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On the Cover The Operations Room at NRG’s Limestone Electric Generating Station.

CORRECTION TMRA would like to issue a correction for the Texas Mining Spring 2013 issue. On page eight, the original photo planned for use was not of a resolution high enough for print. A “stock” photo was used instead, and, after the issue had already been published, it was discovered that the photo was not of a Texas mine site. In the future, we will strive to ensure a mistake like this does not happen again. Thank you – Texas Mining’s Editorial Team

Above Photo TMRA Executive Director Trey Powers welcomes Sine Die event guests at the Long Center for Performing Arts. Source: L.A. Jones Photography
As I write this edition of the Chairman's Letter, the 83rd Texas Legislature has come and nearly gone, TMRA Teacher Workshops are about to begin, and I will miss the best “event” in Austin on May 27, 2013. I am referring to the “Spazmatic” TMRA-sponsored Sine Die Event on the evening of the close of the 83rd Texas Legislature. I hope you had a great time mingling with legislators and staff and expressing your appreciation for their hard work and consideration of your industries. Thank you to all of the generous sponsors who make this event possible!

With the close of the Texas legislative session, TMRA members and the state’s mining industries are viewing this session in a positive manner. The Uranium Committee passed a bill enhancing its ability to mine new production areas absent contestants. The lignite Committee was able to promote its value to the state’s economy through the economic impact study prepared by Dr. Terry L. Clower, Ph.D., Center for Economic Development and Research, University of North Texas. The Executive Committee would like to express our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication during the session from TMRA staff and members and to our legislators and their staffs.

I cannot author a letter without discussing the TMRA Teacher Workshops. I’ll say it one more time: “the Education Program is one of the best, if not the best, things we do as an organization.” The teacher workshops have long been recognized in Texas as a “staple” for educating science teachers. We are now receiving national recognition for this effort. The TMRA teacher workshops have been nominated for the Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award sponsored by The National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum. This is well-deserved recognition, and if you are one of the generous companies that bid on and spent money at the annual meeting’s teacher workshop auction or one of the many workers or sponsors in any way connected to the TMRA Education Program, then you are a part of this recognition.

The Executive Committee has planned a retreat for July 9-10 to spend some quality time together, and we scheduled it in conjunction with the teacher workshop at Luminant’s Big Brown Mine. Everyone is planning to attend, and it will be a great opportunity for the Executive Committee to meet the participating teachers and express our thanks to the workshop hosts and workers.

If you haven’t signed up as a “Friend of Coal,” Friends of Coal West (sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute) is coming to Texas. This concept, introduced back East to gain support for the Appalachian mines and miners, is available to the Texas mining community and supporters of our state’s coal mining industry. RMCMI will have a booth at the 2013 TMRA Annual Meeting to provide details and information on the Friends of Coal West campaign.

Speaking of the 2013 TMRA Annual Meeting, it will be here before we know it. The Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa in Bastrop, TX, is a fantastic venue to host the TMRA Annual Meeting. The event will be packed full of interesting speakers, social functions, dinners for networking, outdoor activities, and, as always, an opportunity to spend money in support of our Education Program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors in advance for helping make our Annual Meeting enjoyable for all. Please mark your calendars for October 27-30, and plan to attend the 2013 TMRA Annual Meeting.

The week of June 3-7 was a big week for TMRA, as a number of the TMRA Committees convened for a mid-year review of industry issues and challenges. In reviewing financial reports, the Association is in good financial shape mid-way through our fiscal year. TMRA is moving forward and gaining recognition across Texas and beyond as representing our industry members well. It is our dedicated and hard-working members that make this possible.

If you or your company are not a Texas Mining and Reclamation Association member, but somehow find yourself glancing at a copy of Texas Mining magazine, let me be the first to encourage you to go to our website www.tmra.com or get in touch with a TMRA member and consider joining our organization. Have a great summer, and if you have a free day, summer is a good time to see a mine!
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This issue of *Texas Mining* finds us reflecting back upon the 83rd Texas Legislature. While the 140-day Regular Session ended, it was followed the same day by the Governor’s call of a Special Session to address legislative redistricting. He later added transportation funding and a few other issues to the special session call.

I am happy to report that the biggest areas of concern going into the session never rose to the level of being filed or seriously considered. We did not see mandated fuel switching, new taxes, or water curtailment legislation. For that, we thank the various TMRA member representatives on the Governmental Affairs Committee. These individuals worked tirelessly from before the opening gavel to the final Sine Die adjournment to ensure policies that would negatively impact our industries did not become law.

