team, we can help bring conservation and productivity to your mining operations.
The Industrial Minerals Committee had its fair share of legislative hurdles and industry challenges in 2015. Water quality and water rights led the pack when it came to initiatives and regulations, but none had the width and breadth of the EPA’s attempt to legislate.

Working Hard to Combat EPA Overreach

The EPA’s Water of the U.S. Rules (FR Volume 80, No 124, 37057), commonly referred to as WOTUS, took effect on Aug. 28, 2015. This attempt by the EPA to expand its jurisdiction under the guise of improving water quality was met with sharp resistance by the mining community, as well as other industries.

For many months, companies and associations, including TMRA, lobbied diligently to halt the EPA’s authority overreach to prevent WOTUS from going into effect. The far-reaching cost impact for implementing WOTUS has long been shown to significantly outweigh its minimal environmental benefits. A number of suits have been filed related to WOTUS, including suits from 18 states.

Court of Appeals Grants a Stay

On Oct. 9, 2015, a three-judge panel at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit granted a stay sought by 31 states and state agencies that are challenging the legality of the rule. The court noted “the sheer breadth of the ripple effects caused by the rule’s definitional changes counsels strongly in favor of maintaining the status quo for the time being.” The court took issue with the content of the rule, the lack of notice and comment for significant changes that were added in the final version, and both procedural and merit claims that had been raised.

Although the stay is currently protecting the mining industry from an ever stringent EPA, it has brought to light the increasing need for industries and associations to work together to protect the existing laws and prevent regulators from creating “de facto” laws by development of regulatory guidance and interpretation.

A Good Case for Working Together

TMRA realizes the value of not only a strong association, but also an association that makes up a network of industries and nationwide associations. This is just one of many reasons that the TMRA Industrial Materials Committee has begun and will continue to reach out to member and non-member producers to strengthen this branch of TMRA in preparation for the next time the wind blows in our direction.
The depressed uranium market continues to dictate exploration and production operations in the industry, resulting in very little activity. The industry, however, is maintaining minimal staffing, fighting new proposed regulations by the EPA and staying production-ready, while waiting for the spot price to recover. Membership in the industry was stable, despite tough market conditions.

The committee held its quarterly meetings in December 2014, March 2015, June 2015 and September 2015. Our areas of focus and accomplishments include the following:

Rules to implement HB1079 were adopted late in 2014 with much input from the industry. The rules will provide the industry with the regulatory certainty during the permitting process without reducing any environmental, health or safety standards.

TMRA Lobbies Against EPA Overreach

The major topic of discussion for the calendar year was the EPA’s proposed rules for 40 CFR 192. The EPA suggested that the proposed revisions were necessary because the rules had not been updated since 1983 and the industry was moving from conventional to ISR mining, triggering additional groundwater protection standards. Among the new provisions were additional pre-mining sampling and an increase of stability sampling from two to 30 years post restoration.

Not only were these rules drafted without one shred of evidence that ISR mining contaminated adjacent groundwater, but the EPA also neglected to consult the state regulatory agencies that actually oversee ISR mining in Texas and other agreement states.

- Members of the TMRA Uranium Committee attended a public hearing in Corpus Christi, Texas, and also worked together to submit comments to the draft rules.
- The comment period was extended as a result of the amount of data available to submit to EPA from ISR miners in Texas.
- There was also a hearing in Wyoming, with numerous comments submitted from other industry members regarding the rules.
- The EPA is still reviewing all the data submitted during the public comment period and has shared very little information on how it will move forward.
- Industry members also provided comments/suggestions for TCEQ regarding proposed rule changes. A meeting was held with TCEQ staff to discuss the suggestions in person. A final list of rule changes is expected soon.
The TMRA Annual Meeting was an extremely successful event, achieving several milestones. The meeting drew more than 266 participants, with the silent and live auctions raising more than $218,000 – a record amount! These monies help to fund TMRA’s education, outreach and industry support activities. In addition, 52 companies generously donated nearly $55,000 in sponsorships.

