SAFETY

We're all in it together
ON THE COVER
In this issue, TXMining has a conversation about safety and how "we're all in this together." Says TMRA Chairman Chris Sumner: "Our efforts and our emphasis are paying off."
Source: iStock Photos

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SPRING 2016

Texas Mining and Reclamation Association
100 Congress Ave., Suite 1100
Austin, TX 78701
512.236.2325
www.tmra.com

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Lhoist North America
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Editorial Team
Ches Blevins, Christian Goff,
Amy Landrum, Krissy Lilljedahl,
Jeannine Wheeler
Designer, Allison Newsum
Advertising Sales, Lance Lawhon
lance@solafidei.com
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Safety is a Daily Commitment
Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine employees start every day with safety discussions.
Source: Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine

What is this woman doing? She’s attending TMRA’s Industrial Minerals Teacher Workshop, one of the three types of mining workshops run throughout the summer to enlighten teachers about the Texas mining industry. Five are scheduled for 2016. See the TMRA Calendar of Events on page 25 for dates.
Source: Amy Landrum
Welcome to 2016! I may be a few months late in greeting you, but rest assured that TMRA’s Executive Committee, Director, Board and various industry and functional committees have been hard at work doing the business of the Association and weighing in on key issues that are important to our members.

As I advocated in the Winter 2015 issue of TXMining, I encourage all members to take an active role in TMRA. The schedule for the remaining 2016 TMRA Quarterly Meetings is as follows: June 1-2, Sept. 7-8 and Nov. 30-Dec. 1. As always, we are looking for contributions to TXMining, including articles, member news, career profiles and photos. All are greatly appreciated.

What does Safety First mean to you? Task training? Right tools for the job? Lockout/Tagout? A goal of zero lost time incidents? Due to my curiosity on the subject, I conducted an online search for “what does safety first mean?” According to Google, there were about 225,000,000 results. Believe it or not, some responses were quite contentious. Of the millions of results, I was drawn to the one with the most name recognition: Mike Rowe of Discovery Channel’s “Dirty Jobs.” Below is an excerpt from Mike’s 2012 letter to Dave Johnson, chief editor of Industrial Safety & Hygiene News regarding his concept of “Safety Third.”

“Every day, workers fall through the cracks of a one-size-fits-all safety policy. Complacency is the real enemy, and I’m pretty sure the way to eliminate it will not involve more rules and more soothing assurances that an individual’s safety is someone else’s priority. Workers need to understand that being “in compliance” is not the same as being “out of danger.” That’s not going to happen by repeating the same dogma that’s been out there for the last hundred years, and forcing people to watch 30-year-old safety films that would put a glass eye to sleep.

I realize that Safety Third sounds subversive and irreverent. It’s supposed to. But it’s not a call to completely dismantle accepted procedures and protocols. It’s an attempt to improve upon them, and generate a conversation around a topic that really does affect everyone; hopefully, a conversation that will lead to fewer injuries on the job.

The main point of Mike’s letter is “Safety Always.” We do have compliance to meet, whether it’s MSHA, OSHA, DMV or company policy. We do have responsibility for our own safety and the safety of others. But because we are in compliance and know that others are watching us, that doesn’t mean we should ease our vigilance, even in the safest of situations.

So I ask again, what does Safety First mean to you? To me, it means constantly being aware of your situation and surroundings, i.e. seeing potential danger and taking steps to mitigate current and potential issues. At the mine site, beyond site-specific training and the annual MSHA refresher, my team and I are constantly aware of our situation, surroundings and the processes around us – staying safe and learning along the way. In the office, we have emergency and disaster recovery plans and drills; we use handrails when going up and down stairs and remind others to do the same.

At home, I wear PPE for yard work, maintain my equipment and use the right tool for the job. My daughters experience my awareness of situations and surroundings on a day-to-day basis, as I explain to them (in the midst of roughhousing) who is going to get wounded and how it’s going to happen. Unfortunately, I think this has made one overcautious and the other fearless, but we’re working on it.

Enjoy this issue of TXMining, have a conversation on safety and stay safe. We want you back for the next issue!

—Chris
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It’s spring 2016 and all of our challenges are behind us.