Much-needed legislation related to the permitting of uranium mines was passed and signed by the Governor. A priority for the uranium mining companies, House Bill 1079 changes the process for obtaining Area Permits and Production Area Authorizations, providing much more regulatory certainty to the industry. Regarding industrial minerals, several bills that could have caused a challenge for sand and gravel operations did not become law. The 83rd Texas Legislature marks the second in a row that the Railroad Commission of Texas’ Sunset bill failed to pass. Instead, lawmakers opted to continue the agency for four years, with no change to its name, structure or functions.

And now that the work of the 83rd Texas Legislature is (nearly) complete, how about the TMRA Sine Die Party?! Our end of session celebration has truly become the “go-to” event for those who work in and around the state capitol. This year’s attendance was 1,100, including many elected officials and hundreds of legislative staffers. These individuals as well as TMRA members and sponsors enjoyed a fabulous night of camaraderie. The special session announcement certainly did not put a damper on the festive spirits of all those in attendance. Thank you so much to all of our generous sponsors who made this event possible!

The TMRA Lignite Committee was busy this spring with public comments being submitted on numerous regulatory issues, including:

- A new stream mitigation method proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers’ Fort Worth District office;
- The proposed “threatened” listing and designation of critical habitat for the Neches River Rose-Mallow; and
- The proposed Performance Agreement between the Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and the Railroad Commission of Texas Surface Mining and Reclamation Division.

The TMRA Education Program (i.e. Teacher Workshops) has been nominated for the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum’s 2013 Prazen Living Legend of Mining Award. This prestigious award is given annually to an entity that has demonstrated a continuing commitment and successful efforts to educate the public on the importance of the minerals industry. While most TMRA members are familiar with the benefits of our program, it is gratifying to be recognized by others for our hard work and dedication to this cause.

And the good work continues. TMRA Education Director, Francye Hutchins, is now in the middle of leading the 2013 workshops. TMRA is coordinating five teacher workshops this summer: three on lignite, one on uranium, and one on industrial minerals.

TMRA recently nominated Eric Anderson, Environmental Manager for North American Coal – Sabine Mine, to represent the “Mining and Recovery of Minerals” interest group on the Texas Water Conservation Advisory Council. The Council’s purpose is to provide the Legislature, state and local agencies, and the public with the resources of a select council with expertise in water conservation. If appointed, we know Eric will do an outstanding job representing our interests on this important council.

Finally, don’t forget that the Annual Meeting is just around the corner, October 27-30 at the beautiful Hyatt Lost Pines Resort near Bastrop. Please save the date and be on the lookout for registration information around August 5th.

Have a great summer!
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While America’s natural gas reserves have increased significantly, coal remains one of the largest domestic energy resources in America. The issue at hand is how this plentiful, low-cost fuel can continue to provide value to the consumer with minimal impact to the environment.

For NRG Energy, owner of the Limestone Electric Generating Station, the answer is about the plant being built right from the beginning, upgrading as technology and regulations evolve and collaborating with partners to move promising new technologies to commercial scale.

Located on a 3,800-acre site at the juncture of Limestone, Freestone and Leon counties (midway between Houston and Dallas), the Limestone plant is capable of generating more than 1,700 megawatts of electricity or enough power to meet the needs of well over a million Texas homes.

The plant was originally designed to use locally-supplied lignite, mined at the adjacent Jewett Mine. About one-third of the plant’s construction cost was focused on ensuring emissions control equipment was able to capture particulate matter and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The designers of the plant were very successful in this goal, with precipitators trapping approximately 99.8 percent of the fly ash and flue gas scrubbers capable of removing nearly 90 percent of the SO₂ emissions.

“A lot of care was taken when building the plant to make sure it had the emission controls needed to use the lignite responsibly,” said Gary Mechler, General Manager of the Limestone plant. “In the years since the units began operating, new technologies have continually been developed to ensure that using coal aligns with the desires of the consumers who buy the power generated by coal plants.”

These developments led to low-nitrogen oxide (NOₓ) burners being retrofitted onto the Limestone units, reducing NOₓ emissions by approximately 60 percent. Additionally, the units were modified to allow low sulfur Powder River Basin (PRB) coal to be blended with the lignite to reduce SO₂ and mercury emissions.

In 2007, the Limestone plant participated in a Clean Coal Power Initiative demonstration project with the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Energy Technology Laboratory to use cutting-edge technology to make the plant cleaner and more efficient. A neural network of real-time continuous emission monitors and computers was designed and installed with the goal of optimizing fuel burning to reduce mercury and NOₓ as it increased the efficiency of the plant.