The event was held from Oct. 25-27 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa in Bastrop, Texas, which will host the event at least until 2018. If you have an idea or would like to assist, please contact me at cathy.pierce@tmra.com.

Top to bottom, left to right: Mike Nasi of Jackson Walker, LLP presented on governmental affairs; Steve Schauwecker of Luminant presents Matt Hallmark with Trinity Materials, Inc.’s Safety Recognition Award; RCT Commissioner Ryan Sitton; TMRA Environmental Chair Derrell Ezell of Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewitt Mine helps solicit bids at the live auction; Cathy Pierce, TMRA Planning Committee chair; Gene Jernigan of Energy Future Holdings; Frank Clemente, PhD, Penn State University; Ty Embrey of Lloyd Gosselink; and TMRA members enjoyed a morning of golf, including Lynn Bell, Kiewit Mining Group, Nancy Bell, HOLT-CAT, Scott Perlet, HOLT-CAT and Scott Dubre, Joy Global. Source: Larry Jones
The mining industry’s future and even its integrity continue to be threatened with the onslaught of both regulatory and public opposition. Because of this, it is critical for TMRA to maintain an effective, proactive communications program that requires everyone’s involvement. Fortunately, through continued collaboration between all parties, i.e., leaders, members, consultants, etc., the association’s various communications initiatives have become stronger every year, with 2015 no exception.

**TXMining Magazine**

Now in its fourth year, *TXMining* magazine, the quarterly magazine published by TMRA and distributed to more than 1,000 members, regulators and public officials, continues to evolve into a first-rate publication. We thank members who have consistently submitted content in the form of features, photos and news and ask members who have yet to take advantage of this opportunity to please consider contributing content in 2016. Our member magazine is an ideal venue to showcase industry best practices, discuss how we are handling timely issues and/or tout member accomplishments.

**Teacher Workshop Media Outreach**

In collaboration with the education committee and quite a few TMRA members, the 2015 TMRA Teacher Workshop media relations outreach was a success. This year we highlighted two workshops – industrial minerals and lignite at Texas Westmoreland Coal Company – for which we were fortunate to garner some extremely positive media coverage. Journalists have a high regard for the TMRA Teacher Workshop story and appreciate the access to industry experts. The focus in 2016 will be on recruiting more of the teachers in featured industry communities, including Corpus Christi and Longview, Texas.

**Issues Management Media Outreach**

The Communications Committee, in conjunction with TMRA leadership, spearheaded the proactive development and strategic distribution of numerous issue-related news items, including press releases regarding:

- The lignite economic impact study, “Coal Mining and Coal-Fired Power Plant Generation in Texas: Economic and Fiscal Impacts”
- EPA’s Clean Power Plan: “EPA’s Clean Power Plan Threatens Texas Power Grid, Will Lead to Higher Electricity Rates”
- EPA’s Title 40 CFR 192: “EPA’s Justification for Proposal to Update Groundwater Protection Standards at Uranium Mining Facilities Unfounded”
- OSM’s Stream Protection Rule: “US Office of Surface Mining’s Proposed Stream Protection Rule Unjustified”
- TMRA Annual Meeting Legislators and Elected Officials of the Year Awards: series of releases for each recipient

Coverage was secured in numerous Texas dailies and top-tier trade publications, including *World Coal* and *Coal Age*.
We also collaborated with TMRA’s Governmental Affairs Committee on this year’s TMRA Lunch and Learn and Sine Die events. We were able to walk away from both of these initiatives with evaluation and excellent ideas for making future events even more successful.