Okay, only the first part is true. TMRA is faced with a number of challenges to our industry, some based on positive growth and some, unfortunately, based on market or governmental restrictions or proposed restrictions, which we must work together and consistently as a TEAM to minimize or overcome. My always half-full thinking is that TMRA has an outstanding member base, officers, directors, committee heads, active and super consultants who have been successful where success was not likely. I think TMRA will continue to be successful, so long as we continue our work as a TEAM.

How does that tie in with our theme “Focus on Safety First?” The tie – and it is a strong one – is that teamwork and success come from a commitment to values and goals that further our interests as companies, service providers and consultants. At the very top of that list must always be a commitment to SAFETY, to protecting ALL employees, consultants, service providers and yes, even guests to our Owner/Operator mines and related facilities.

“Safety First” is not just a poster on the wall or a few paragraphs in the employee manual; it starts at the top, with Owners and Managers that both ‘talk the talk’ and ‘walk the walk.’

I am always impressed with the Focus on Safety First at every operation. Whether with management or folks operating trucks, shovels, haulers, draglines or in the service bays, it is and has always been clear that safety is, indeed, first.

That people matter. Just as I am proud of our industry and how it conducts its operations, from starting the permitting process through mining, reclamation and release, I am equally proud of our TMRA members’ safety record. What better legacy, what better message can we send than that our people matter?

While it is certainly true that our industries are heavily regulated, and that safety with MSHA oversight is always present, it is also clear that our success in safety is so much more than worrying about violations. “Safety First” means that our employees matter.

What I’ve personally witnessed is that this top down and bottom up commitment to safety has fostered positive work attitudes by all of those involved with these operations and, with that, outstanding efforts and success by all involved with respect to being highly productive and highly effective when it comes to operations. This includes meeting or exceeding state and federal regulations – for both mining and reclamation and, perhaps surprisingly to those outside of our industry groups, remaining highly efficient and profitable.

Knowing that you are valued and that your safety is a top priority IN PRACTICE rather than just words, is a great motivator.

What you will see in this edition of our magazine, along with our other regular features, are articles and updates that support this “Focus on Safety First” way of doing business. Our Safety Committee Chairman Steven Schauwecker, along with other TMRA members, will provide some interesting and informative insights into what and how safety plays an integral role in our operations.

—Ches
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Lone Star, TX 75668
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centers.hardoxwearparts.com/lonestar

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FAMILY OWNED. TEXAS BASED SINCE 1961.
The TMRA Safety Committee had a great year in 2015. We held quarterly safety conference calls to discuss safety and health issues within the industry.

On Nov. 3-6, Mine Safety and Health Administration held its Annual Southeastern U.S. Mine Safety and Health Conference. Joe Main, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for MSHA, introduced the safety zero campaign. He was very passionate and direct regarding reducing fatalities in the mining industry and focusing on specific regulations.

The TMRA Safety Committee will hold a safety and health conference call each quarter during 2016 for TMRA members. In 2016, our goal is to increase the membership on our committee, as well as participation on the conference calls and workshops.

As always, we look forward to another safe and productive year in our mines and workplaces.

"We are honored to dedicate this issue of TXMining magazine to TMRA Member Companies and their continued commitment to safety. Enjoy!"
## Safety Recognition

The Safety Committee recognized TMRA member companies for significant achievement, specifically those who had no NFDL injuries in 2014. Congratulations for achieving this safety milestone!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Controller</th>
<th>Mine Name</th>
<th>Hours Worked with no MSHA Non-Fatal Days Lost (NFDL)</th>
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<td>Marshall Mine</td>
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<td>American Talc Company</td>
<td>Wild Horse Plant</td>
<td>15,012</td>
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A CUT ABOVE THE REST

With quality equipment and an experienced team, we can help bring conservation and productivity to your mining operations.
Luminant is Driving Accidents and Injuries to Zero

By Steve Schauwecker

"There isn’t one silver bullet when it comes to a safe workplace. It requires everyone being committed to safety."

Zero accidents. Zero injuries. Zero incidents. At Luminant, the most important number is zero. Achieving zero, however, doesn’t just happen. It takes the collective commitment of every employee, and, for many workplaces, it takes a change in culture.