“We are proud of the progress we have made to reduce emissions at the site,” Mechler added. “Looking to the future, we are planning additional upgrades that will make the plant even cleaner in its operation.”

Over the next two years, NRG plans to install Activated Carbon Injection (ACI) units on the plant to further reduce mercury emissions.

Additionally, NRG is working with the Department of Energy on another Clean Coal Power Initiative Program. This project is designed to capture approximately 90 percent of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the flue gas of an existing coal unit, WA Parish. For the size of the planned carbon capture unit, this will mean approximately 1.5 million tons of CO₂ annually will not enter the atmosphere. In addition, the carbon capture process will remove virtually all sulfur dioxide from the flue gas.

Once captured, the CO₂ will be compressed and transported by pipe to a mature oil field near the plant where it will be used to enhance production through a process called enhanced oil recovery (EOR).

Using EOR, carbon dioxide is no longer a waste product but will yield a revenue stream to pay for the carbon capture system by increasing domestic energy production and helping to reduce the billion dollars America sends overseas every day for imported oil.

Once this demonstration is proven as technologically and economically viable at the WA Parish plant, NRG anticipates taking it to other plants such as Limestone where nearby mature oil fields can benefit from the captured CO₂.

“Using coal as a fuel is very important to consumers in Texas, the United States and the world,” Mechler said. “With the right technologies applied, coal can be a viable and sustainable fuel for years to come. NRG and the Limestone plant are proud to be a part of the solution.”
The production process begins with stripping overburden to expose the underlying shale, which is drilled and blasted to generate the initial fractured material. The pit run shale is hauled to the plant where it is crushed and screened before entering a 250 foot rotary kiln. The kiln is used to evenly heat the raw shale to approximately 2,100 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature, the shale becomes semi-liquid and the ignited carbon fuels within the aggregate expand, causing the aggregate to increase up to 70 percent of its original volume. The expanded material then enters a cooler that utilizes ambient air to cool the product before conveying to a screening system that grades the final product. The result is a lightweight aggregate with a density of approximately 40 pounds per cubic foot. Depending on the quality of the material, some ESC have been known to float on water, while still producing concrete mixes that have break strengths above 5,000 psi.

With nine separate product gradations ranging from 200 mesh to three quarters of an inch, the final materials are blended back together to produce a custom product per the customer’s specification. This allows for each project to be designed for maximum efficiency and cost benefit. Additionally, due to the product density, transportation costs, and thermal properties, there are a number of LEED credits that can be obtained due to utilization of these lightweight aggregates.

With multiple production systems, the Streetman facility continues to operate with an experienced, diverse, safety-minded work force that is the core of the business. “We anticipate steady growth in the lightweight aggregate sector,” said Trinity ESC President Carl Campbell. “As with all Trinity locations, our hardworking employees and management continue to make us the premier supplier in the markets we serve.”

Trinity Materials, Inc. acquired three expanded shale and clay aggregates facilities on March 22, 2013. The business transaction allowed the company to expand its aggregate production operation, while diversifying its product line and creating a new business, Trinity ESC. The newly formed company has three production facilities located in Streetman, TX; Boulder, CO and Frazier Park, CA.
Surface Mine Lighting Improves Safety and Production

By John C. Duffey, Engineering Manager, The Sabine Mining Company

Few industries are as heavily dependent on quality lighting as the mining industry. This is especially true at coal mines operating on a 24/7 work schedule, such as, North American Coal Corporation’s Sabine Mining Company. SMC has installed innovative lighting systems to safely illuminate the maintenance shop, expanses of the active mining pit and massive earthmoving dragline machines, and delineating haul roads with lighting substitutes - all of which greatly improve safety and production.

Lighting at surface mines has been driven by using the most efficient, practical and economic products available on the market at the time of mine development. When either the lighting becomes obsolete or innovative technologies improve existing products enough to justify replacement, new systems are installed.

Common types of lighting are high-pressure sodium (HPS), metal halide (MH), induction and light-emitting diodes (LED). Historically at SMC, initial mine development lighting involved HPS and MH and has developed into induction and LED technologies.

This article will focus on four areas of lighting improvements:

- Draglines
- Maintenance Shop
- Portable Pit Lighting
- Haul Road Delineators

Dragline Lighting

SMC will operate four walking draglines to excavate more than 55 million cubic yards of overburden material, producing 4.1 million tons of coal in 2013. To accomplish this task all machines are scheduled 24 hours each day, seven days per week, which means working several hours a day in darkness. For example, the shortest day of the year is December 21 with 14 hours of darkness and the longest day of the year is June 21 with ten hours of darkness. If you average them together, dragline operators work nearly 50 percent of the year in the dark. Efforts to keep dragline productivity high and working in a safe environment calls for excellent lighting.