Communications Committee

Finally, I would like to mention that my Pure Energy PR company brand has been re-established and to introduce a new Texas-based colleague, Jeannine Wheeler, to the committee. Jeannine, whom many of you have already met, brings with her more than 20 years of international strategic communications experience. Along with Amy Landrum and her excellent stewardship, TXMining magazine is in good hands. Please note our team’s new email addresses below:

Christian Goff at cgoff@pureenergypr.com
Jeannine Wheeler at jwheeler@pureenergypr.com
Amy Landrum at alandrum@pureenergypr.com

2016 Objectives

- Encourage more members to contribute to TXMining magazine via best practice case studies, Career in Mining profiles and other news items. Please see our 2016 editorial calendar topics on page 26 of this issue.
- Recruit more teachers from Corpus Christi and Longview (and surrounding areas) to participate in next year’s teacher workshops to make the events more newsworthy to local media outlets, per feedback from editorial staff.
- Continue issues management media relations with timely development and strategic distribution of news releases and media statements.
- Continue to increase collaboration between all TMRA representatives and committee chairs.

“*We encourage more members to contribute to TXMining magazine via best practice case studies, Career in Mining profiles and other news items.”*
This past summer TMRA conducted and/or sponsored seven education workshops for science teachers. TMRA conducted three workshops with an emphasis on mining, reclamation and energy. The three coal workshops were held at the North American Coal Sabine Mine, Luminant Three Oaks Coal Mine and Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine.

TMRA also sponsored a science education workshop in partnership with Stephen F. Austin State University. In addition, TMRA, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine, and Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute, co-sponsored a graduate level science education workshop in partnership with the University of Texas at Arlington.

The TMRA Industrial Minerals Teacher Workshop was attended by 26 teachers. The teachers spent a day at the Bureau of Economic Geology viewing the state core repository and learning about the value of Texas’ natural resources. They toured two types of aggregate pits, a ready mix and a hot mix plant.

The TMRA Uranium Teacher Workshop, based in Corpus Christi, was attended by 18 teachers. The teachers learned how uranium is mined in Texas and then how it is used to create electricity. They toured Mesteña Uranium Mine and processing plant and the South Texas Nuclear Project.

According to their evaluations, TMRA Teacher Workshops are the best opportunity for educators in the state, including hands-on labs they are able to use in the classroom. Science teachers get to observe the mining and reclamation processes firsthand. Over the last three years there has been an increase in the number of teachers attending our workshops that specialize in “environmental systems.” Very few of them were previously aware of mining and reclamation in Texas.

In summary, a total of 130 classroom teachers was reached this summer with the real story of mining and reclamation and the importance of Texas’ natural resources. These teachers will share our story with an estimated 18,000 students this year alone and will continue to do so year after year.

In addition, the hands-on activities from one of the coal workshops were video recorded. The committee will be evaluating options for converting these videos into possible podcasts for the TMRA website. The committee will continue to explore opportunities to expand education outreach.

Our 2016 TMRA Teacher Workshops will include multiple coal, industrial minerals and uranium workshops.

TMRA Education Committee:
Robert Gentry, Luminant, Chairman
Janet Bowman, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Linda Campbell, NAC - Sabine Mine
Mike Colar, CR Mining
Shauna Duby, Austin ISD
Sam Feagley, PhD, TAMU
Francye Hutchins, TMRA
Rob Montgomery, The Montgomery Group
Mark Russell, Russell and Sons
James Thomas, HDR

Source: Larry Jones
TMRA Elected Officials of the Year

Legislators of the Year

Rep. Trent Ashby (R-TX57)

“Rep. Ashby has been a steadfast advocate of the mining industry,” said Ches Blevins, TMRA executive director and general counsel. “He recognizes the valuable contribution that the coal industry makes to the Texas economy and lifestyle.”

The representative championed HB 2647, which related to the limitation on the authority to curtail groundwater production from wells for power generation or mining. Provisions in this bill would have required groundwater districts to obtain Public Utility Commission review before a curtailment order can be executed. The bill received an almost unanimous vote in the House, even though it faced opposition from various special interest groups, and was ultimately passed in the Senate. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed the bill; however, through Ashby’s efforts, attention was focused on an issue important to the state, and the industry is now better positioned to foster similar legislation in the 2017 legislative session.

