



# coal

Issue 1 • 2021

# ENERGY

From the Mine to the Utility

## COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAMS

## SCALE ACT

## WORLD NEWS: WCA PARTNERS WITH ASEAN CENTRE FOR ENERGY

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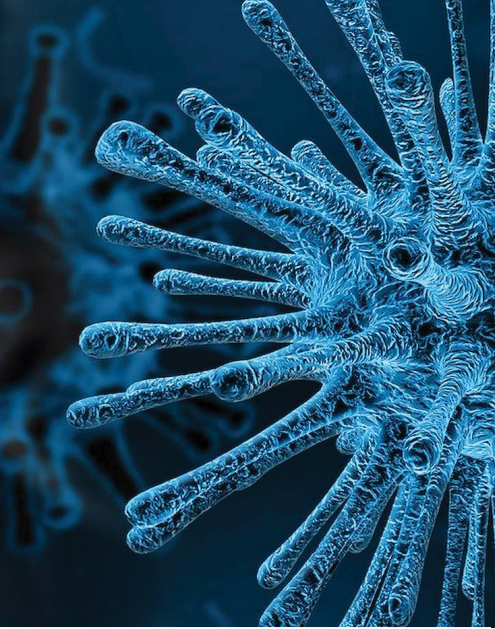
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Coal Energy is a magazine linking the 4 main coal associations and remembering miners who have sacrificed their lives working in the coal mining industry.



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# table of contents

## Features:

- 07 COVID-19 Prevention Programs
- 13 2020 Coal Miner's Memorial
- 22 SCALE Act

## Departments:

- 20 World News: WCA Partners with ASEAN Centre for Energy
- 37 Member Spotlights

## In every issue:

- 03 Letter from your Publisher
- 04 Association Comparisons
- 15 In the Press
- 28 Association Members
- 38 Industry Events
- 40 Index to Advertisers

COVID-19 Prevention Programs **7**



World News: WCA Partners with ASEAN Centre for Energy **20**

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PO Box 244322  
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Toll Free Phone: (866) 387-0967  
Toll Free Fax: (866) 458-6557

[info@martonickpublications.com](mailto:info@martonickpublications.com)  
[www.martonickpublications.com](http://www.martonickpublications.com)  
[www.coalenergyonline.com](http://www.coalenergyonline.com)

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### President:

Maria Martonick

### Vice President:

Steve Martonick

### Managing Editor:

A.J. Raleigh

### Research Coordinator:

Vivian Mofeed

### Contributing Writers:

Maria Martonick, Mathew Kandrach, Stacy MacIntyre, Erin Douglas, Matthew Gerber, Catie Kerns, Julie Gates

### Graphic Designer:

Natalia Filatkina



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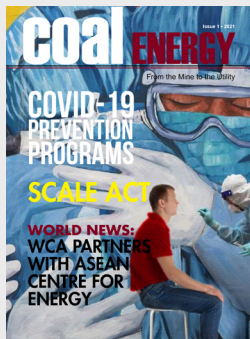
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# letter from THE PUBLISHER



APRIL 2021

Dear readers,

Welcome to Issue 1, 2021 of **Coal Energy**. **Coal Energy** is proud to be the source journal for information about coal related associations in the industry. We currently provide information at your fingertips on different groups to benefit your companies' needs and targets.

By providing information at a glance on each group, and including current member lists, your company can analyze the forums available to market, promote, and lobby for America's future regarding coal energy.

In this issue you can find articles on MSHA's updated guidance regarding COVID-19 and information about the SCALE Act. In our World News section we take a look at how the WCA has partnered with the ASEAN Centre for Energy on their key strategies to lower emission development.

Every year our writers gather information on the tragic loss of coal miners in the industry. MSHA's updates are included semi-annually as well as tributes and memorials to honor our fallen miner's. The memorial for 2020 will be included in the next issue. Please stay tuned to remember our nation's heroes that lost their lives to provide energy for America. Please take a moment of silence as you review information regarding these miners on page 13.

**Coal Energy** is also proud to be able to provide quick news updates gathered from various sources to create an easy wealth of industry information at the click of a button. From newly released equipment, to quarterly finance news, you can easily review important industry happenings in our press release section starting on page 15.

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And again, thank you for picking up, or clicking on, another edition of **Coal Energy**.

If you have any questions, editorial submissions, advertising interest or just comments about **Coal Energy** please feel free to email me directly at [maria@martonickpublications.com](mailto:maria@martonickpublications.com).

Warmest regards,

Maria Martonick

President

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# ASSOCIATION COMPARISONS



## THE NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION

### MISSION:

NMA's mission is to build support for public policies that will help Americans fully and responsibly benefit from our abundant domestic coal and mineral resources. Our objective is to engage in and influence the public process on the most significant and timely issues that impact mining's ability to safely and sustainably locate, permit, mine, transport and utilize the nation's vast resources.

### NMA serves its membership by:

- Promoting the safe production and use of coal and mineral resources
- Establishing a strong political presence in the Nation's Capital
- Serving as the information center for and a single voice of U.S. mining
- Addressing the current and future policy needs of U.S. mining, mining equipment manufacturers and support services members of NMA

<https://www.nma.org>

## NATIONAL COAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION

### MISSION:

To promote the safe, economical, and reliable transport of coal by facilitating communication among coal transport, allied industries and associations to maximize sharing of best-practices to serve the needs of industry and the public.

<https://movecoal.org>

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MINING AND RECLAMATION

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ASMR's mission is to represent and serve a diverse national and international community of scientists, practitioners, private industry, technicians, educators, planners, and government regulators involved in mineral extraction and the reclamation of disturbed lands. ASMR promotes the advancement of basic and applied reclamation science through research and technology transfer in the Society's annual meetings, workshops, published proceedings, newsletters, Reclamation Matters magazine, and the ASMR web site.

<https://www.asmr.us>

## AMERICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION

### MISSION:

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<https://www.acaa-usa.org>

## AMERICAN COAL COUNCIL

### MISSION:

American Coal Council (ACC) provides relevant educational programs, market intelligence, advocacy support and peer-to-peer networking forums to advance members' commercial and professional development interests.

ACC represents the collective interests of the American coal industry ~ from the hole-in-the-ground to the plug-in-the-wall ~ in advocating for coal as an economic, abundant and environmentally sound fuel source ACC serves as an essential resource for industry, policy makers and public interest groups. The Association supports activities and objectives that advance coal supply, consumption, transportation and trading.

<https://www.americancoalcouncil.org>

## WORLD COAL ASSOCIATION

### MISSION:

The World Coal Association is a global industry association comprising the major international coal producers and stakeholders. WCA works to demonstrate and gain acceptance for the fundamental role coal plays in achieving a sustainable and lower carbon energy future. Membership is open to companies and not-for-profit organizations with a stake in the future of coal from anywhere in the world, with member companies represented at Chief Executive level. WCA is the global network for the coal industry.

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# COVID-19 pandemic: MSHA issues updated guidance as ETS debate swirls

Arlington, VA — The Mine Safety and Health Administration has updated its guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure among workers at coal, metal and nonmetal mines.

Unveiled March 10, the guidance advises mine operators and workers to establish a virus protection program or augment an existing one. According to MSHA, the “most effective” programs call on operators and miners to:

Conduct a hazard assessment of the mine site.

Identify various measures that help limit the spread of COVID-19 in mines.

Adopt measures to ensure miners who are infected or potentially infected are separated and sent home.

Implement anti-retaliation measures for miners who raise concerns related to COVID-19.

The guidance also offers recommendations on the use of personal protective equipment, physical distancing strategies, improving ventilation, effective hygiene and routine cleaning. “The guidance is pretty straightforward, and we believe several aspects can be incorporated into your existing training plan, and it also contains recommendations as well as references to relevant MSHA safety and health standards that already exist,” acting MSHA administrator Jeannette Galanis said March 10 during a conference call with industry stakeholders. “The guidance is based on CDC guidelines and consistent with programs many of you were good enough to share with us.”

A majority of the Q&A session that followed the conference call addressed whether MSHA would proceed with a potential emergency temporary standard related to COVID-19. President Joe Biden on Jan. 21 signed an Executive Order directing OSHA and MSHA to consider ETSs related to COVID-19 and, if determined to be necessary, issue them by March 15.