For the first 28 years of dragline operation MH lighting has lit up the digging and work area, primarily due to extreme conditions found on a dragline boom. Wind, rain, dust, heat, stopping and electrical surges have been too difficult for other products to sustain. However, recent LED technology has overcome the elements and met the durability requirements.

When asked why SMC has started replacing MH lighting with LED, Electrical Supervisor Matt Hampton said, “the durability of LED lights is superior to MH. At one point in the spring of 2012, the Page dragline needed at least one boom light changed each week. But since we installed LED fixtures, bulb replacement has been reduced significantly. LED lighting has a cleaner usable light, and the illuminated area looks brighter.”

Maintenance Shop Lighting

The maintenance department is responsible for both field
shop repair of heavy equipment, utility equipment and light vehicles. They also work on a 24/7 schedule requiring 50 percent of the time working after dark. Complete shop lighting is essential for professional and safe results.

In 2011, SMC replaced ceiling lights consisting of both 1000 watt and 400 watt MH light fixtures with 400 watt induction fixtures to improve overall illumination in all areas of the shop. Electrical Planner Kenny Robinson said, “The new lights are nice because they don’t have the cool down delay after you turn them off and, after a power outage, there is instant light when you hit the switch to turn the lights back on.”

**Portable Pit Lighting**

In 2006 SMC started using highwall overhang capability portable light plants for pit lighting. “Lighting in the pit is necessary for safe and efficient work in Load and Haul production as well as in pit de-watering,” according to Production Manager Robert Fitzgerald. Portable lighting is also essential at the truck dump to illuminate areas where trucks back in to dump payload material.

**Haulroad Delineator Lighting Substitute**

Driving visibility in East Texas can be extremely poor due to weather conditions such as heavy fog, rain or snow. SMC’s Load and Haul department works a 24/7 schedule and safely gets the job done during these types of adverse conditions. Of course, production is halted if conditions are extreme. However, with the help of recently added road shoulder markers with the tops angled toward the center of the road, operators can better see to make sure they are driving on the right side of the road.

In conclusion, SMC has been very satisfied with installing LED lighting on the draglines and plans to continue replacing existing MH lights as they burn out. Mechanics are content with Induction lighting turning night into day in the shop, and pit personnel have benefitted from improved pit lighting due to new technology in highwall overhang portable pit lighting. Although haulroad delineators have been in place for some time, they still provide a safe guide and lighting substitute for any pickup or heavy equipment travelling on mine roads at night. SMC will continue to strive toward improving safety, production and efficiency in an environmentally-friendly manner, and improvements in mine lighting play an important role in achieving those goals.

**Reference**


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One of the crowning achievements of the 83rd Texas Legislature, which was a formidable struggle to the very end, was the water infrastructure financing package. Before the first gavel of the session, members and leadership were in agreement as to the importance of funding the projects identified in the state water plan. The only question was how much money to allocate from the Economic Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund, and the parliamentary vehicle with which to do it. Ultimately, the following trio of measures passed to get the job done:

- **HB 4 by Representative Allan Ritter** – creates two revolving funds that will provide loans for water projects across the state, and restructures the governance of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).
- **HB 1025 by Representative Jim Pitts** – authorizes the transfer of $2 billion from the Rainy Day Fund to the newly created TWDB funds.
- **SJR 1 by Senator Tommy Williams** – submits a constitutional amendment to the voters to affirm creation of the TWDB funds to receive the $2 billion without counting against the constitutional spending limit. The amendment will go to the voters in November for the final decision.

### Water Infrastructure Financing

One of the crowning achievements of the 83rd Texas Legislature, which was a formidable struggle to the very end, was the water infrastructure financing package. Before the first gavel of the session, members and leadership were in agreement as to the importance of funding the projects identified in the state water plan. The only question was how much money to allocate from the Economic Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund, and the parliamentary vehicle with which to do it. Ultimately, the following trio of measures passed to get the job done:

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### Budget

The 83rd Legislature had a surplus of
funds, which is good, but brings forth the inevitable mad dash for competing priorities. The final budget included more than $1.3 billion in tax relief and restored many of the public education cuts from last session. Importantly, funding to support regulatory agencies for mining activities for lignite, uranium, and industrial minerals were continued at current levels.