“Safety Zero” is not just a catchy campaign slogan or the latest flavor of the month. It is our culture, our commitment and our number one priority at Luminant – above everything else. Over time, our employees have embraced the Safety Zero culture and are achieving top safety performance the right way – by using human performance improvement tools and performing their jobs as true professionals – something we call “The Luminant Way.”

There isn’t one silver bullet when it comes to a safe workplace. It requires everyone being committed to safety. It requires everyone using their HPI tools, everyone participating in behavior-based safety observations and management setting the standard that safety is first. We must find new ways, new ideas and new efforts to drive us to our goal of zero: Safety Zero.

Luminant ROARs to a Higher Purpose

To achieve zero, Luminant utilizes several different safety initiatives, pays careful attention to accidents and their causes, focuses on retraining and refreshers and emphasizes overall awareness of safety responsibilities – from the frontline to the director of the company. We also recognize that safety is personal.

One simple yet effective effort we’ve made is called “The Higher Purpose.” Each of our mining facilities displays a collage of photos, provided by employees, of their loved ones and the things they love to do. The collages serve as a daily reminder of why we work safely. We must be relentless every single day to ensure that each miner goes home safely.

Another effort is “ROAR,” which simply states that everyone has the Right, Obligation, Authority and Responsibility to stop work when an unsafe condition exists. While this may not sound like anything new, we found that overall, individuals may not have actually realized they had the authority to stop work.

While we are not yet at zero, we are definitely making significant strides in that direction.

Overall, 2015 marks the safest year on record for the U.S. mining industry. The official figures from the Mine Safety and Health Administration show a total of 28 fatalities for all U.S. mining operations, with 11 in coal (UG-8, Surf-3) and 17 in metal/non-metal (UG-3, Surf-14). The previous
best was 2009, with 35 total fatalities. While these numbers are heading in the right direction, it’s still not good enough; we have to get to zero. It is achievable and we must find ways to get there.

**MSHA and Industry Partnership is Beneficial**

Constantly looking for ways to work safer is critical. MSHA has been helpful in improving safety. Along with compliance inspections and enforcement, MSHA partners with industry – both coal and metal/non-metal – to hold safety conferences. The Annual Joint Mine Health & Safety Conferences (the 2016 South Central Conference is March 29-31 in Grapevine, Texas at the Gaylord Texan and Southeastern Conference is Nov. 2-4 in Birmingham, Alabama); both offer a beneficial forum for discussion between MSHA and industry leaders.

And let’s remember our contractors and vendors. Heading into 2016, let’s renew our focus on this partnership. The uniform we wear doesn’t matter. We are all on the same team when it comes to our safety and health at mines.

From those mowing grass to those mining the material to those making deliveries, getting to zero requires everyone’s full commitment and involvement. We can’t do it without everyone involved. We must pull together to be successful!

Let’s commit to making zero our goal. While this is a daunting task, it’s the right thing to do. Let’s commit to engaging everyone at our mines to make sure they understand and accept that a job isn’t done right unless it’s done safely.

The only acceptable number for every company regarding safety is zero. We can only do it together!

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Around the world our machines are hard at work. Joy Global’s proven solutions for performance, reliability and direct service are a few of the reasons why our customers achieve record-setting production and efficiency that reach beyond their expectations.
"Nobody Gets Hurt" means just that – no incidents and no injuries, no matter how seemingly minor.

We all have family and friends who care about us and who want us to stay safe at work. We also care about our coworkers and take seriously our responsibility to keep each other safe on the job. No matter what job you do, Kiewit believes its "Nobody Gets Hurt" policy applies to everyone. Embrace it; promote it; live by it. Nothing is more important!

For many energy companies, including ours, the vision that "Nobody Gets Hurt" is at the forefront of every day, supported by many of the key elements necessary to run an effective safety program. This includes miner ownership, training, job hazard analysis, communication, supervisor commitment and planning. The list of all the things we do to ensure miner safety is long.

But still, we sometimes observe poor safety workplace choices. We’ve seen unsafe behaviors that include:

- A miner loads a tool box onto his truck using a crane and does not have a tagline attached to control the load and in place, instead controlling the load with his hand.
- A miner backs his truck hard into the berm, weakening the berm for the next operator.
- A miner slips on muddy steps and nearly falls.
- A miner backs over a yield sign while blading the haul road.