Galanis and other agency officials said MSHA is continuing to explore whether an ETS is warranted, as MSHA remains in regular contact with OSHA.

Before asking the panel about which unanswered questions might still be giving MSHA pause in its assessment, Mike Wright, director of health, safety and environment at United Steelworkers, reiterated his support for enacting an ETS. In June, the United Mine Workers of America and USW sued the Department of Labor and MSHA in an effort to compel MSHA to issue an ETS. And in February, bipartisan legislation with the same goal was reintroduced in the House and Senate.

“There are some of us who really believe that there ought to be an emergency temporary standard,” Wright said. “The guidelines are voluntary, and we’ve found that the problem with voluntary guidelines is that although many mine operators will take them as guidance, the problem with voluntary guidelines is not everybody volunteers, and their workers

deserve the same level of protection as mine operators who do the right thing.”

In response to Wright’s question, Galanis said the agency’s concerns center not on “politics or anything; it’s more policy and the mining environment.” For example, she said, MSHA is weighing how broad or “surgical” officials should be in addressing matters such as mine environments in which respirators aren’t needed or proper ventilation isn’t assumed.

Additionally, Galanis identified uneven contact tracing data and protocol as a complication, saying that contact tracing “hasn’t been that great in large swaths of the country, and so how do you set up a standard when we can’t even prove where the virus came from?”

During the conclusion of her remarks, Galanis noted that amid the pandemic, MSHA in 2020 conducted 37,114 onsite mine inspections – a slight decrease from the 37,656 inspections completed the year before.

“In the last seven weeks, it’s been a mishmash of standards, plus dealing with our own workforce and setting up policies within the DOL for our own workforce and at MSHA,” Galanis said. “So, we’re getting there. I’m not sure that the mining industry or DOL needs to make any more compelling arguments for or against an ETS. I just think that we are a very small front-office agency in comparison to an OSHA, and we are making decisions as fast as we can.”

In a press release, UMWA President Cecil Roberts calls the updated guidance “a significant step in the right direction” while imploring MSHA to take the next step.

“MSHA needs to build on this guidance and quickly issue an enforceable standard that applies to all mines and miners, whether they are union members or not,” he said. “The agency also needs to keep accurate statistics on the incidence of COVID-19 in America’s mines, so that a clear picture of the disease in our workplaces can be seen and acted upon.”



# Elements for a COVID-19 Prevention Program

Under the Mine Act, mine operators, with the assistance of the miners, have the primary responsibility to prevent the existence of unsafe and unhealthful conditions and practices at mines. Operators should implement a COVID-19 prevention program in the mine. Prevention programs are the most effective way to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at work.

The most effective COVID-19 prevention programs engage miners and their representatives in the program's development and implementation at every step, and should include the following elements, as applicable to the unique conditions at the mine site:

- 1 Identify a mine coordinator** who will be responsible for COVID-19 issues on the operator's behalf, and who will regularly communicate with the miners' representative or other direct contacts for miners.
- 2 Identify where and how miners might be exposed to COVID-19 at work.** This includes a thorough assessment of the mine site to identify potential hazards related to COVID-19. These assessments are most effective when they involve miners and miners' representatives, because they are often most familiar with the conditions they face.
- 3 Identify measures that will limit the spread of COVID-19.** This should include hazard removal, engineering controls, administrative controls, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other measures, prioritizing controls from most to least effective, to protect miners from COVID-19



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hazards. Key examples, discussed in additional detail below, include:

- Minimize the hazard by separating and sending home infected or potentially infected people from the mine;
- Ensure miners complete isolation or quarantine as appropriate;
- Provide information and resources regarding COVID-19 vaccines;
- Implement physical distancing in communal work areas (e.g., limiting the number of miners on hoists, personnel carriers, or other transport vehicles at any one time);
- Suppress the spread of the hazard using face masks when respirators are not required;
- Improve ventilation;
- Use appropriate PPE to protect miners from exposure;
- Provide necessary supplies for good hygiene practices; and
- Perform routine and enhanced cleaning and disinfection as appropriate.

**4 Consider protections for miners at higher risk for severe illness through supportive policies and practices.** People of any age who have certain underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Miners with disabilities may be legally entitled to reasonable accommodations (e.g., temporary reassignment to a less-populated work area or to duties with minimal in-person contact) that protect them from the risk of contracting COVID-19. Where feasible, operators should consider reasonable accommodations for certain miners identified as high-risk, such as Part 90 miners.

**5 Educate and train miners on your COVID-19 policies and procedures using accessible formats and in a language they understand.** Mine operators must communicate supportive policies clearly, frequently, in plain language that miners understand (including non-English language and other accessible communication methods, if applicable), and via multiple methods to miners, contractors, and any other individuals on site, as appropriate, to promote a safe and healthy mine. Communications should include:

- Basic facts about COVID-19, including how it is spread and the importance of physical distancing, use of face masks, and hand hygiene;
- Policies and procedures implemented to protect miners from COVID-19 hazards, including a method for miners to report COVID-19 symptoms, possible COVID-19 exposures, and possible COVID-19 hazards in the mine (and set forth in the operator's COVID-19 prevention program); and
- Some means of tracking which miners have been informed and when.

In addition, ensure that miners understand their rights to a safe and healthful work environment, whom to contact with questions or concerns about safety and health, and their right to raise safety and health concerns free of retaliation. Ensure supervisors and managers are familiar with human resources policies and procedures.

**6 Instruct miners who are infected or potentially infected to stay home and isolate or quarantine to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.** Ensure that absence policies are flexible and non-punitive. Policies that directly or inadvertently encourage miners to come to work sick or when they have been exposed to COVID-19 are strongly discouraged because they increase the likelihood of COVID-19 exposures. Operators should consider implementing pre-shift screening for miners to complete prior to entering the mine setting.

**7 Minimize negative impacts of quarantine and isolation on miners.** While often not practicable in a mining setting, if possible, allow workers to work remotely when their job duties allow. If this is not possible, allow miners to use paid sick leave, if available, or consider implementing paid leave policies to reduce risk for everyone at the mine.

The Tax Relief Act of 2020 provides certain employers 100% reimbursement through tax credits to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19 through March 31, 2021.

**8 Isolate miners who show symptoms at work.** Miners who appear to have symptoms upon arrival at work or who develop symptoms during their work shift should immediately be separated from other miners, customers, and visitors, sent home, and encouraged to seek medical attention.

**9 Perform enhanced cleaning and disinfection after people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 have been in the mine setting.** If someone who has been at the mining operation is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, follow the CDC cleaning and disinfection recommendations. This can include:

- **Closing areas** used or occupied by the potentially infected person for enhanced cleaning;
- **Opening outside doors and windows** to increase air circulation in the area, where applicable, if feasible;
- **Waiting as long as practicable** before cleaning or disinfecting (24 hours is optimal);
- Cleaning and disinfecting **all immediate work areas and equipment used by the potentially infected person**, such as offices, bathrooms, shared tools or equipment, and tables or work surfaces.
  - Vacuuming the space if needed and practicable. Use a vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available. Wait until the room or space is unoccupied to vacuum;
  - **Providing miners engaged in cleaning or disinfecting with appropriate disposable gloves.** Additional PPE (e.g., safety glasses, goggles, aprons, respirators) might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash. Cleaning products should be used in accordance with manufacturer's guidance.
    - After cleaning, **disinfecting the surface with an appropriate EPA-registered disinfectant on List N: Disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19;**
    - MSHA's Hazard Communication (HazCom) standards set forth in **30 CFR Part 47** remain applicable for hazard communication and PPE appropriate for exposure to cleaning chemicals.

Once the area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use. Miners who did not have close contact with the potentially infected person can return to the area immediately after disinfection.

If it has been more than 7 days since the infected person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. Continue routine cleaning and disinfection, as described above.

**10 Provide guidance on screening and testing.** Follow state or local guidance and priorities for screening and viral testing in mines. Testing may be arranged through a company's occupational health provider or in consultation with the local or state health department. Operators should inform miners of testing requirements, if any, and availability of testing options. CDC has published strategies for consideration of incorporating viral testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, into COVID-19 preparedness, response, and control programs.

