



# coal ENERGY

Issue 4 • 2021

From the Mine to the Utility

## McKinley vs. Biden

UPCOMING 2021  
MINER'S  
MEMORIAL

**WORLD NEWS:**  
UP CLOSE WITH  
ALEXEY DANILOV

OPINION: Phase in NOT out!

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# letter from THE PUBLISHER



JANUARY 2022

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Issue 4, 2021.

As we close another year, we take a look at how McKinley is fighting back on Biden Administration's anti-coal agenda. We also get up close with Alexey Danilov, the director of Carbo One. According to the most recent forecast of the IEA, coal

is predicted to still generate 25 percent of the world's electricity in 2040. Mr. Danilov shares his thoughts on the attacks on coal.

Bringing back a popular department, we have the sound off from Michelle Manook, WCA CEO about stopping the wordsmithing around coal. Phase in technology, not phase out coal!

In 2021 we have sadly lost ten miners in the coal industry. Please stay tuned as we plan **Coal Energy's** memorial to these brave miners.

**Coal Energy** presents recent press releases at a glance for the previous quarter. From financial news and product releases, to grants and awards, please email [info@martonickpublications.com](mailto:info@martonickpublications.com) with any news that may be considered for publish in following issues. This editions press release section can be found starting on page 15.

**Coal Energy** remains 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 every issue **Coal Energy** brings you a member list for each of the main coal organizations. Whilst your company may already be listed,

please remember you can feature your company in the member spotlights section by emailing [info@martonickpublications.com](mailto:info@martonickpublications.com).

Please visit our website, [www.coalenergyonline.com](http://www.coalenergyonline.com), for current and prior editions of **Coal Energy**.

You can also like and share our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/coalenergyonline](https://www.facebook.com/coalenergyonline)) created to network with the nations promoters of coal, suppliers of coal, and to serve as a public interface for the image of coal energy.

With the ongoing trend and convenience of electronic publications, we are pleased to inform you our online readership is increasing daily. To be added to our digital delivery database, please send an email to [info@martonickpublications.com](mailto:info@martonickpublications.com) with your subject as Digital Delivery. We are proud to announce that our facebook page now has a weekly reach of over 5,000 contacts and is liked by over 1,900 individuals and companies who support coal and coal energy.

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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  
Martonick Publications, Inc.





# ASSOCIATION COMPARISONS



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### 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

### MISSION:

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:

The ACAA advances the management and use of coal combustion products in ways that are environmentally responsible, technically sound, commercially competitive and more supportive of a sustainable global community.

<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.