In each one of these cases, all involved agree with the following:

- The incidents were preventable;
- Training was adequate to perform the task safely; and
- The risk was identified and known before the incident occurred.

While all these incidents were near misses, the outcomes could have been very serious if but for seconds or inches. Perplexingly, these incidents occurred despite all the safety standards, rules, regulations, trainings, plans, hazard analysis and all the other actions meant to eliminate risk of injury. Personal commitment to make safe behavioral choices and decisions throughout the course of a shift is what is missing to eliminate safety risk.
San Miguel Mine in Southwest Texas is taking safety to a new level by focusing miner’s mindset on what is really important. Miners are declaring why they are really working here. Of course, they are working for a paycheck but why are they really working here?

- What is the personal higher cause for earning a paycheck?
- Are you working to provide the basic necessities for your family?
- Are you working to send kids to college?
- Do you work to hunt?
- Do you work to fish?

The responses to these questions drove home the personal reasons for choosing between risky behavior and safe behavior. Miners are making safe choices so they can go home each day to enjoy what is really important to them, with the realization that a poor safety choice could cause an injury that could jeopardize their ability to enjoy the things they love.

Mining requires a team effort between members of a crew and operations for both safety and production. When making safety personal, it is important to remember that the behavioral choices of each team member can affect other members. It is important to share between all team members the reasons of why they really work here. Even if you personally always choose safe behavior, your wellbeing is dependent on the safety choices made by those around you.

Ask a coworker today, “Why do you really work here?” Make safety personal for yourself and all those around you.

Stephen Mullaney is mine manager at San Miguel Mine. He has had a long and successful 35-year career of developing people, customer relationships and implementing strategic initiatives across Kiewit Mining Group operations focusing on continuous improvement in operations and safety. Stephen, who is a graduate of the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, started with KMG in 1981. He has been involved with many projects and safety programs, including at Decker Coal Company, Haystack Coal Company, Dry Valley Phosphate Mine, Rasmussen Ridge Mine, Kearl Oil Sands, Buckskin Coal Mine and Walnut Creek Coal Mine.
At Texas Westmoreland Coal Company we have an uncompromised view of safety. This perspective is very similar to the views and beliefs of other TMRA members. It’s not just a priority; it’s a culture…a culture that is visible, encouraging and accountable to the men and women who work at our mines.

The Texas Westmoreland Coal - Jewett Mine is located seven miles west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 79 and FM 39. The mine occupies a stretch of land spanning 7.5 miles wide, from Interstate Highway 45 southwest to the eastern shore of Lake Limestone crossing portions of Limestone, Leon and Freestone counties. Currently, 31,000 acres account for two adjoining mining permit areas. The larger of the two, Permit 32F, totals approximately 21,500 acres spanning southward from State Highway 164 to FM 1469. The remaining 9,500 acres of Permit 47A run south from Interstate Highway 45 where it meets permit 32F just north of State Highway 164.

The mine has been in operation since 1985 and employs approximately 276 full-time personnel. The Jewett Mine currently operates three open pits that supply lignite to the Limestone Electric Generating Station. The Jewett Mine is the second largest in Texas, producing approximately four to five million tons of lignite each year, representing 14 percent of the total annual coal production in Texas. The active pits range from a depth of 140 to 240 feet and are being excavated by three Marion 8200 and one Marion 8750 draglines.

Safety at the Jewett Mine is Our Top Choice

By J Denny Kingsley, Texas Westmoreland Coal Company

Safety is Priority One

At Texas Westmoreland, the morning shift starts at 6 a.m. when general directions are given, assignments are made, equipment is assigned and the shift change begins. The men and women who leave out for the day’s assignment face a world of challenges that have the potential of an accident or injury throughout their 12-hour shift. It may be a fresh set of days or the last day of a four-day rotation, or even an overtime assignment – but whatever the schedule, the dangers inherent to mining coal are ever present.

We generally start our day with a toolbox meeting to discuss the area of work, the objectives to be accomplished and the potential dangers. We reinforce our commitment to stay focused on not just our tasks, but also on the tasks of others around us. We believe that staying safe requires all of us to continually stay focused.