Note: Performing screening or health checks is not a replacement for other protective measures such as face masks and physical distancing. Asymptomatic individuals or individuals with mild non-specific symptoms may not realize they are infected and may not be detected through screening.



**11 Record and report COVID-19 infections and deaths.** Operators are responsible for recording work-related cases of COVID-19 illness on their Form 7000-1 if the following requirements are met: (1) the case is a confirmed case of COVID-19; (2) the case is an occupational illness (as defined by 30 CFR 50.2(f)); and (3) the case involves one or more relevant recording criteria (e.g., medical treatment, days away from work).

Operators must follow the requirements in 30 CFR 50.20 and 50.20-1 when reporting. More information is available on MSHA's website. Operators should also report outbreaks to health departments as required and support their contact tracing efforts.

Operators also may consider recording all worker cases of and exposures to COVID-19 in a separate log for contact-tracing and training purposes. Additional information about contact tracing may be available from local public health departments.

Of significant note: MSHA recommends that operators make every effort to maintain the confidentiality of information related to a miner's COVID-19-positive status—even in cases where it may be obvious that a certain employee has tested positive or is in quarantine.

**12 Implement protections from retaliation and an anonymous process for miners to voice concerns about COVID-19-related hazards.** Under the provisions of Section 105(c)(1) of the Mine Act, miners, miners' representatives, and applicants for employment are protected from retaliation for engaging in safety and/or health related activities, such as identifying health or safety hazards, asking for MSHA inspections, or refusing to engage in an unsafe act. This includes, for example, a miner, miners' representative, or applicant for employment raising a concern about infection control related to COVID-19 to the operator, the operator's agent, or miners' representative.

In addition to notifying miners of their rights to a safe and healthful work environment, operators should ensure that miners know where and how to raise questions or concerns about safety and health, and that there are prohibitions against retaliation for raising safety and health concerns or engaging in other protected activities. Also consider using a hotline or other method for miners to voice concerns anonymously.

**13 To the extent possible, consider making a COVID-19 vaccine or vaccination series available at no cost to all eligible employees.** Provide information and training on the benefits and safety of vaccinations. Operators may also consider permitting miners to attend vaccination appointments during their regularly scheduled shift to expedite the process.

**14 Treat vaccinated miners the same as those who are not vaccinated:** Miners who are vaccinated must continue to follow all protective measures, such as wearing a face mask and remaining physically distant. At this time, there is incomplete evidence about the ability of COVID-19 vaccines to prevent transmission of the virus from person-to-person. The CDC explains that experts need to understand more about the protection provided by COVID-19 vaccines before changing the recommendation on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

**15 Other applicable MSHA Standards:** There are numerous health and safety standards that may be used to address COVID-19. Mine operators are required to abate the health and safety hazards addressed by the following standards:

- Sanitation requirements: 30 CFR 56.20003(a), 30 CFR 57.20003(a), 30 CFR 56.20008(b), 57.20008(b), 71.402 and 75.1712-3;
- Training requirements: 30 CFR 46.1-12, 48.3, 48.11; 48.23; and 48.31
- Workplace examinations: 30 CFR 56.18002, 57.18002, 77.1713, 75.360, .361, .362, .364;
- Safeguards: 30 U.S.C. 874(b) and 30 CFR 75.1403;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): 30 CFR 56.15006, 57.15006, and 72.701.

## PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR COAL ENERGY'S MEMORIAL TO HONOR OUR BRAVE COAL MINERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE INDUSTRY IN 2020

1. James D Campbell, 50, February 27th 2020
2. Douglas Slusher, 48, October 9th 2020
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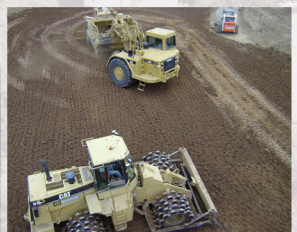
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# PRESS RELEASES

## NTEC Provides Reliability During Unprecedented Weather Crisis

/ Broomfield, CO. February 18, 2021

During this unprecedented national weather crisis and resulting energy outages Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) is providing reliable energy resources to our customers as they operate critical power infrastructure across our country. As we watch subzero temperatures roll across the U.S., our thoughts are with the families suffering. NTEC is proud of our coal miners - supporting our utility customers with a reliable supply of coal as they work around the clock to keep families safe and warm.

As other sources of electricity generation are hobbled by freezing temperatures, coal is a dependable and critical resource in the urgent efforts to power our communities. Many of NTEC's power utility customers have reported coal generation surging and operating at full capacity, despite electricity grids having limited coal assets remaining. Regional electricity grid operators are also reporting that more than 50% of electricity generation in their region is being produced by coal.

We know a balanced energy portfolio is critical to the health and safety of our nation. This crisis highlights coal's place as a reliable baseload electricity generation resource as the world deploys more stable renewable energy sources.

As NTEC looks toward the future, we are actively diversifying our own energy portfolio with rare earth minerals, solar power, and effective energy storage. But, today, and into the future, our legacy coal products will be there to keep homes warm, hospitals powered, and economies moving.

"We have been in contact with our customers since this crisis started, and we will continue to stand by them with the solutions needed to power and heat America during this difficult challenge," said Matt Babcock, VP of Sales & Marketing.

### About NTEC

NTEC is an autonomous single member limited liability company, organized under the laws of the Navajo Nation, that owns mines in Montana, New

Mexico, and Wyoming. The mission of NTEC is to be a reliable, safe producer of coal, while diversifying the Navajo Nation's energy resources to create economic sustainability for the Nation and the Navajo people. NTEC's sole shareholder is the Navajo Nation.

NTEC is a recognized leader in safety and reclamation, having been awarded the Sentinels of Safety award from the National Mining Association, the Good Neighbor Award from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and the 2019 Excellence in Reclamation award by the New Mexico Mining Association. For more information about NTEC, visit [www.navajo-tec.com](http://www.navajo-tec.com).

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## Peabody's Board Of Directors Announces CEO Transition Plan / ST. LOUIS,

March 18, 2021 /PRNewswire/

Today, the Peabody Board of Directors announced that the company and Glenn Kellow, President and CEO, have entered into a leadership transition agreement as part of its succession planning process. Under this agreement, Mr. Kellow will be leaving the company by Aug. 31, 2021. The Board has underway a comprehensive search process to identify Mr. Kellow's successor. While this search is underway, Mr. Kellow will continue in his current role, including as a Board member, until a successor has been appointed, which is intended to be before Aug. 31, 2021.

"On behalf of the board of directors, I'd like to thank Glenn for his tireless commitment to Peabody and its employees, shareholders, stakeholders and communities it serves over the past six years," said Peabody Non-Executive Chairman Bob Malone. "Glenn led the company through very difficult times and has put in place a strong team moving forward. We appreciate Glenn's commitment to continue to lead the company and to facilitate a smooth and orderly transition as the board progresses its search process for Peabody's next CEO."

"During my time at Peabody, I've had the privilege of working with some of the best people in the industry and remain committed to their and the company's future success," said Peabody President and CEO Glenn Kellow. "I am proud of what the Peabody team has accomplished

and look forward to working closely with the Board and my successor to ensure a seamless transition."

Glenn joined Peabody in 2013, bringing over three decades of experience in the global resources industry, and was appointed President and CEO in 2015. In addition to continuing in his current role during the transition period, Glenn has also agreed to provide consulting support to the company's next CEO for a period of up to one-year. The company will be filing a Form 8-K today with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission containing the agreement with Mr. Kellow.

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# In the Wake of the Texas Power Crisis, Voters Want the U.S. to Maintain Fuel Diversity to Support Reliability / March 3, 2021

WASHINGTON – The National Mining Association (NMA) today released polling that shows seven in 10 voters – including a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents – support maintaining baseload, on-demand power plants, such as coal plants, to support the reliable supply of electricity. The polling was conducted by Morning Consult, Feb. 25-27, 2021, of 1,980 registered voters and carries a +/-2 percent margin of error.