**Coal Mining and Coal-Fired Generation**

With the help of the "Coal Mining and Coal-fired Power Generation in Texas: Economic and Fiscal Impacts" study published by the University of North Texas, the TMRA Lignite Committee was able to energize the legislators who have lignite operations in their districts to take pride in our mines and fleet, and defend them against attacks during the session. The list of harmful bills that did not pass will not be addressed in detail here. Two of the most feared threats heading into the session – a coal tax and a fuel switching bill – never materialized in the form of a filed bill, thanks in part to the momentum created during the interim by the combined advocacy and outreach of TMRA, the Balanced Energy for Texas Coalition, and the Gulf Coast Lignite Coalition.

Some very important bills passed that either affirmatively benefit the coal industry or passed in a form that is either neutral or positive to the industry, including:

- **HB 2446 by Representative Myra Crownover** – significantly enhances Texas carbon capture utilization and storage incentives for lignite-fired power plants by establishing a more valuable and fully assignable $300 million franchise tax credit.
- **HB 1897 by Representative Craig Eiland** – related to the pollution control property tax exemption, this bill directs TCEQ to render decisions within one year of receiving an application.
- **HB 1600 by Representative Byron Cook** – The Public Utility Commission (PUC) Sunset Bill passed and thereby continued the agency for another ten years without unfavorable provisions.
- **HB 1675 by Representative Dennis Bonnen** – continues the Railroad Commission of Texas until 2017 (necessary because the RCT Sunset Bill again failed to pass).
- **HB 788 by Representative Wayne Smith** – without conceding that greenhouse gases (GHG) should be regulated under the state or federal clean air acts, this bill enables Texas to take back from EPA the GHG permitting program in Texas. Importantly, the bill exempts the permitting of GHGs from the contested case process.

**Uranium**

The TMRA Uranium Committee had a very active and successful session. Committee members worked closely with numerous legislators on measures that will help the industry in Texas to continue to successfully operate and attract new capital investment. The industry is appreciative of the support it received from the legislators who represent areas where uranium mining occurs, and was involved with several bills throughout the legislative process in an effort to protect members’ interests.

The following approved bills are the most important to the uranium mining industry in Texas:

- **HB 1079 by Representative Wayne Smith** – revised the Area Permit and Production Area Authorization application process to create a more efficient application process and provide more regulatory certainty for the industry.
- **HCR 81 by Representative Dennis Bonnen** – commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the State of Texas being an Agreement State with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- **SB 347 by Senator Kel Seliger** - created a sub-account for uranium mining companies within the new Environmental Radiation and Perpetual Care Account at the TCEQ and capped the fees collected from the industry.

**Industrial Minerals**

TMRA’s industrial mineral members mostly played defense this session. Several pieces of legislation concerning to the industry did not pass. Aggregate mining operations did find some relief in HB 500 by Representative Harvey Hilderbran (the franchise tax relief bill) for tax obligations related to certain contract haulers.

Overall, TMRA members can be proud...
On May 27, 2013, TMRA played host to close to 1,100 guests, including a number of legislators and staff, at its third biennial Sine Die party at the Long Center for Performing Arts. Thanks to all of our sponsors, guests enjoyed food and drinks while dancing the night away to The Wheeler Brothers, an outstanding Austin-based band, and the ever-popular 80s cover band, The Spazmatics. The party continues to prove to be a great way to extend our gratitude for a successful legislative session. Thanks to all of our sponsors—we couldn’t have done it without you.

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- Oneok, Inc.
- Sabine Mining Company
- San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Texas Association of Business
- Texas Bankers Association
- Texas Cable Association
- Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
- TxSWANA
- U-2013 Global Uranium Symposium
- Westgate 100

Bronze
- Agenda Global
- Association of Electric Companies of Texas, Inc.
- Atkins Global
- Capitol Aggregates, Inc.
- Comcast
- Darrick W. Eugene & Associates, PC
- Entergy Texas, Inc.
- Hill Country Environmental, Inc.
- Marathon Oil Corporation
- Pastor, Behling & Wheeler, LLC
- Tenaska, Inc.
- Texans for Lawsuit Reform
- Texas Aggregates and Concrete Assoc.
- Texas Chemical Council
- Texas Medical Association
- Trey J. Blocker PLLC
- Winstead PC
- Zachry Corporation

Individual
- KSA Engineers, Inc.
- LBG-Guyton Associates
- Roy Jackson/Texas New Mexico Power
- Joe Morris
- Tetra Tech, Inc.
- Texas Lobby Solutions, Inc.
- Tyler J. Rudd

Brad Jones, ERCOT, mingles with Mance Zachary, Luminant. Source: L.A. Jones Photography
# 2013 TMRA Annual Meeting
**Hyatt Lost Pines Resort**  
**Bastrop, Texas**  
**October 27 - 30, 2013**