Following the toolbox meeting, we perform a thorough pre-shift of the assigned equipment. Special attention is given to significant areas such as fuel leaks, seat belts, dirt and oil accumulation, brakes, lighting and other areas referred to as “rules-to-live-by” items. Operators are encouraged to “buddy up” with another operator to help check areas that require a second set of eyes, such as turn signals and backup lights. Inspection results are noted on the operator’s pre-shift card and items not passing inspection are immediately reported to the operator’s supervisor and to maintenance. In some cases, the machine is tagged out-of-service, following our fundamental equipment operating principal to never operate non-compliant equipment.

Additionally we hold a “60 Seconds of Safety” meeting when the first-day shifts return to the job after seven days off. This additional meeting is helpful to reacquaint us with the “lay of the land or how transportation patterns may have changed. Often times the landscape has changed, making it prudent to take a few extra minutes to reacquaint employees with the new surroundings and to get grounded with the working area. This is a good time to review the radio channels that are being used, as well as to remind the crew of
the different operations that may be occurring within the area.

Monthly, half-hour safety meetings are held to review the prior month's safety performance. In cases where incidents or “near misses” have occurred, we review these as a teaching moment to help eliminate and evaluate the causes and circumstances surrounding these events. As a subset to the information that is used at the safety meetings, interactive discussions are encouraged and are an integral part of the continued ongoing safety culture development.

The atmosphere is generally positive and participants are free to express concerns without fear of retribution. More specifically, the Jewett Mine has an overriding safety policy called “The Work-Stop Authority Program,” which reiterates the miner’s right and obligation to stop work at any time if unsafe actions or situations are recognized.

Throughout the day and on a voluntary basis, individuals are encouraged to conduct safety observations wherein willing workers agree to be observed for a few minutes and then have discussions pertaining to the positive safety practices that are observed. This program called Value Based Safety has been shown to be valuable for both the observed and the one observing. These observations are documented and chronicled and reported to larger groups to convey best practices.”

**Safety Starts at the Mine Entrance**

Upon entering the Jewett Mine, safety steps to the forefront as the primary cornerstone of our mining culture. Visitors are required to watch a 20-minute video reviewing the rules, regulations and dangers present in coal mining operations. If your intentions are to continue into the mine as a vendor, supplier, consultant or visitor, your vehicle is inspected as per MSHA standards to ensure the equipment you are operating is compliant.

The Jewett Mine proudly supports a mine rescue team, made up of several people from each crew. These dedicated individuals are at the pulse of the safety culture at the Jewett Mine. Specialized rescue training skills in areas such as hazardous material handling, equipment rescue, firefighting, first aid and numerous other potential dangers or other life-threatening situations make this team one of our most valuable assets. These are the “go to guys” when there is an emergency. When called into action – they are the priority.

As a mine manager, I can testify that this group is one of the most important teams on our job. The men and women who volunteer to be “black hats” (black hard hats distinguish these trained professionals as mine rescue team members) dedicated a significant amount of time refining their skills and expanding their knowledge base in an effort to be prepared for every imaginable situation they may be called into face. Additionally, this team travels each year to the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Annual Meeting, where mine rescue teams participate in week-long drills and mock disaster situations. There they are evaluated to further hone their rescue skills.

Team EAST is a second volunteer group. These employ-
Employees meet each month to go out into the mine and evaluate the environment with respect to safety. The group inspects equipment, pit conditions, mine signage, roads, ground control, inspection books and facilities, as well as interacts with the workforce to seek out safety concerns or suggestions that can improve our overall safety environment. At the close of their day, the team documents its findings and makes recommendations for management, as well as for potential safety meeting material.

Accidents and incidents do, however, occasionally occur at the mine, despite the best effort of the workforce. These accidents and incidents are carefully reviewed and are subject to a “TapRoot” review to determine the root cause of the incident. TapRoot is licensed software that was developed specifically to assist safety professionals in their research and investigation of accidents and injuries to efficiently discover the root cause or causes. Root causes and lessons are communicated throughout the workforce and often policies or practices are implemented to reduce the chances of these occurring again.