<https://www.worldcoal.org>

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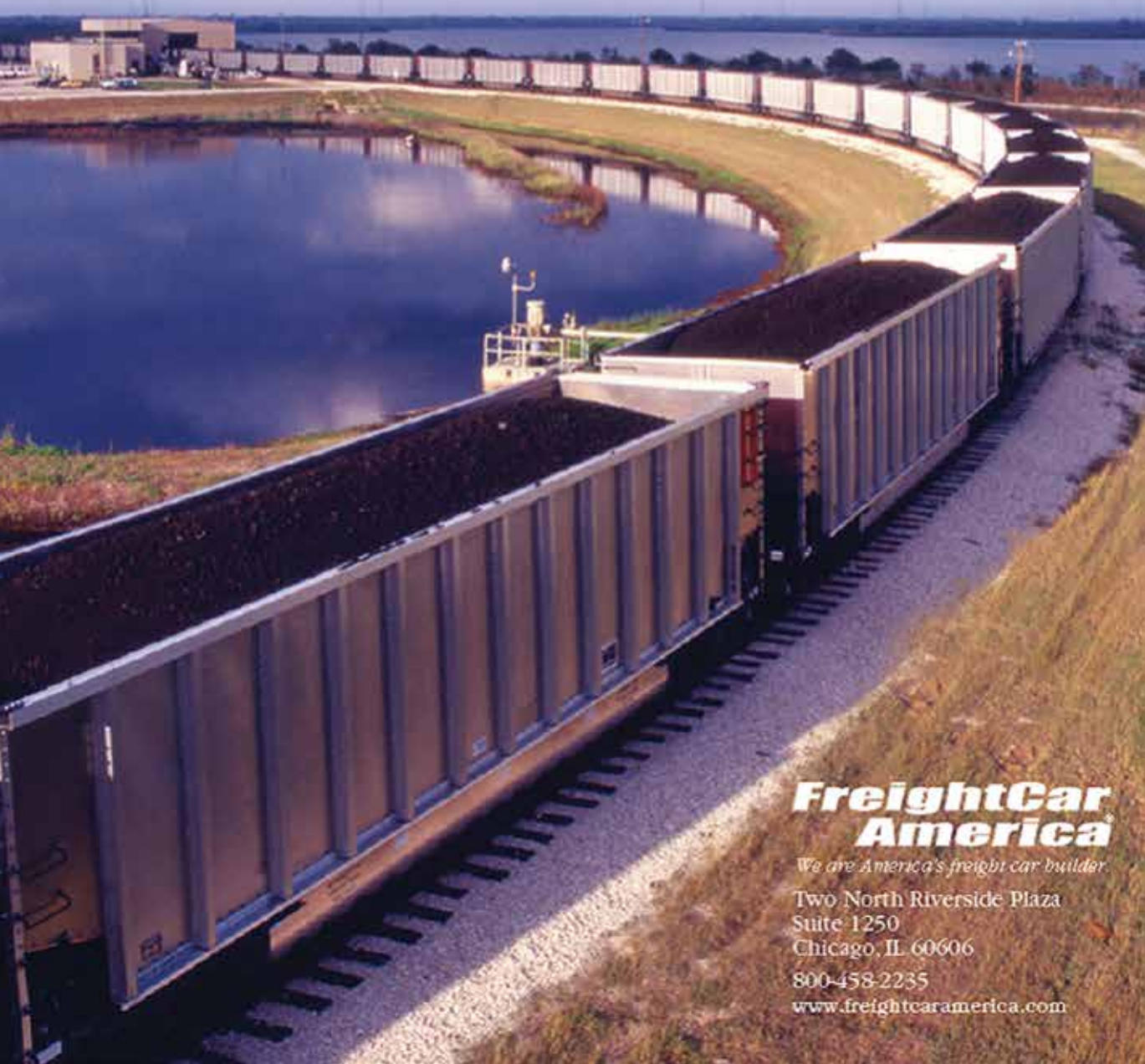
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# **MCKINLEY FIGHTS BACK ON BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S ANTI-COAL AGENDA**

***McKinley Introduces Bill to Reinforce Role  
of Coal Industry Advisory Committee***

Washington, December 10, 2021



**W**ashington, DC – Under the Biden Administration, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) allowed the nearly 40-year-old **National Coal Council (NCC)** charter to lapse in November 2021. DOE has since proposed a major overhaul to the charter, which includes gutting the NCC's membership and refocusing its mission away from coal industry innovation.

In response, David B. McKinley, P.E. (WV-01) introduced H.R. 6187, the Coal Council Certainty Act of 2021, which would codify the NCC's charter that DOE let lapse last month. This would reverse the Biden Administration's decision and preserve the Council's advisory role to the Secretary of Energy with respect to coal policy, technology, and markets.

"This Biden Administration has made it clear that their energy strategy does not include coal," said **McKinley**. "Gutting the National Coal Council is yet another reminder of their intentions. The Administration's repeated attacks on the coal industry is killing jobs and will hollow out communities in West Virginia and other coal producing areas," said **McKinley**.

"Coal production is truly the backbone of American energy, and with promising developments in carbon capture technology, coal needs to continue to be part of an all-of-the above energy strategy. We need to stand up and fight for coal's future," said **McKinley**.

"The National Coal Council plays a major role in advancing new coal production, including for use in energy production and innovative new carbon products and materials," said **Congressman Armstrong Kelly Armstrong (ND-AL)**. "The NCC charter must be renewed so it can continue advancing policy, technology, and markets for North Dakota's coal producers."