## Preliminary Schedule

**Sunday, October 27**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>PE Course</td>
<td>Austin A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>PG Course</td>
<td>Austin B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Annual Meeting Registration</td>
<td>Foyer of Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Exhibit Set-Up</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lunch (provided for BOD, PE/PG participants, Exhibitors, Industry Committee Chairs)</td>
<td>Baron's ABC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td>Navarro Y Bangs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fishing Tournament – Caravan leaves hotel @ 6:00 - Begin @ 7:30</td>
<td>Fayette County Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Golf Tournament – Shotgun start @ 8:00</td>
<td>Wolfdancer Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
<td>LBJ Pavilion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday, October 28**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Fishing Tournament – Caravan leaves hotel @ 6:00 - Begin @ 7:30</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
<td>LBJ Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Fun Night</td>
<td>LBJ Pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Reception and Silent Auction</td>
<td>Foyer of Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Dinner - Education Update</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, October 29**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Optional Tour (to be determined)</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Annual Update by TMRA Chairman</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Keynote Speakers (to be announced)</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Recognition of New Members</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Legislative and Safety Updates</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Support Member Elections</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Legislative and Safety Updates</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Reception and Silent Auction</td>
<td>Foyer of Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Dinner - Education Update</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Live Auction</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, October 30**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Optional Tour (to be determined)</td>
<td>Lost Pines 1-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mining operations employ a wide range of people, from equipment operators to business professionals, to engineers and scientists. One specialization in the industry is a group of people that focus on environmental regulations and compliance. They, like other employees in the industry, are highly-trained, dedicated professionals who work diligently to assure the mining industry maintains the highest standard of environmental stewardship. The duties of environmental stewardship falls to all employees, but the environmental specialist, environmental supervisors, and environmental managers in the industry are charged with successful implementation of mine-specific environmental stewardship programs.

Even having been born and raised within a stone’s throw of North American Coal’s Sabine Mine located in Hallsville, TX, I never envisioned myself in the role of Environmental Manager. During my brief nine years in the industry, all with North American Coal, I have had the opportunity to work under the tutelage of a number of fine environmentally-conscious individuals. Likewise, my interaction with environmental professionals in the mining industry has, without question, been dominated by committed experts in environmental and natural resources.

The primary job of Environmental Manager is to coordinate mining operations with local, state, and federal agencies having regulatory authority over mining operations. However, the role of any environmental professional in the industry can be simply stated as ‘environmental compliance’. Though it may be summarized as a singularly defined task, this role is often complex and challenging, and assuredly dynamic. My jack-of-all-trades education in environmental science, forestry, and soil science has been crucial in achieving and maintaining a successful compliance record for North American Coal – Sabine Mine. Other environmental professionals in the mining industry have also achieved and maintained successful compliance records. The culmination of these concerted efforts across the industry has resulted in the most successful mine reclamation and compliance record in the United States.

The commitment of industry to maintain a successful environmental compliance record and the highest level of environmental stewardship can be summarized with the following statement made by Robert Fitzgerald, Area Manager, North American Coal – Sabine Mine: “It is important that our environment be protected and that all rules and regulations shall be followed without exception.” In order to provide this commitment to the environment, a continual source of young, well-educated, environmental professionals must be added to the workforce.

I would encourage young people interested in getting involved in the environmental sector of the mining industry to focus on science and engineering fields. These fields range from geology and agriculture to civil and biological/agricultural engineering. Specialization in a single field should be tempered with general understanding of a wide range of disciplines. Planning and implementation of large scale environmental programs at mines requires extraordinary teamwork between widely diverse professions: mining engineers, civil engineers, surveyors, geologists, hydrologists, soil scientists, wildlife biologists, agronomists, and foresters. Interdisciplinary communication is an important facet of a successful environmental program. To that end, I would suggest that those interested in further pursuing environmental careers should participate in the many internship programs available across the industry.

“The mining industry in Texas successfully maintains the highest level of environmental stewardship and compliance in the United States. Our industry prides itself on being the best of the best in all facets of mining, and our environmental record is no exception.”
Corpus Christi, TX – December 12, 2012 - Uranium Energy Corp (NYSE MKT: UEC, the “Company”) is pleased to announce the appointment of former United States Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham as Chairman of the Company’s Advisory Board.