“Questions remain about how we can safeguard against a repeat of the Texas grid crisis but several certainties have emerged,” said Rich Nolan, NMA President and CEO. “No fuel is immune to impacts from extreme weather but fuel diversity helps guard against catastrophic failures. Incentivizing fuel sources that can be stored on-site at power plants and dispatched whenever needed is an important insurance policy for a grid that will be increasingly based on variable power in the future.”

According to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), the grid’s deepest frequency dip was just over four minutes; had the grid’s

frequency remained at that level for nine minutes or more, the grid was at risk of a system-wide shutdown that could have had deeper and longer-term repercussions. All fuel sources that were available were needed.

In just the last few years, Texas has lost roughly 5GW of critically important coal capacity through early retirements. The recent crisis exposes why a thoughtful, informed transition that better values fuel diversity and the fuel security provided by coal generation is so important.

Overreliance on one dispatchable fuel is an increasingly concerning vulnerability policymakers and regulators must address. As the International Energy Agency found in its analysis of the crisis, “The decline in natural gas supplies to the ERCOT market area effectively led to the shut-in of an estimated 31 GW gas-fired power generation capacity on 15 February and was the main reason for the capacity shortfall.”

The NMA also released a video highlighting the serious reliability issues raised by the situation in Texas.

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## Bankruptcy Court ruling against Consol a victory for former Murray Energy miners, retirees / February 3, 2021

### Bankruptcy Court ruling against Consol a victory for former Murray Energy miners, retirees

[TRIANGLE, VA.] Commenting on Monday’s ruling by the Ohio federal Bankruptcy Court overseeing the bankruptcy of the former Murray Energy which denied Consol Energy’s attempt to overturn the bankruptcy case, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

“The Court’s decision means that Consol cannot shed its liabilities under the Coal Act in another company’s bankruptcy proceeding. That was the right decision and it validates the work the UMWA and our Local Unions did to preserve the jobs of nearly 2,000 of our members in that bankruptcy.

“Let’s be clear about this: Consol’s meddling in this bankruptcy case was a blatant attempt to keep a successful company from emerging from the Murray bankruptcy. It was trying to destroy the jobs of those 2,000 miners. That failed. It was trying to get out of its obligation to thousands of retirees under the Coal Act. That failed, too.

“Now Consol needs to live up to its obligation under the law and ensure that these retirees – all of whom worked for Consol – get the health care it promised them and they earned through decades of incredibly hard work.”



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## MSHA COVID-19 guidance a good first step to keep miners safe at work / March 10, 2021

[TRIANGLE, VA.] Commenting on the issuance today by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) of COVID-19 guidance for American mine operators to follow, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement:

“The UMWA has been calling for federal action to help protect miners at work from contracting COVID-19 for a year. Unfortunately, our voice fell on deaf ears in the previous administration, and the results are clear. Thousands of our members were exposed to the virus at work, hundreds contracted it and took it home to their families, and some died. Much of that would have been prevented had the previous administration put worker safety first.

“The guidance issued today by MSHA is a significant step in the right direction, and our international safety team and local union safety committees will be demanding meetings with operators of the mines where we represent the

workers to discuss this as soon as possible. But much more needs to be done.

“MSHA needs to build on this guidance and quickly issue an enforceable standard that applies to all mines and miners, whether they are union members or not. The agency also needs to keep accurate statistics on the incidence of COVID-19 in America’s mines, so that a clear picture of the disease in our workplaces can be seen and acted upon.

“But regulatory standards issued by one administration can be reversed by another. That is why it is critical for Congress to pass the bipartisan legislation that has been introduced in both houses of Congress, the COVID-19 Mine Workers Protection Act, which will cement standards for this and any future infectious disease epidemic that may arise into the law. I urge Congress to act as soon as possible to pass this legislation and send it to the President.”

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*World News:*

# WCA PARTNERS WITH ASEAN CENTRE FOR ENERGY

Energy security and economic growth are critical considerations for the many developing nations of the ASEAN region. Coal and clean coal technologies are central to this achievement.

The World Coal Association and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) are partnering to educate our global community on the relevance of coal.

We are working with the ACE under the framework of ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) Phase II: 2021-2025, where Coal and Clean Coal Technology (CCT) is one of the programme areas, with a focus on energy transition and energy resiliency. We are supporting ASEAN on their key strategy 'To optimise the role of CCT in facilitating the transition towards sustainable and lower emission development'.

Together we are working on informing key stakeholders on the importance of clean coal deployment, a sustainable regional coal market, and how through technology, innovation, and collaboration, both economic and development goals can be achieved.

## OUR MOU IS BASED ON THREE MAIN STUDIES

1. Comparative analysis of value-adjusted levelised production costs and CO<sub>2</sub> abatement costs for Southeast Asia.
2. Role of the Coal-Value Chain in Delivering on the SDGs in ASEAN.
3. Macroeconomic and Distributional Value of Carbon Capture Use and Storage in ASEAN. These studies are based on the UN's 2030 Action Agenda on Sustainable Development and form a key element of our collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Energy, aiming to inform policy decisions in the ASEAN region.

## COAL IS A VITAL ENERGY SOURCE IN THE ASEAN REGION

Many countries around the world will continue to rely on coal for their abundance, reliability, and



affordability. Coal will play a vital role as part of a sustainable future, particularly for countries across the ASEAN region. According to the 6th ASEAN Energy Outlook (AEO6) that was published by ACE, in 2040, coal will provide 39% of electricity in Southeast Asia. Given the substantial role for coal well into the future, it is imperative that the most efficient technologies are used, such as High-Efficiency Low Emissions (HELE), biomass-coal co-combustion, coal upgrading, and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS).

Our partnership with the ASEAN Centre for Energy is about advocating and promoting the opportunities for coal, clean coal technologies and future innovation.

## COLLABORATION IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGIES

Many ASEAN member states are demonstrating their clear commitment to deploying efficiency solutions including HELE and coal upgrading technologies which can materially reduce emissions while ensuring affordable energy for economic development and address energy poverty. Moving forward, we are also expecting to see the use of biomass-coal co-combustion and CCUS many more countries are interested to develop these technologies.

We recognise the need for a pragmatic, solution-focused, and balanced approach to giving us the best opportunity to achieve global economic and environmental goals.

With the ASEAN Centre for Energy, we seek to work with governments, academes, investors, and key industry players to uphold global expectations and ensure that all policies are inclusive of all fuels and all technologies.

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## UMWA statement on introduction of SCALE Act / March 17, 2021

[TRIANGLE, VA.] Commenting on the introduction of the Storing CO<sub>2</sub> and Lowering Emissions Act (SCALE Act), United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

“The SCALE Act is a key component of the infrastructure that will be required to develop and deploy Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology as widely as possible, and the UMWA is wholeheartedly in support. This is one of the first critical steps needed to dramatically reduce carbon emissions while creating new jobs and preserving existing coal jobs into the future.

“Congress must build on this legislation by significantly increasing the resources needed to further develop CCS technology for commercial-scale applications so that we can deploy this game-changing technology at coal-fired power plants within the next 10 years. Hundreds of thousands of coalfield jobs depend on it, millions of American citizens will benefit from it. Let’s get this done.”

“

The SCALE Act is a key component of the infrastructure that will be required to develop and deploy Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) technology as widely as possible, and the UMWA is wholeheartedly in support.



**CECIL E. ROBERTS, PRESIDENT**  
*United Mine Workers of America*





## The SCALE Act:

The Storing CO<sub>2</sub> and lowering Emissions (SCALE) Act includes key policy pillars designed to overcome the barriers and drive CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure deployment in the U.S.:

- The Secure Geologic Storage Infrastructure Development Program will build upon the CarbonSAFE program to provide DOE cost share for commercial CO<sub>2</sub> storage hubs.
- Increased funding for EPA Class VI CO<sub>2</sub> storage well permitting, and grants for states to establish their own Class VI permitting programs, to ensure rigorous and efficient permitting of CO<sub>2</sub> storage sites.
- A DOE Front-End Engineering and Design (FEED) program to provide grants for a critical early step to moving projects forward, similar to existing FEED grants for carbon capture technologies.
- The CO<sub>2</sub> Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (CIFIA) program will finance shared CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure. Modeled on the successful TIFIA and WIFIA programs for highway and water infrastructure, CIFIA will provide flexible, low-interest loans for CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure projects and grants for initial excess capacity on new infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

Together, these programs would enable companies and states to develop this essential infrastructure for a low carbon economy. The SCALE Act will reduce the chicken-and-egg challenge, and ensure that CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure is built at efficient scale to enable accelerated and widespread carbon capture deployment.