“I enjoyed working with TMRA and other stakeholders on this legislation during this past legislative session,” said Rep. Ashby. “The mining industry plays an integral role in our state’s economy, and I am honored to be presented with this special recognition.”

Ashby was sworn into the Texas House representing District 57 in January 2013. His district is comprised of Angelina, Houston, Leon, Madison, San Augustine and Trinity Counties. He currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the House Administration Committee, and is vice-chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Additionally, Ashby was selected to serve as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Article III of Appropriations, which oversees all education spending in the state budget.

Rep. Drew Springer (R-TX68)

“Rep. Drew Springer represents a large area of Texas that understands the importance and value of pro-mining policies,” said Ches Blevins, TMRA executive director and general counsel. “He is an outspoken advocate of the mining industry and can be counted on to represent mining interests.”

In the 84th Regular Legislative Session, Springer authored HB 1906, which repeals production taxes on crude petroleum and sulphur. This legislation passed in the House of Representatives as SB 757. The representative also supported HB 1865, which aims to improve the environmental permitting process and discourage contested case hearings from parties not affected by a permit application. This legislation was ultimately passed in the form of SB 709, which is identical to HB 1865.

“From aluminum to zeolite – the A to Z of the economic miracle that is Texas, these are the raw materials behind all the goods and services of the state,” said Rep. Springer. “I am honored to receive the ‘Legislator of the Year’ Award from an industry as critical to the economy of Texas as Texas mining.”

Springer represents House District 68, which encompasses 22 counties and stretches as far east as Cooke County, as far west as Crosby County, as far north as Wheeler County and as far south as Fisher County. In the 22 counties represented by Springer, 13.8 percent of the population works in the mining, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries.

TMRA is proud to recognize the following elected officials, who have been instrumental in their support of the mining industry in Texas. The four were recognized at TMRA’s Annual Meeting Oct. 25-27 in Bastrop, Texas.
PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR

KAUFMAN COUNTY JUDGE BRUCE WOOD

“Judge Wood continues to work diligently to identify and implement solutions to the traffic and road issues that surround Kaufman County Road 346, which is used for residential and mining traffic,” said Ches Blevins, TMRA executive director and general counsel. “His efforts have proved a great benefit to the community, as well as to the mining industry.”

Working alongside residents in Kaufman County and representatives of Trinity Materials, a TMRA member company, Wood has been instrumental in balancing the need for aggregates with the desire to minimize the impact of mining and truck traffic within the community of Elmo, Texas.

“Thanks to TMRA for this wonderful award. I am humbled for what small part I have played in trying to formulate a solution to a tough problem involving Kaufman County residents and a large mining operation on Kaufman County Road 346,” said Judge Wood. “Citizen safety and truck safety is first and foremost, and I believe the discussions with our citizens, TxDOT and Trinity Materials are leading to not only a short-term solution, but a long-term one as well that will serve our taxpayers for years to come.”

Wood has served as Kaufman County judge since Jan. 2, 2011.

RUSK COUNTY COMMISSIONER BILL HALE

“Commissioner Hale has always been and continues to be reasonable and fair regarding the efforts of the mining industry,” said Ches Blevins, TMRA executive director and general counsel. “He recognizes the economic benefit the industry provides to the state of Texas.”

Hale has worked closely with Luminant/TXU Mining on road closures, road relocations and many other issues surrounding surface mining in Texas. He has also supported the electric generation and coal mining industry by speaking before the EPA and other regulatory agencies regarding coal combustion by-products, carbon capture issues and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.

“Coal-fueled generating plants in Texas have provided many jobs to local citizens while producing affordable and dependable electric energy for many Texans,” said Commissioner Hale. “Luminant and TXU Mining have been a pleasure to work with over the years. Long-lasting friendships and community partnerships have developed and hopefully will continue for years to come. I certainly appreciate this recognition.”