“We are delighted that Secretary Abraham has agreed to lead our Advisory Board as Chairman. He has been a strong advocate for the uranium and nuclear sectors both in government and in the private sector. His experience and knowledge of the industry will be extremely helpful in advancing the Company’s business objectives,” said Amir Adnani, President and CEO. “Secretary Abraham’s leadership will be valuable in navigating the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

Spencer Abraham served as a U.S. Senator from Michigan from 1995 to 2001 and served as Secretary of Energy from 2001 to 2005. Since 2005, Abraham has been the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Abraham Group, an international strategic consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. Abraham is an alumnus of Michigan State University and Harvard Law School. He currently serves on the board of Occidental Petroleum Corp. and was previously Chairman of Areva, Inc., the North America subsidiary of AREVA.

“I am pleased to be joining the Advisory Board of Uranium Energy Corp,” said Secretary Spencer Abraham. “The Company is well-recognized as an up-and-coming leader, and operates North America’s newest emerging uranium mine. With the recently received license for its second uranium mine to enter production, UEC possesses a strong growth profile. I am impressed by the experience and vision of the Company’s leadership and look forward to working with management and the other advisors.”

Held at the company park near Fairfield Lake, students attended hands-on seminars, enhancing their wildlife, soil identification and land reclamation knowledge. Nine workshop stations, led by various environmental groups and agencies, helped students boost their understanding of our natural resources, their role in energy production and the importance of environmental stewardship.

“We look forward to this event each year because it’s a unique learning opportunity that promotes awareness and education of our natural environment with students here in our local communities,” said Maggie Bonds, Big Brown Mine environmental spe-
cialist. “These students will one day be our future leaders, and it’s important that they have a solid understanding of environmental stewardship.”

For educators, this activity also plays a critical role in helping reinforce classroom and standardized testing concepts.

“ This workshop complements concepts that the students are learning in the classroom as part of the TEKS curriculum and concepts that they need to use for the fifth-grade STAAR test,” said Heather Stuver, Teague ISD fourth-grade science teacher. “Many of the kids learn best through a hands-on approach to education and this activity gives students direct access to learn about our natural resources.”

Luminant’s environmental team and five partnering agencies – Freestone County AgriLife Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Forest Service and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – provided instructors for all nine workshop stations.

This educational event is just one of many that illustrate the company’s continued dedication to environmental excellence.

Gillette, WY - February 2013 - L&H Industrial, headquartered in Gillette, WY, has been awarded a large manufacturing and equipment repair project from QinetiQ North America (QNA) on behalf of the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA). This project includes the machining and onsite assembly of components for Crawler Transporter #2, which will be a part of future space missions launched from Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Florida. “L&H Industrial is known for innovation, safety and manufacturing enhanced products for the mining industry so working with large equipment with complicated problems is just part of what we do,” explains L&H Project Manager, Bill Schroyer. “This project involved components familiar to us in the mining industry and our team pulled out all the stops in putting the proposal together. I am proud of the work that was done to make it happen.”

NASA’s twin crawler transporters were built in the 1960s. These slow-motion giants have since carried every Saturn V rocket for the Apollo moon missions and every space shuttle vehicle from the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) at KSC to Launch Complexes 39 “A” and “B” three and five miles away. The crawlers are the largest land transport vehicles on earth.

L&H began working on the proposal last March. A “mock-up” was fabricated to test the required machining times for line boring the crawler transporter lower roller bores and faces to the tolerances specified by NASA Ames Research Center. There are 88 sets of bores on each crawler transporter. Therefore, getting accurate machining times was critical. A demonstration shaft also was machined to show the ability to maintain a surface finish finer than that requested on the prints. A team of four machinists developed machining procedures and estimated times to manufacture more than 1300 major parts. Forging quotes were received, along with process control plans and heat treating plans. All of this information was used to estimate the total project time. The complete project was estimated to take 18 months, with four months of the time onsite at KSC.

There were three things that helped the
Gillette, Wyoming-based company win the contract, according to Schroyer. The team from NASA and QNA were impressed with L&H Industrial’s safety record, their customer service focus, and the “mock-up” of the crawler transporter that the project team built. “We are very pleased to have this opportunity and look forward to showing NASA and QNA our world class safety, people, products and services that we provide our customers whether they work for a mine around the globe or rehabilitating the crawlers which will transport the next spacecraft into space. It’s a very exciting project.”

HOLT Opens New Store In Laredo Texas, Gives Grant To Laredo Community College

San Antonio, TX - March 26, 2013 – HOLT CAT (holtcat.com), the Caterpillar® Equipment and Engine dealer for South, Central, North and North East Texas, has opened a new 24,000 square foot LEED gold certified facility in Laredo, Texas. The new facility is located in the Las Lomas Industrial Park on State Highway 359.