Deploying CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure will enable key sectors of our economy to dramatically reduce their carbon emissions while sustaining and growing domestic industry, manufacturing, and energy production and the high-wage American jobs they support.

## The SCALE Act would:



Enable infrastructure to achieve net-zero emissions



Create **13,000** direct and indirect jobs per year

[View SCALE Act jobs report](#)



Accelerate investment in the decarbonization of emissions-intensive industries and carbon removal, creating even more jobs along the carbon capture value chain



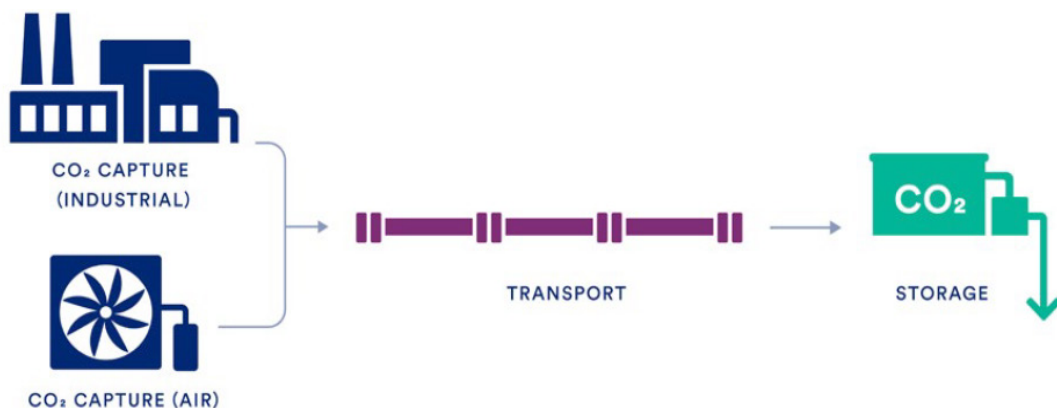
## Carbon Capture's Importance for Industrial Emissions Decarbonization and Carbon Removal:

Carbon capture, transport, removal, and storage technologies are critical for achieving economy-wide net-zero emissions by mid-century, according to analyses by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) and the International Energy Agency.

Carbon capture, removal, and storage have an essential role in capturing emissions from indispensable industries like steel, cement, plastics, and fertilizer production that have inherent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in their production processes, have few other mitigation options, and account for around a quarter of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In addition, [Direct Air Capture must be deployed at large-scale in the coming decades](#) amongst a portfolio of carbon removal technologies to [remove CO<sub>2</sub> directly from the atmosphere](#) to balance emissions that are either infeasible or more expensive to mitigate, and to reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.

Infrastructure must be built to transport captured industrial and atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, and geological storage infrastructure is needed to permanently and safely store the CO<sub>2</sub>.



## The Importance of Shared CO<sub>2</sub> Transport and Storage Infrastructure:

Interconnected CO<sub>2</sub> transport systems that collect CO<sub>2</sub> from multiple capture sources and deliver it to shared CO<sub>2</sub> storage sites, or 'hubs', are the key backbone infrastructure needed for widespread carbon capture deployment at the necessary scale. Multiple analyses, including [Princeton's Net-Zero America](#) study, the Decarb America Project, and work by [DOE](#) and the [Great Plains Institute](#), have found that a significant buildout of CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure is necessary for the U.S. to achieve net-zero emissions, starting now and working towards 2030.

Pipelines are the dominant mode of CO<sub>2</sub> transport, although shipping and rail can be feasible options in certain circumstances. The U.S. has 5,000 miles of existing CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines in limited regions (compared with over 300,000 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines) that were developed over the past 50 years primarily to transport CO<sub>2</sub> from natural geologic sources to oil fields for use in CO<sub>2</sub> enhanced oil recovery. These pipelines are regulated by PHMSA and

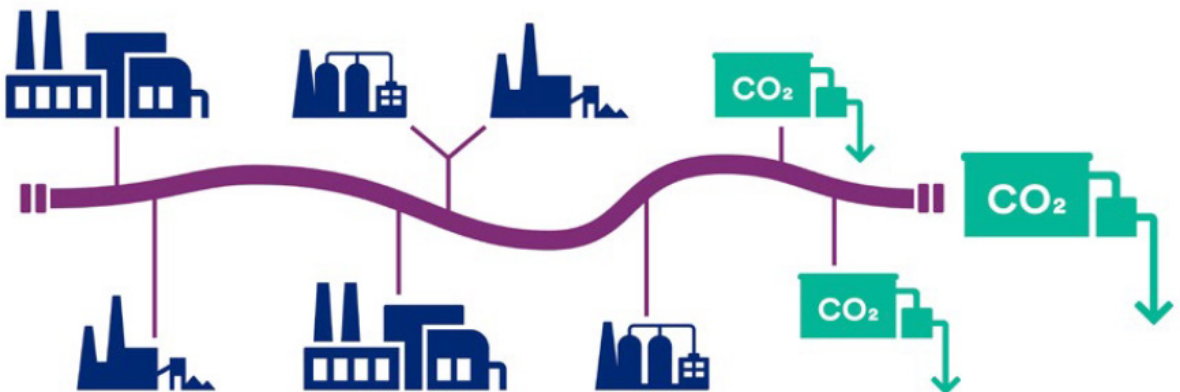
have operated safely and reliably with no significant environmental or safety incidents.

Industry has decades of experience safely storing CO<sub>2</sub> through enhanced oil recovery in the U.S. and at several dedicated geological storage sites around the world. However, only one commercial-scale dedicated CO<sub>2</sub> storage site exists in the U.S. today. Several more are under development through the DOE CarbonSAFE program, but a far larger scale-up is needed.

Similar to existing rail, highway, power, water, and gas infrastructure for their respective industries, CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure facilitates carbon capture deployment in three key ways:

- Enabling more CO<sub>2</sub> capture from more places: not all regions of the U.S. have suitable geology for storage, so CO<sub>2</sub> must be transported to regions that do. Storage hubs in suitable regions can store CO<sub>2</sub> from numerous sources in a wide area.
- Realizing economies of scale: CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure have strong economies of scale, whereby larger infrastructure handling greater CO<sub>2</sub> volume has lower unit cost per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. Aggregating more CO<sub>2</sub> from more sources decreases transport and storage costs, which in turn enables more carbon capture deployment.
- Connectivity: creating a CO<sub>2</sub> market, lowering risk. Shared CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure systems will connect multiple buyers and sellers of CO<sub>2</sub>. Such markets would decrease the demand or supply risk for any individual capture, utilization, or storage project, thereby reducing financing risk premiums and the total cost of carbon capture. Connectivity would also unleash the power of markets to drive innovation in technology and business models, inevitably accelerating carbon capture deployment.

Planning for future needs and investing in larger-capacity transport and storage infrastructure today will have significant benefits for accelerating future carbon capture deployment. The Great Plains Institute found that a system built with initial excess capacity could transport over double the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> for only 16% higher total capital cost, and that "federal support for future-proofing pipeline capacity through 'super-sizing' will drastically reduce costs as well as land use and environmental impact of CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure."





## Barriers for Deployment:

Despite its importance, deployment of CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure faces critical barriers that require federal support to be overcome:

- **Cost.** The Section 45Q tax credit enables economic CO<sub>2</sub> capture from many sources, but the credit value is not high enough to also fund major new CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure to support each individual capture project.

- **A chicken-and-egg challenge.** CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure must exist, or at least be certain to be built, before CO<sub>2</sub> capture projects can be committed. But the CO<sub>2</sub> capture projects must also exist or be certain before the transport and storage infrastructure can be committed.

- **Building for future demand.** CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure should be built with excess capacity to realize economies of scale and enable future growth, but initial CO<sub>2</sub> capture projects must bear the cost of the infrastructure and cannot pay for over-sized infrastructure unless additional support is provided.