Hale has served as Rusk County commissioner for the past 19 years.
On Sept. 25, leaders from HOLT CAT®, Caterpillar® and Precision Demolition gathered together at Precision Demolition’s headquarters in Lewisville to celebrate the deployment of VisionLink™ – a fleet management solution technology that enables customized health and utilization reports, provides additional onboard safety features and maps fleet movements and overall machine capabilities.

In Texas, HOLT CAT, the United States’ largest CAT dealer, has deployed approximately 10,000 heavy equipment vehicles with VisionLink; worldwide, Caterpillar has supplied more than 300,000. Precision Demolition currently operates approximately 60 vehicles with this technology, and has plans to deploy this solution to more of its fleet in the future.

“We are honored to be recognized by our HOLT and Caterpillar counterparts for deploying what we see is a vital addition in our fleet management solutions to our machinery,” said Aaron Smith, president and owner of Precision Demolition. “Through VisionLink, we monitor the amount of fuel burned, idle time, geo-location and how our operators are following safety protocols, such as wearing a seat belt. This makes us operate leaner and safer for our customers’ projects.”

“As technology allows us to operate machinery with more safety features and more efficiency, we are working with our customers to help them adopt fleet management solutions such as VisionLink,” said Mike Grimm, vice president of machine sales in North and East Texas. “We are proud to partner with Precision Demo in ensuring our skilled workers operate world-class CAT machinery, with state-of-the-art network solutions.”

From left: Regena Upperman, sales coordinator, HOLT CAT; Benjamin Davidson, regional sales manager, HOLT CAT; Nigel Curtis, technology solutions specialist, HOLT CAT; Michael Grimm, vice president of machine sales, HOLT CAT; Aaron W. Smith, president of Precision Demolition, LLC; Andy Jameson, eSolutions manager, HOLT CAT; Jeffrey Woods, product support sales representative, HOLT CAT; Michael Bernier, product support sales manager, HOLT CAT; and Mark Lancaster, sales representative, HOLT CAT.

Source: HOLT CAT
Chevron Teams Up with Sun Coast to Offer ISOCLEAN Certified Lubricants

Chevron has selected Sun Coast Resources, Inc. as the first and only Chevron ISOCLEAN Certified Marketer in Texas covering the US. Sun Coast understands that the success of an operation and the performance of equipment often depends on the cleanliness and integrity of the fluid being used. Its dedication to provide customers with the most reliable product possible is why Sun Coast is pioneering Chevron ISOCLEAN certified lubricants and filtration services. Its premier filtration program can filter lubricants to meet and exceed cleanliness recommendations. Every Sun Coast delivery of Chevron ISOCLEAN products has been lab tested, certified and is backed by the Chevron brand, providing the confidence that performance will never be compromised.

What are the Benefits of Using Chevron ISOCLEAN Certified Lubricants?

Equipment operating under normal temperature with a fluid that is free of contaminants, such as dirt, moisture and gases, are likely to last significantly longer than equipment with contaminated fluid.

By having equipment that lasts longer, customers can see increased uptime, improved machinery reliability, reduced disposal costs, improved safety, reduced maintenance and lower component inventory.

Other Sun Coast Chevron ISOCLEAN services include:

- Fluid purification and dehydration
- Varnish removal and mitigation
- High-velocity flushing
- Reservoir and tank cleaning
- Condition monitoring and system audits
- Fluid handling consultation
Texas Westmoreland Coal Company Recognized by Railroad Commission of Texas

The Railroad Commission of Texas honored the Texas Westmoreland Coal Company’s Jewett Mine with its 2015 Reclamation Award. Commissioners recognized the company for its innovative, solar-powered water well, which supplies a portable irrigation system used for re-vegetation of reclaimed acreage planted with trees and shrubs.

Located in Freestone, Leon and Limestone Counties, nearly half of the mine’s 31,000 total acres are in various stages of reclamation as required by RCT rules to protect public safety and natural resources. Westmoreland’s solar-powered, irrigation system is instrumental in establishing vegetative cover for the company’s reclaimed acreage.