There are a lot of different tools and techniques we apply to maintaining our safety culture, taking a tremendous amount of pride for what we’ve developed and practiced at the Jewett Mine. We like to say that the reward for safety is that no one gets hurt and everybody goes home in as good a shape as they arrived. We reward our employees in other ways as well. We give a safety bonus for each quarter we go without a Reportable Injury, and we celebrate with a cookout at 100 days without a Reportable Injury; if significant milestones are met, more reward and celebrations occur.

**Jewett Mine Reaps the Rewards of Safety**

Last October, the Jewett Mine was presented with the Sentinels of Safety Award by the National Mining Association – the most prestigious award that a mine can receive for its safety performance. During 2014, the Jewett Mine worked the entire year, or 879,000 man-hours, without a Reportable Injury. The award presentation was held in Washington, DC and the mine was well represented by a member from each crew. This crowning accomplishment truly reflects the pride we have at the Jewett Mine, proving that the safe working culture we have established at our mine is a significant success.
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New MSHA Coal Mining Dust Rule Takes Effect August 1, 2014

Filtered recirculation: a critical component to maintaining acceptable air quality in enclosed cabs for surface mining operations. The rule requires the use of effective dust control systems to maintain the quality of the air in the cab. The new rule is aimed at reducing the exposure of coal mine workers to respirable dust particles, which can lead to respiratory problems such as black lung disease.
U.S. Mines Complete Safest Year Ever

American Mines End 2015 with Fewest Ever Annual Fatalities

Last year was the safest year ever for American miners. Together, coal mines and metal/non-metal mines last year recorded the fewest fatalities in the history of American mining. Total mine fatalities were at the lowest number since 2009, the previous record year.

The official figures, issued recently by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, show 28 fatalities for all U.S. mining in 2015. U.S. minerals mining last year recorded 17 fatalities, while coal mining recorded 11 fatalities – the fewest ever for U.S. coal mines.

“We’re very gratified by this continued progress because it confirms the result of our commitment to make American mines the world’s safest,” said National Mining Association president and CEO Hal Quinn. “The record confirms the value of our safety initiatives and our on-going determination to return every miner home safely after every shift.”

One such initiative that has been especially successful in driving safety progress is NMA’s own CORESafety® framework, which aims to eliminate fatalities and reduce injury by 50 percent in five years (0:50:5).

CORESafety offers a management system approach to mine safety, offering not a “top-down-one-size-fits-all” model, but an adaptable and organic framework for operations of all sizes.

For more information on NMA’s CORESafety program, visit the website at www.coresafety.org. For 2015 mine safety data, visit the MSHA website at www.msha.gov.
OSMRE Provides more than $226 Million in Coal Mine Reclamation Funds

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in January announced the availability of the Fiscal Year 2015 Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation fund grants, which will provide more than $226 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

Texas will receive $1,451,110.

AML grants are funded in part by a fee collected on all coal produced in the United States, enabling 28 eligible states and tribes to fund coal mining reclamation projects.

“Reclaiming the land from largely unregulated coal mining from the past is part of OSMRE’s mission,” said OSMRE Director Joe Pizarchik. “While these grants will fund critical reclamation projects, generate well-paying jobs and help to restore communities, it represents just a small fraction of the work that remains. We have many years of work ahead before mine reclamation is complete.”

In the 37 years since Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, OSMRE has provided more than $8 billion to states and tribes to reclaim more than 380,000 acres of high-priority hazardous abandoned mine sites.

From the allocated funds, Texas will receive $1,451,110 after reductions and sequester.

Railroad Commission Appoints Schoch Agency General Counsel

Chairman David Porter and Commissioners Christi Craddick and Ryan Sitton voted unanimously this past December to appoint Alexander Schoch General Counsel for the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Schoch brings more than 30 years of executive and industry-related legal experience to the Commission. “Alex Schoch is an outstanding attorney with an incredible resume that includes energy and regulatory experience,” said Sitton.

Schoch retired from Peabody Energy, the world’s largest private-sector coal company, last year where he most recently served as executive vice president, chief legal officer and secretary. Schoch previously held executive legal positions with various segments of the Goodrich Corporation. He served as an international attorney for Marathon Oil Corporation and is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the American Bar Association, as well as the American Law Institute.