Over 30 new carbon capture projects have been announced since Congress passed the revised Section 45Q tax credit for carbon oxide storage in 2018, showing the viability and potential of carbon capture. However, all of these projects are located either near existing CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure or on top of the best geology for storage where transport infrastructure is not needed. No new shared CO<sub>2</sub> transport or storage infrastructure has been announced, owing to these critical barriers. The lack of CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure is preventing many carbon capture projects that would be economically feasible today.

## Policy Support Already Exists Outside the United States:

The barriers above have been faced by other new industries and similar infrastructure systems like rail, highways, power, and water infrastructure. Government policy support played a major role in their successful deployment, and the federal government currently has active loan programs for each of these types of infrastructure. The need for similar enabling government policy support for CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure is being recognized and acted upon by governments around the world:

- The Alberta Carbon Trunk Line, a shared CO<sub>2</sub> transport system with significant excess capacity, was completed in 2020, enabled by \$550 million funding from the Canadian and Alberta governments.



- The European Commission recently announced €135 million in funding to progress six CO2 transport and storage network projects in five European countries.
- The Norwegian government recently committed more than \$2 billion in funding for the Northern Lights shared CO2 transport and storage project in the North Sea and two associated CO2 capture projects.
- The UK established an £1 billion CCS infrastructure fund to support the development of CO2 transport and storage hubs. Multiple hubs are under development, including Net Zero Teeside and Zero Carbon Humber.
- Australian governments are funding development of multiple transport and storage hubs and leading the development of the CarbonNet project.

The U.S. currently does not have any equivalent policy for supporting deployment of shared CO2 transport and storage infrastructure. The DOE CarbonSAFE program is funding exploration and development for CO2 storage sites, but it is well below the scale necessary. The 2015 DOE Quadrennial Energy Review recommended financial incentives for CO2 transport infrastructure, but no such funding has been enacted.

Congress' enactment of the Section 45Q tax credit created a world-leading policy providing American innovators and investors with an incentive for financing carbon capture technologies. However, the lack of complementary federal support for CO2 transport and storage infrastructure puts our nation at risk of falling behind the countries that have recently made substantial CO2 infrastructure financing commitments.



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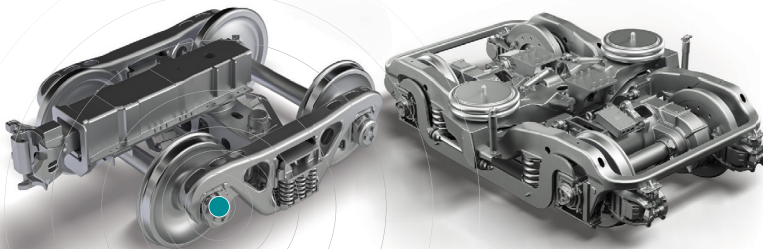
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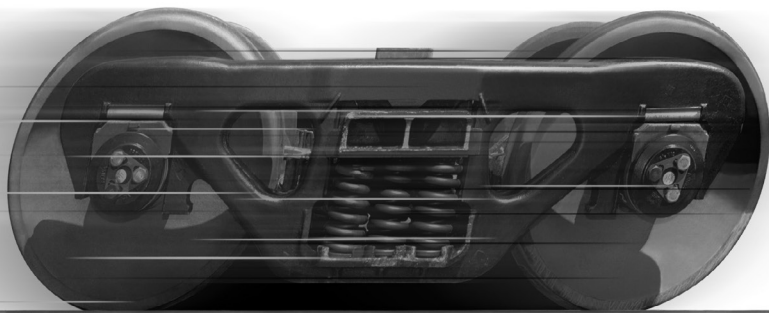
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Mike Meehan, Vice President  
Fletcher Dennis, General Manager  
of Coal Supply*

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Jim Barker, Executive Vice President  
Matt Mazefsky, General Counsel*

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*Lorali Simon, VP External Affairs  
Lisa Herbert, Vice President-Public  
Relations. Robert Brown, VP  
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*Sturm, VP Sales & Marketing Paul  
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*Jim Dalton, Manager, Fuel Supply  
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*Trevor Pettus, Manager, Trading*

*Energy Marketing & Trading  
Jeff Jones, Sr. Manager, Energy &  
Fuels Trading*

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*Angie Rissman, Coal Procurement  
Manager Brian Gallaway, Executive  
Director Fossil Fuel Supply*

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*Ben Baughan, Senior Market  
Originator*

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*Christy Wicke, Exec Dir. Generation  
Optimization and Corporate Fuel  
Supply. David Hicks, Director-  
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Procurement  
Shaun Grayson, Staff Fuels Specialist*

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*Charlie Bullinger, Senior Principal  
Engineer*

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*Dan Hartzell, Fuels Analyst, Senior  
LGE-KU Services Co.*

*Caryl Pfeiffer, Director Corporate  
Fuels & By- Products*

*Delbert Billiter, Manager Fuels Risk*

#### **Lafarge Holcim US Inc.**

*Christian Dueweke, Regional Energy  
Manager- Fuels*

#### **Lakeland Electric**

*Ken Riddle, Supervisor of Chemical  
Processess. Tory Bombard, Fuels*

#### **Manager**

#### **Luminant**

*Randall Talley, Director Fuel &  
Emissions Trading. Lee Adams,  
Manager Coal Trading*

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*Peggi Allenback, Director,  
Market Operations, Trading,  
and Transaction Origination.*

*Dave Halligan, Coal Portfolio &  
Transportation*

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#### **NRG Energy, Inc.**

*Ginny Farrow, Portfolio Director-  
Coal and Oil*

**Nebraska Public Power District**

*Gary Stuchal, Director of Fuels*

**Newmont Nevada Energy Investment LLC**

*John Seeliger, Regional Energy Manager*

**Northern Indiana Public Service Company**

*John Wagner, Manager - Fuel Supply*

**Omaha Public Power District**

*Ernie Parra, Fuels Supply Manager*

**Platte River Power Authority**

*Heather Banks, Fuels and Water Manager*

**PowerSouth Energy Cooperative**

*Ron Graham, Vice President, Power Supply*

**Salt River Project**

*Bobby Olsen, Director, Supply Trading & Fuels*

*Bill Marozzi, Lead Fuel Supply Analyst*

**Sandy Creek Services, LLC**

*Byron Kohls, Project Director*

**Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

*Jason Peters, Portfolio Director*

**Southern Company**

*Brian Fuller, Director Coal Services*

*John Ohlson, Manager, Coal and Transportation Procurement*

**Talen Energy Marketing, L.L.C.**

*Nate Collamer, Managing Director PJM*

**Tampa Electric Company**

*Martin Duff, Fuels Strategist*

**Tennessee Valley Authority**

*Greg Nunley, Director Coal Services, Coal and Gas Services*

**Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.**

*Mike Sorensen, Senior Manager, Fuel & Water Resources. Drew Kramer, Senior External Affairs Advisor*

**WEC Energy Group**

*Doug Wetjen, Director, Solid Fuel and Renewable Resources*

**Xcel Energy**

*H. Craig Romer, Director Fuel Supply Operations. James Witt, Principal Fuel Portfolio Coordinator*

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*Larry Gitman, President*

**Bunge**

*Raphael Pierce, Energy Products*

*Director*

**Corsa Coal Corp.**

*Matt Schicke, Chief Commercial Officer*

**JERA Trading North America, LLC**

*Chris Savage, Head of US Coal*

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*Kim Queen*

*Michael Kovach, Plant Manager*

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*Jennifer Sackson, Assistant Vice President, Coal Sales and Marketing*

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*Larry Barbish, VP - Dry Cargo*

*Herb Shubert, Dry Cargo Sales & Logistics*

**CN Railway**

*Todd Nuelle, Dir. Sales & Mktg US Coal, Bulk. James Gunther, Account Manager US Coal*

**Cooper Consolidated, LLC**

*Scott Becnel, Director Energy Sales & Business Development*

*Eric Hansen - Vice President*

**Crouse Corporation**

*Justin Dickens, Manager-Risk Administration Robert L. Englert, Jr., Senior Vice President - Operations*