"The Biden Administration has sacrificed reliable, traditional energy resources like coal to advance untested energy sources, killing thousands of jobs in the process. Renewing the National Coal Council's charter will help ensure that coal remains an integral part of an all-of-the-above approach to energy policy, encouraging innovation and keeping household energy costs low," said **Congressman Mike Bost (IL-12)**.

"I am proud to join Rep. McKinley in introducing this important legislation to codify the National Coal Council's charter and ensure that it continues to advocate for the affordable and reliable energy - as well as the jobs - that the coal industry pro-

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vides," said **Congresswoman Liz Cheney (WY-AL)**. "The Biden Administration's decision to allow the National Coal Council charter to lapse so they can overhaul it in their radical design is yet another attack against coal. This bill will protect the NCC and allow the Council to serve its purpose on behalf of coal producers and energy consumers in Wyoming and across the country."

"By dramatically altering the mission of the National Coal Council, the Biden administration has once again failed Pennsylvania workers and communities while continuing the radical left's war on American energy," said **Congressman John Joyce (PA-13)**.

"As the representative for one of the top coal-producing regions in the nation, I'm pleased to join my colleagues on this important legislation," said **Congresswoman Carol Miller (WV-03)**. "As we pursue an all-of-the-above energy approach, the National Coal Council is critical to ensuring coal has a seat at the table. Coal has built and powered the world for generations and, with strong representation from the council, can also propel our world into the fu-

**...I am proud to stand with Rep. McKinley to codify NCC's charter and support Pennsylvania's coal industry and the jobs, families, and communities that rely on it."**

ture. I urge swift passage of this legislation." "For decades, the National Coal Council has provided valuable recommendations to the Energy Secretary on policies related to coal. I am disappointed in the Department of Energy's decision to drop the Council to meet the needs of the Biden administration's economic and climate agenda. I join my colleagues in taking legislative action to maintain the National Coal Council's charter," said **Congressman Alex Mooney (WV-02)**.

"President Biden's decision to stop the National Coal Council (NCC) from promoting and supporting the coal industry is a betrayal of the blue-collar workers and their families who rely on this crucial industry. Pennsylvania ranks second in the nation in energy production, and the coal industry is a critical part of that energy dominance," said **Guy Reschenthaler (PA-14)**. "This winter, families across the Commonwealth are already facing a 50% increase in their energy bills, thanks to President Biden's war on fossil fuels. I am proud to stand with Rep. McKinley to codify NCC's charter and support Pennsylvania's coal industry and the jobs, families, and communities that rely on it."



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1. Justin L Lafferty, 38, February 21st 2021.
2. Joseph G Guzzo, 32, May 14th 2021.
3. Trenten J Dille, 25, June 2nd 2021.
4. Nicholas D Adkins, 43, June 3rd 2021.
5. Jeffery A Wendland, 31, July 21st 2021.
6. Gary Nelson, 48, August 2nd 2021.
7. Timothy Collins, 53, August 11th 2021.
8. David P Steen, 58, October 19th 2021.
9. Brian D Wallen, 49, November 1st 2021.
10. Lester Daugherty Jr., 48, December 4th 2021.

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# PRESS RELEASES

## UMWA mourns 51 killed in Russian mine /

NOVEMBER 26, 2021

UMWA mourns 51 killed in Russian mine

[TRIANGLE, VA.] In the aftermath of the terrible explosion that killed 51 miners and rescuers in Siberia, United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) International President Cecil E. Roberts issued the following statement today:

“The hearts and prayers of the entire UMWA family are with the families of those Russian miners and rescuers who were killed yesterday in a horrific methane explosion. No miner, anywhere in the world, should have to worry about whether or not they will be coming home at the end of their shift. But it appears that was exactly what these miners confronted.

“It is beyond tragic that these men died in a mine that had a history of safety violations yet received little more than a slap on the wrist from Russian authorities. It does not matter if it is Russia, China, India or the United States: Mine operators who routinely put workers at risk should be punished to the full extent of the law.

“That punishment will not bring these miners back and it will not end the pain their families will always feel. But if those who allowed this tragedy to occur are not held responsible for their actions, something like this will happen over and over again. For the sake of the thousands of miners who still toil in dangerous conditions in Russia, accountability must come.”