Railroad Commission Appoints New Executive Director

Chairman David Porter and Commissioners Christi Craddick and Ryan Sitton unanimously appointed Kimberly Corley as the new Executive Director of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Corley brings more than 30 years of technical, policy and strategic expertise in oil and gas and pipeline operations.

“After conducting a nationwide search, I am excited that we have found such an exceptional candidate to direct the operations of this important agency,” said Chairman Porter in December. “Ms. Corley’s technical expertise, executive experience and industry knowledge will be incredibly valuable assets to the Commission.”

Corley retired from the Shell Oil Company last year where she held several executive leadership positions, most recently as business development manager for Gas Monetization and general manager of Construction Risk Mitigation and Workforces Development for Shell Upstream Americas.
Texas Westmoreland Coal Company
Jewett Mine
903-626-5485

Planning to Mining to Reclamation
HOLT CAT® and JBSA signed an MOA to commemorate their partnership. From left to right: Peter J. Holt, executive vice president and general manager; Brig. Gen. Robert D. LaBrutta, commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio; Corinna Holt Richter, executive vice president and chief administrative officer; Dave Harris, COO and president.

HOLT CAT Program Provides Technical Training to Veterans

HOLT CAT®, the Caterpillar® equipment and engine dealer for South, Central, North and Northeast Texas, continues its commitment to veterans and service members, partnering with Joint Base San Antonio to offer military service technical training for transition into fulfilling, civilian careers.

HOLT CAT and JBSA developed a specialized training track to recruit service members for technical positions. Through this partnership, HOLT provides job training, employment skills training and internship opportunities for military service members who are within six months of their leave date from service.

“Supporting veterans in the San Antonio community has always been an important mission for HOLT,” said Corinna Holt Richter, executive vice president and chief administrative officer. “We respect the sacrifices that our Armed Forces make and are proud to partner with JBSA to develop programs that provide training and employment opportunities for veterans.”

HOLT CAT is the first company to partner with the Armed Forces in this kind of training program, and encourages other companies to do the same.

TMRA Supports Sunshine Decree Forcing Federal Agencies to be more Transparent

TMRA is one of 250 groups from 45 states to strongly support the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, which would make federal agencies more accountable to the public by improving transparency. H.R. 712, stipulating critical improvements to the federal regulatory system, was passed by the House by a 56% majority (244 ayes/173 nos) on Jan. 7.

“The federal rulemaking process was founded on principles of open government and public participation, which is why we are supporting H.R. 712,” said TMRA Executive Director Ches Blevins. “The legislation would take important steps to stop the abusive practice known as ‘sue and settle,’ giving the public and affected parties a greater ability to know about potential rulemakings and to participate in comment.”

In addition to other transparency reforms, the bill would require federal agencies to notify the public of proposed rules each month by posting a brief, plain-English summary of each proposed regulation on www.regulations.gov.

“After the success of this important legislation in the House,” said Blevins, “we hope to continue building momentum for the Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act in the Senate.”

TMRA encourages member companies to register their opinions on the proposed legislation in the U.S. Senate. You can read the multi-industry letter here:
http://www.tmra.com/blog_home.asp?Display=10
As the executive director of Texas Mining and Reclamation Association, the state’s leading mining association representing Texas’ coal, uranium and industrial mineral industries, I am on the front line battling the Environmental Protection Agency’s persistent and senseless overreach. One such battle has been the implementation of the EPA’s unlawful Clean Power Plan, which provides “guidelines” to limit CO₂ emissions from existing power plants.

Last Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked the rule’s implementation, likely indicating substantial judicial scepticism of the validity of the administration’s arguments, realizing that its detrimental effect would jeopardize grid reliability, cause senseless job losses and increased power rates for hardworking Americans.

The decision is a powerful assertion of judicial restraint on this administration’s unchecked use of executive authority to destroy an industry and adds to the growing recognition – by Congress and by more than half the states that are challenging the EPA in court – that the Clean Power Plan is already creating chaos within the nation’s power network.

In Texas, the numbers speak for themselves.

• The Clean Power Plan would force our state to imprudently spend $4.8 billion on the replacement of existing power plants rendered prematurely obsolete, which would result in double-digit percent increases for wholesale and retail electricity costs by 2030, according to Energy Ventures Analysis.