**CSX Transportation**

*Shon Yates, Vice President - Coal*

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**Genesee & Wyoming**

*Michael Miller, President, North America*

**Ingram Barge Company**

*Joe Johnson, AVP Coal*

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*Brendan O'Connor, Vice President - Marketing and Marine Traffic*

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*Rob Zehringer, GVP - Coal Marketing*

**Paducah & Louisville Railway**

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*Kevin McEwan, Vice President*

*Marketing Chris Reck, AVP, Sales & Industrial Development*

**Savage Services**

*Terrence Savage, SVP & Industry*

*Unit Leader. Rob Davidson, VP Business Development*

**SCH Services, LLC**

*Bill Rager, Chief Operating Officer*

*Gary Quinn, Vice President Utility Services*

**T. Parker Host, Inc.**

*David Host, Executive Director*

*David Host Jr., Executive Vice President*

**Union Pacific Railroad Company**

*Linda Brandl, Vice President and General Manager Energy*

*Jackie White, Assistant Vice President*

**United Bulk Terminals USA, Inc.**

*Philipp Kroepels, General Manager*

**Westshore Terminals**

*Glenn Dudar, Vice President & General Manager*

**COAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

**ANALYTICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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*Matthew Burger, Chair, Energy Section*

**Golder Associates Inc.**

*Alana Arcand, National Mining Sector Coordinator. Jerry Gauntt, Associate, Business Development Leader - Mining North America*

**Hanson Aggregates**

*Mike Greenawald, Account Representative*

*Craig Morgan, Vice President/General Manager*

**Natural Resource Partners LP**

*Greg Wooten, Vice President & Chief Engineer. Vera Gartin, Administrative Assistant*

**Sampling Associates International**

*Paul Reagan, President*

**SGS Minerals Services**

*Buddy Hancock, Director, Eastern Operations US Minerals*

*Marc Rademacher, Regional Manager, Energy West*

**Suez Water Technologies & Solutions**

*Scott Smith, CoalPlus Commercial leader-NAM Jeff Peters, Power Industry Leader*

**Tinum Group, LLC**

*Ron Eller, President & CEO*

**Young Century Micro Tech Inc.**

*Matt Lerschen, Associate Director*

*Jong Yoon, President*

**EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS  
SUPPLIERS**

**Charah Solutions, Inc.**

Danny Gray, Executive Vice President for Governmental/ Environmental Affairs. Nathan Boone, SVP - Business Development

**Crown Products & Services, Inc.**

Doug Simmons, President

**FreightCar America**

Ted Baun, Chief Commercial Officer  
Mike MacMahon, Vice President, Marketing & Sales Administration

**JENNMAR**

Tony Calandra, Executive Vice President of International Sales  
C. Ray Wilson, Technical Sales Manager, Midwest

**Komatsu Equipment**

John Pfisterer, President  
Joel Cook, Executive Vice President Sales

**Martin Engineering**

Chelsea Blake, Marketing Specialist  
Timothy O'Harran, National Sales Manager, Conveyor Products

**MinTech Enterprises LLC**

Harry Heydorn, General Manager  
Su Schwenck, VP, Managing Director

**Nalco Water**

Jack Cranfill Director of Corporate Accounts. Lynn Martin, Account Coordination Manager

**Progress Rail Services**

Dwight Porter, PRB/Nat'l Sales Manager

**Richwood**

Judd Roseberry, Chief Executive Officer. Kevin Maloy, Chief Operating Officer

**TrinityRail**

Gayle TenBrink, Vice President Sales

**FINANCIAL, CAPITAL &  
MARKETING  
ASSOCIATES**

**Boral Material Technologies LLC**

Craig Plunk VP Utility Relations  
Steve Benza, Vice President Business Development. Mitchell Smith, Director - Supply Sourcing. Rafic Minkara, VP, Technology

**Wells Fargo Rail Corporation**

Carrie Stead, Senior Risk Officer

**TECHNICAL & ECONOMIC  
CONSULTANTS**

**Argus Media, Inc.**

Michael Easterbrook, VP Business

*Development*

**Doyle Trading Consultants**

Hans Daniels, CEO  
Vicky Bray, Director of Client Services

**Energy Ventures Analysis, Inc.**

Seth Schwartz, President

**Genscape**

Chris Seiple, Managing Director

**Hellerworx, Inc.**

Jamie Heller, President

**IHS Markit**

Jim Thompson, Executive Director,  
US Coal. James Stevenson, Director Americas Coal

**John T. Boyd Company**

John Boyd II, President & CEO  
William P. Wolf, Vice President – Business and Market Analysis

**McGuireWoods LLP**

Leonard Marsico, Partner & Coal Team Leader

**Marshall Miller & Associates**

Scott Keim, President

**S&P Global Platts**

Jeremy Mathis, Field Marketing Manager. Steve Piper, Associate Director, Energy Product Management

**Slover & Loftus LLP Daniel Jaffe,**

Partner Frank Pergolizzi, Partner

**CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS**

**American Coal Ash Association**

Thomas Adams, Executive Director

**American Coal Foundation**

Alma Paty, Executive Director

**American Coalition for Clean Coal  
Electricity (ACCCE)**

Michelle Bloodworth, President & CEO

**Carbon Utilization Research Council**

Shannon Angielski, Executive Director

**Department of Entomology,  
Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai  
University** Dr. P. Narayanasamy,  
Professor & Head, Dept. of Entomology

**Energy & Mineral Law Society**

Tracy Justin Dempsey, President

**Energy Policy Network**

Randy Eminger, Executive Director

**Global Commerce Forum**

Dr. Luka Powanga, Executive Director

**Illinois Coal Association**

Phil Gonet, President

**Lignite Energy Council**

Steve Van Dyke, Vice President, Communications

**National Tribal Energy Association**

CJ Stewart, Board Director

**Rocky Mountain Electrical League**

Rick Putnicki, Executive Director  
Kathryn Hail, Manager, Marketing & Comm unications

**Texas Mining and Reclamation  
Association**

Ches Blevins, Executive Director and General Counsel

**The Coal Association of Canada**

Robin Campbell, President

**UNC Charlotte**

John Daniels, Professor and Chair, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

**University of Kentucky - Center for  
Applied Energy Res.**

James C. Hower, Senior Scientist  
**University of North Dakota, Energy  
& Environmental Research Center**

Loreal Heebink, Senior Project Management Specialist- Energy & Environmental Research Center  
Jason Laumb, Senior Research Manager

**Virginia Coal & Energy Alliance**

Virginia Farmer-Altizer, Executive Director of Education and Outreach

**West Virginia University**

**Nat'l. Research Center for Coal & Energy**

Richard A. Bajura, Director, National Research Center for Coal and Energy

**Western Research Institute**

Dr. Alan Bland, VP Waste & Environmental Mgt.

**Wyoming Policy Institute**

Janie White, Executive Director

**ACC Staff**

1101 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Ste. 300

Washington, DC 20004 (202) 756-

4540. FAX: (202) 756-7323 [www.americancoalcouncil.org](http://www.americancoalcouncil.org)

[info@americancoalcouncil.org](mailto:info@americancoalcouncil.org)

**Chief Executive Officer**

Betsy Monseu [bmonseu@americancoalcouncil.org](mailto:bmonseu@americancoalcouncil.org)

**Communications Director T.L.**

“Terry” Headley [theadley@americancoalcouncil.org](mailto:theadley@americancoalcouncil.org)

**Education & Marketing Director**

Ingrid Shumate Raboteau  
[ishumate@americancoalcouncil.org](mailto:ishumate@americancoalcouncil.org)

**Member Services Coordinator**

Michele Rubin [mrubin@americancoalcouncil.org](mailto:mrubin@americancoalcouncil.org)

**Legal Counsel**

Cara Lawrence, Tierney Lawrence

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 Carolina at Charlotte  
 Sarah Hodges, University of Kentucky  
 Ryan Holmes, University of Missouri  
 Kansas City  
 Shinhyu Kang, Oklahoma State  
 University  
 Richard Pepper, UNC Chapel Hill  
 Siamak Riyazi, University of Missouri at  
 Kansas City  
 Christopher Swan, Tufts University  
 Ross Taggart, Duke University  
 Trevor Williamson, The University of  
 Texas at Austin  
 Gang Xu, Washington State University

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Power Equipment Specialists, Inc.	T & R Electric Supply Co., Inc.	
Power Pole Inspections	Technically Speaking, Inc.	Zachry Group
Power Product Services	Tenaska Marketing Ventures	
PowerQuip, LLC	TG Advisers, Inc.	