“We’re excited to be investing and expanding our capacities in the area with this new facility,” said J.K. Baxter, HOLT Senior Vice President, Machine Division, “This investment demonstrates our continued commitment to serving the customers of Webb and the surrounding counties, and we feel fortunate to be a part of this growing community since 1978.”
A grand opening to showcase this new facility occurred on Tuesday, March 26th. During the program, the Laredo Community College was presented with a grant check for the amount of $4,000 from HOLT CAT and the Caterpillar® Dealer Excellence Fund for professional and technical skills training.

“The goal of the Dealer Excellence Fund Program is to help schools develop state-the-art technical training programs,” said Shaun Manning, Director, HOLT ProTech Training.

TNT Promotes Lunsford To President

Houston, TX - April 24, 2013 - TNT Crane & Rigging, Inc. (“TNT”) is pleased to announce the promotion of Kregg Lunsford to President. Kregg has served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer since joining TNT last year and has led the strategic growth initiatives of the company including the acquisitions of Southway Crane & Rigging, TSD Crane & Rigging (“TSD”) and Greenergy Construction & Maintenance LLC.

Mike Appling, Chief Executive Officer of TNT said, “I am excited for the Company as Kregg moves into his new role as President. He has successfully executed our growth initiatives since joining the TNT team and has been an invaluable partner during the process. I am continuing as CEO and we will work closely together building our business. His past experience as a public company CFO and EVP of international operations brings a broad and deep skill set to the TNT management team and his leadership will drive our success into the future.”

Landscape Architects Honor The Sabine Mining Company

Austin, TX – May 2, 2013 - The Sabine Mining Company South Hallsville Mine was recognized with a Merit Award presented by the Texas State Chapter of The American Society of Landscape Architects at their annual meeting on May 2nd in Austin, TX. The award was given in recognition of outstanding professional achieve-
ment in environmental protection and land reclamation. About 550 acres are mined and reclaimed annually to produce more than four million tons of lignite coal for electrical power generation. Through careful planning, design and execution, The Sabine Mining Company has reclaimed thousands of acres of productive hay land, grazing land and timber since operations began in 1984. The South Hallsville Mine is located about 15 miles south of Hallsville, Texas.

The American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association representing landscape architects through chapters in every state. Their mission is to lead, to educate and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. The Sabine Mining Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of the North American Coal Corporation, headquartered in Plano, TX. A long-time member of TMRA, North American Coal is a recognized world leader in land reclamation following coal production.

Texas Coal: Past, Present and (Almost Certainly) Future

The Texas Comptroller’s Office recently published an online article called “Texas Coal: Past, Present and (Almost Certainly) Future”. The article, by Bruce Wright, provides an overview of the lignite coal mining and coal-fired generation industry in Texas, including challenges the industry faces and reasons why the industry is here to stay to support our state’s increasing energy needs. TMRA Executive Director Trey Powers is quoted, as is Dr. Terry L. Clower, Director of the Center for Economic Development and Research at the University of North Texas. Dr. Clower was the lead on a recent economic impact study on the coal industry in Texas.

A link to the full article can be found on the TMRA homepage, www.tmra.com.
TMRA Leadership

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Chairman – Greg Shurbet, AEP
Vice Chairman – Peter Luthiger, Mesteña
Treasurer – Mike Altavilla, Texas Westmoreland Coal Co.
Secretary – Chris Sumner, Lhoist North America
Past Chairman – Steve Eckert, Capitol Aggregates
Industrial Minerals Chair – James Gregory, American Talc Co.
Lignite Chairman – Joe Friedlander, North American Coal
Uranium Chairman – Craig Wall, Uranium Energy Corp.
Executive Director, Trey Powers – TMRA

TMRA Board of Directors
Harry Anthony - Uranium Energy Corporation
Mark Berend - NRG Energy
Sandy Bruce - Rio Grande Mining Company
Steve Eckert - Capitol Aggregates, LTD
Paul Goranson- Cameco Texas
Cecilia Green - Atkins
James Gregory - American Talc Company
Jan Horbaczewski - Texas Municipal Power Agency
Mack Jones - U.S. Silica Company
Mike Kezar - San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Denny Kingsley - Texas Westmoreland Coal Company
Marc LeVier - Texas Rare Earth Resources
Peter Luthiger - Mesteña Uranium, LLC
David Martin - Kiewit Mining Group
Gerry Pearson - Luminant Mining
Mark Pelizza - Uranium Resources, Inc.
Scott Perlet - HOLT CAT
Kevin Raabe - Rio Grande Resources, Corporation
Mark Russell - Russell & Sons Construction
Greg Shurbet - American Electric Power
Darrell Silverthorne - Marshall Mining, LLC
Adam Sinclair - Trinity Materials Company
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Rick Ziegler - North American Coal Corporation

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