• The Clean Power Plan would put the Texas economy at risk with the potential of causing annual losses of more than $7 billion, in addition to losses of $641 million in state and local tax revenue, according to the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas.

• The Clean Power Plan would threaten more than 24,000 jobs, paying $1.8 billion in salaries, wages and benefits, according to the Center for Economic Development and Research.

And for very little gain.
Trouble is the Clean Power Plan will ensure neither cleanliness nor power, but will most certainly undermine Texas’ control of its electricity generation markets. The plan is ill-conceived scientifically and legally flawed, driven by a political agenda that has no realistic or supportable grounding. Even EPA officials admit that climate change impacts will be unmeasurable.

The Texas Mining and Reclamation Association is against unwarranted regulation that has little or no proven advantage. It does, however, support policies and efforts that ensure reliable, affordable and increasingly clean energy based on Texas’ proven and enviable approach. We encourage and promote a balanced, market-driven “all of the above” energy mix – one that includes nuclear, natural gas, renewables and coal. Coal mining and related industries are essential to the production of the goods, services and infrastructure that stoke the engine of our economy and contribute to the comfort and convenience of our daily lives.

Currently, Texas is a beacon for the nation in terms of energy policy. It’s a state that should be praised and emulated by the federal government, rather than being attacked and targeted with overreaching regulation and interference.

The Supreme Court’s decision supports Gov. Greg Abbott’s position against the EPA’s regulatory intent giving our industry further conviction that the EPA has acted unlawfully.

Fortunately, the rule of law and sound science prevailed so that our industry can continue to play an important role in our country’s energy independence.
TMRA 2016 QUARTERLY MEETINGS

June 1  Environmental Committee, Task Force Lunch & Meeting
June 2  Lignite, Uranium and Executive Committees
Sept. 7  Environmental Committee, Task Force Lunch & Meeting
Sept. 8  Lignite, Uranium and Executive Committees
Nov. 30  Environmental Committee, Task Force Lunch & Meeting
Dec. 1  Lignite, Uranium and Executive Committees
Oct. 30–Nov. 1  TMRA Annual Meeting

TMRA TEACHER WORKSHOPS

June 12–17  Sabine Mine
June 19–24  Jewett Mine
June 27–July 1  Round Rock (IM)
July 10–15  Three Oaks Mine
July 31–Aug. 5  Corpus Christi (Uranium)

NON-TMRA EVENTS

May 11–12  RMCMI Texas Meeting
June 26–28  RMCMI Annual Meeting
Oct. 6–7  Surface Mine Reclamation Workshop

Check www.tmra.com for a full schedule.

SAVE THE DATE!

Joint RMCMI/TMRA Conference
May 11-13, 2016
Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls, Texas

Mark your calendar for the joint RMCMI/TMRA Conference on May 11-13 at Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls, Texas. RMCMI will hold its meetings Wednesday evening and Thursday morning (May 11-12). For those who are interested, a golf tournament will be held Thursday afternoon, followed by TMRA’s reception and dinner Thursday evening. Friday morning will be the Support Member Conference, where TMRA Support Members will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with TMRA Owners/Operators and mine decision-makers. Stay tuned for further details.
**TMRA LEADERSHIP**

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- Rick Ziegler, North American Coal - Sabine Mine

**EDITORIAL CALENDAR**

**SUMMER 2016**

**Reclamation**

This issue will feature the latest reclamation projects from our Owner/Operators and any new products or services from our Support Members. We’ll explore positive impacts on flora and fauna (e.g. efforts to attract endangered species) as well as how companies have managed the past year’s floods. We’ll include a special report from the Environmental Committee.

**FALL 2016**

**Education and Careers in Texas Mining**

With so many members invested in the positive development of youth in our state, this issue will explore the best internship opportunities and educational pathways into the field for the state’s young miners. We’ll include a special report from our Education Committee.

**TXMINING ADVERTISING**

**For more information, contact:**
Lance Lawhon, TMRA advertising manager
512-832-1889 • lance@solafidei.com

**Deadline for Summer 2016 issue**
Space reservation: May 18 • Artwork deadline: May 26
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