## Member Spotlights



**AKJ INDUSTRIES, INC.**  
Contact: James Marcrum  
10175 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy Unit 1  
Phone: 239-939-1696  
Fax: 239-939-2173  
Website: [www.akjindustries.com](http://www.akjindustries.com)  
Email: [jimm@akjindustries.com](mailto:jimm@akjindustries.com)  
Categories: Chemicals, Dust Control,  
Liquid Solid Separation, Freeze  
Protection



**ASGCO "COMPLETE CONVEYOR SOLUTIONS"**  
Contact: Aaron Gibbs  
301 Gordon Street, Allentown, PA  
18102  
Phone: 610-821-0216  
Fax: 610-778-8991  
Website: [www.asgco.com](http://www.asgco.com)  
Email: [info@asgco.com](mailto:info@asgco.com)  
Categories: Coal Support Services



**HARDSTEEL, INC.**  
Address: 702 Bear Creek  
Cutoff Road  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
Phone: 205.343.9100  
Fax: 205.343.0073  
Website: [www.hardsteel.com](http://www.hardsteel.com)  
Email: [info@HardSteel.net](mailto:info@HardSteel.net)  
Categories: Abrasion Resistant  
Materials/Services



**PHOENIX PROCESS EQUIPMENT CO.**  
Contact: John Waugh  
2402 Watterson Trail  
Phone: 502-499-6198  
Fax: 502-499-1079  
Website: [www.dewater.com](http://www.dewater.com)  
Email: [phoenix@dewater.com](mailto:phoenix@dewater.com)  
Categories: Filters, Dewatering  
Equipment



**HOWDEN NORTH AMERICA**  
7909 Parklane Rd., Columbia, SC  
29209  
Phone: 800.327.8885  
Website: [howden.com](http://howden.com)  
Email: [sales@howdenbuffalo.com](mailto:sales@howdenbuffalo.com)



**PENN LINE SERVICE, INC.**  
Contact: Don Dillinger  
300 Scottsdale Avenue, Scottsdale, PA  
15683  
Phone: 724-887-9110  
Fax: 724-887-2151  
Website: [www.pennline.com](http://www.pennline.com)  
Email: [don@pennline.com](mailto:don@pennline.com)



**SUPERIOR INDUSTRIES**  
Contact: **Corey Poppe**  
315 East State Hwy 28 PO Box 684  
Morris, MN  
320-589-2406  
320-585-5644 Fax  
Website: [www.superior-ind.com](http://www.superior-ind.com)  
Email: [corey.poppe@superior-ind.com](mailto:corey.poppe@superior-ind.com)  
Categories: Fans, Material Handling,



**STRATO, INC.**  
100 New England Avenue,  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
Phone: 800-792-0500  
Fax: 800-378-7286  
Website: [www.stratoinc.com](http://www.stratoinc.com)  
Email: [customerservice@stratoinc.com](mailto:customerservice@stratoinc.com)



**FORD STEEL COMPANY**  
Contact: Phil Cady  
PO Box 54  
2475 Rock Island Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63043 USA  
Mobile: 314-578-0205  
Email: [pcady@fordsteel.com](mailto:pcady@fordsteel.com)  
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Phone: 304-781-6618  
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Website: [www.traxys.com](http://www.traxys.com)  
Email: [matt\\_reed@traxys.com](mailto:matt_reed@traxys.com)

# INDUSTRY EVENTS

Please note due to the current COVID-19 restrictions on travel, gatherings, meetings, conventions and events, we suggest that you contact the respective associations for updates on conferences. We have provided here a list of contacts for your convenience.

National Coal Transportation Association: **(801) 560-9801**

RMEL: **(303) 865-5544**

American Coal Council: **(202) 756-4540**

National Mining Association: **(202) 463-2600**

American Society of Mining and Reclamation: **asmr@twc.com**

American Coal Ash Association: **(720) 870-7897**

World Coal Association: **+44 (0) 20 7851 0052**

To submit more events for publish or to include information about your organizations calendar of events, please email [info@martonickpublications.com](mailto:info@martonickpublications.com) . Thank you.



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Consolidated Terminals LC	19	<a href="http://www.ctlconline.com">www.ctlconline.com</a>
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Jabo Supply Corporation	9	<a href="http://www.jabosupply.com">www.jabosupply.com</a>
Martin Engineering	27	<a href="http://www.martin-eng.com">www.martin-eng.com</a>
McDonald Farm Enterprises, Inc	15	<a href="http://www.mcdonaldfarmsinc.com">www.mcdonaldfarmsinc.com</a>
Progress Rail	2	<a href="http://www.progressrail.com">www.progressrail.com</a>
Scantech	38	<a href="http://www.scantech.com.au">www.scantech.com.au</a>
Son Haul Inc	21	<a href="http://www.son-haul.com">www.son-haul.com</a>
Utter Construction, Inc	14	<a href="http://www.utterconstruction.net">www.utterconstruction.net</a>
White Oak Resources LLC	18	<a href="http://www.whiteoakresources.com">www.whiteoakresources.com</a>

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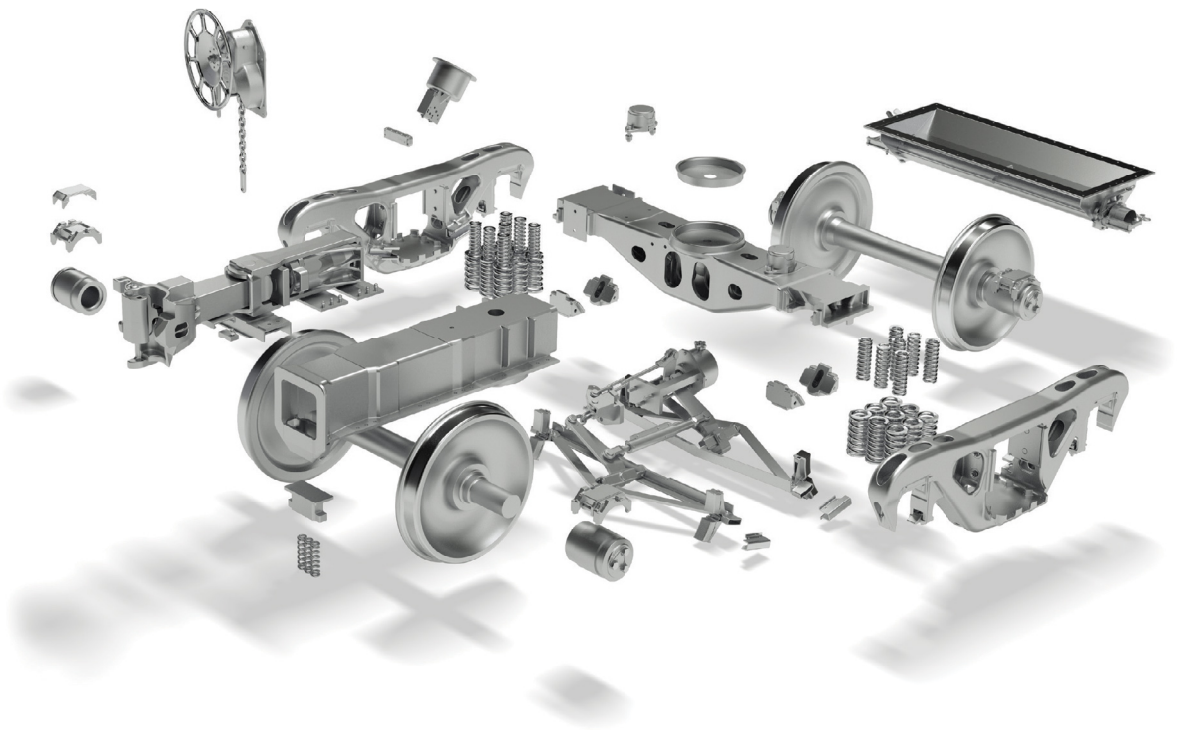
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