Chairman David Porter said, “Because of the mine’s remote location, traditional overhead transmission lines were not available to power a water well for reclamation. Instead, Westmoreland researched and then developed a large solar-powered reclamation well to irrigate reclaimed areas, ultimately carrying on a long-standing, Texas coal mining practice of restoring natural areas.”

Commissioner Christi Craddick said, “The innovation by Texas Westmoreland Coal Company is typical of our energy producers in Texas. They take a challenge and then develop a new way to address a challenge, in this case, how to irrigate a remote, large-scale re-vegetation project in a dry climate.”

Another RCT official was equally appreciative of TWCC’s efforts. Said Commissioner Ryan Sitton, “I applaud Westmoreland’s creativity in figuring out how to bring energy and water resources to an isolated area for required reclamation.”

Since 1945, Russell & Sons remains committed to providing its customers with innovative solutions and cost effective results.
The Rio Grande Resources Spirit Has a ‘Desire to Help Mankind’

By Brenda Hughes, CPL/ESA, Land & Title Specialist, Rio Grande Resources Corporation

For Rio Grande Resources Corporation, in Karnes County, Texas, “helping mankind” are words to live by.

Comprised of Texans with a strong work ethic tied closely to historically religious roots, giving back is a way of life for the folks at RGR – from four annual high school scholarships to updating equipment for the Karnes City Volunteer Fire Department. In 2005, for example, its old 1923 Reo Pumper truck was returned to running condition with a complete rewiring and conversion to 12 volt.

RGR Operations Manager Kevin Raabe, an environmental engineer, helps the Three Oaks Water Supply Corporation by serving as its board president. Arlene Jurgajtis, RGR finance controller, is currently serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce and helps attract new business to Falls City. Both Kevin and Arlene have served on their respective boards for more than 20 years and have been active in serving their communities.

Ed Griffin, RGR geological tech, serves as pastor at the Gillett Baptist Church; while Gene Dragon, maintenance/machine specialist, has volunteered for 35 years at the St. Mary’s Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Panna Maria, the oldest permanent Polish settlement in the United States.

Mike Jaskinia, RGR environmental tech, has volunteered his time for 11 years to guide Wounded Warriors on whitetail deer hunts on land contributed by the Killam Ranch in Duval County.

With an annual charitable budget of $20,000 currently going to 21 causes, RGR tries hard to provide real benefit to its neighbors, which includes four local church CCD programs, Toys for Karnes County Tots, “Relay for Life,” supporting the American Cancer Society, and “Kickin for a Kure,” supporting leukemia & lymphoma research.

From top to bottom, and with many other unsung heroes, RGR relishes its deep commitment to the community.

“RGR relishes its deep commitment to the community.”

RGR’s Mike Jaskinia (far left standing back row) with Wounded Warriors members on a whitetail deer hunt in support of Patriots & Heroes Outdoors. Source: Rio Grand Resources Corporation
Texas Westmoreland Extends Beyond its Permitted Boundaries to Support its Community

By Derrell Ezell,
Environmental Superintendent, Texas Westmoreland Coal Company

The Texas Westmoreland Coal Company is making an important difference in many peoples’ lives. This large rural Texas mine houses the even larger hearts of its 350 employees, who use their skills and commitment to help the community – whether as volunteer fire chiefs, softball coaches, project managers, school board trustees, members of the PTO or band boosters.

Through company-supported BBQs, chili cook-offs and golf tournaments, TWCC funds Relay for Life, as well as provides Thanksgiving Day meals and Christmas morning gifts for the needy.

TWCC sponsors Special Olympics events, services for handicapped children and hospice care providers, funds local high school scholarship and reading programs, supports local volunteer fire departments and funds youth groups.

Its annual toy drive, organized by lease agent Donna Jones, is a huge TWCC-sponsored event that is fueled through competition between the maintenance/operations, engineering/environmental and administration departments – all vying for a coveted pizza party. As the deadline nears, much spying takes place to inspect each other’s toys. Donna is a hero for making this happen!

Other champions are TWCC President and General Manager Denny Kingsley, who serves as president of the Fairfield ISD Education Foundation; maintenance manager Jeff Gonzales, who serves as president of Teague ISD School Board (donating his time there for 18 years); and Olaf von Sehrwald, civil engineer and process improvement initiative coordinator, who serves as president of the Fairfield Lions Club, a member there for the past six years and a scoutmaster of Troup 668 for the past 12.

Accounting supervisor Terra Carlisle, mother of five-year old Tenley and coach of her daughter’s softball team, serves on the board of directors for the Jewett Area Chamber of Commerce and plays a large part in organizing Jewett’s Annual Fall Frolic. She’s spokesperson and champion of TWCC’s Wellness Program, which has corporate-wide support through the Westmoreland Coal Corporation, organizing and managing wellness challenges throughout the year. Through the employee-based committee she manages, we have raised $10,000 for Relay for Life through chili/BBQ cook-offs and golf tournaments.

Terra has one of the largest hearts in the company and, along with the entire corps of TWCC community volunteers, gives us the drive to reach beyond our permitted boundaries!

“The entire corps of TWCC community volunteers give us the drive to reach beyond our permitted boundaries!”

From left: TWCC miner Wes Childress, Bobbie Pittman and Sue Pittman, member of the Buffalo Chapter of the Eastern Star. Source: Texas Westmoreland Coal Company
### TMRA 2016 QUARTERLY MEETINGS

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Check [www.tmra.com](http://www.tmra.com) for a full schedule.

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Planning to Mining to Reclamation

Texas Westmoreland Coal Company
Jewett Mine
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Past Chairman: Mike Altavilla, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
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Industrial Minerals Committee Chairman: Matt Hallmark, Trinity Construction Materials, Inc.
Uranium Committee Chairman: Craig Wall, Uranium Energy Corporation
Member: Nellie Frisbee, San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Executive Director: Ches Blevins, Texas Mining and Reclamation Association

COMMITTEES

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Lignite Committee Chairman: Jason Buenemann, Kiewit Mining Group
Industrial Minerals Committee Chairman: Matt Hallmark, Trinity Construction Materials, Inc.
Uranium Committee Chairman: Craig Wall, Uranium Energy Corporation

Functional
Communications and Public Awareness: Christian Goff, Pure Energy PR
Education: Robert Gentry, Luminant
Environmental: Derrell Ezell, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Governmental Affairs: Gene Jernigan, Energy Future Holdings
Membership: Denny Kingsley, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Nominating: Mike Altavilla, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
Planning: Cathy Pierce, Texas Mining and Reclamation Association
Safety: Steven Schauwecher, Luminant Mining

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Ricky Goodwin, Luminant Mining
Jan Horbaczewski, Texas Municipal Power Agency
Denny Kingsley, Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine
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David Martin, Kiewit Mining Group
Jerry McCalip, Trinity Materials, Inc.
Dain McCoig, Uranium Resources, Inc.
Mike Nasi, Jackson Walker, LLP
Scott Perlet, HOLT CAT
Kevin Raabe, Rio Grande Resources, Corporation
Martin Ballesteros Regalado, Dos Republicas Coal Partnership
Mark Russell, Russell & Sons Construction
Greg Shurbet, American Electric Power
Darrell Silverthorne, Marshall Mining, LLC
Chris Sumner, Lhoist North America
Keith Wheeler, Pastor Behling & Wheeler, LLC
Rick Ziegler, North American Coal - Sabine Mine

EDITORIAL CALENDAR

Next Issue: Safety First

Focus on safety with an emphasis on training, process and achievements. Special report from the TMRA Safety Committee recognizing Owner/Operators’ zero loss time, profile training equipment and Support Member services.

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