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## National Mining Association Celebrates Successful In-Person MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® 2021 Show/ December 17, 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Mining Association (NMA) is celebrating the completion of its successful MINExpo INTERNATIONAL® 2021, which was held in-person last month in Las Vegas and welcomed more than 22,000 participants from 79 countries, with more than 1,400 exhibitors utilizing 650,000+ square feet.

“The show’s logistics are extraordinarily complex, with onsite set-up starting 12 weeks before the event itself. Given the extensive commitment all participants had to make to be there in-person, we knew we had to do things right, which, in our new normal, means going above and beyond to keep people safe,” said Rich Nolan, President and CEO of the NMA. “We are thrilled with the results and how this year’s show was a prime example of the world getting back to work — and doing so safely. I want to thank MINExpo® chair, Jeffrey Dawes of Komatsu Mining, and all the exhibitors and

attendees for their unwavering support of the show. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees sharing that this was their most productive show in all their years of attending.”

MINExpo – the world’s largest show of equipment, products, services and technologies for surface, underground, hardrock and coal mining – is typically held every four years and was originally scheduled for Sept. 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NMA rescheduled the show for this year, from Sept. 13-15, 2021, and took a range of precautions to ensure the safety of all participants. In advance of the show, the NMA team spent a great deal of time monitoring the best practices and lessons learned from shows that occurred throughout the summer. Event experts attended other shows to examine best practices and consider further improvements. In addition to following the guidance of the Centers for Dis-

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ease Control and Prevention, state and local authorities, as well as the Las Vegas Convention Center, and enhanced cleaning protocols, the team took additional precautions to ensure a successful and safe event.

On-site COVID testing and vaccine administration were available inside the Convention Center, with vaccines made available to show industry's unwavering support and advocacy for widespread vaccination and ease attendees' access to booster shots, should they want them. In past years, the show hosted a large number of technical sessions in small breakout rooms, oftentimes with panels running simultaneously on a wide range of topics. This year, sessions were limited to just five feature sessions, all of which were held in a large room to allow for spacing between chairs and cleaning in the room between sessions. The signature awards ceremony, previously a luncheon, included a featured speaker and no food service to allow attendees to remain masked for the duration of the event.

The show opened with a ribbon cutting featur-

ing Nevada Gov. Stephen F. Sisolak; Jimmy Brock, CEO of CONSOL Energy and chairman of the NMA; Jeff Dawes, Chair of MIN-Expo International 2021 and President and CEO of Komatsu Mining Corp; and Mark Bristow, President and CEO, Barrick Gold Corp. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, industry leaders gathered for an opening session to discuss a range of topics relevant to the industry, including lessons learned from the pandemic and perspectives on emerging challenges, the current state of the industry and what the future holds; a replay of the opening session is available here. Breakout sessions held throughout the event covered topics including ESG in Mining; Safety; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Environmental Challenges; and Artificial Intelligence. The NMA also held a ceremony honoring outstanding achievements in mine safety and technology; the press release and full list of winners can be found here.

The NMA team looks forward to returning to its every four-year schedule when it returns to Las Vegas in 2024.

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## BIDEN NOMINATES WILLIAMSON TO MSHA ASSISTANT SECRETARY

U.S. President Joe Biden recently announced his nomination for the assistant secretary for mine safety and health at the Department of Labor. Appalachian and native of the coal-fields of southern West Virginia Christopher J. Williamson was nominated to the position. He currently serves as senior counsel to Chairman Lauren McFerran of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Prior to joining the NLRB, he served in the Obama-Biden administration at the Department of Labor as a member of the senior leadership team at the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). In that role, he advised the assistant secretary for MSHA on all aspects of agency policy, operations and communications. Before his service at MSHA, Williamson worked in the United States Senate as labor counsel to Chairman Tom Harkin on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and as a legislative assistant to Sen. Joe Manchin. As labor counsel, he advised Chairman Harkin and committee members on labor, occupational and mine safety and health, and black lung benefits and other workers' compensation issues. Serving on Manchin's legislative team, Williamson was the senator's primary policy advisor on labor, mine safety and health, pensions, and agriculture issues and also advised him on energy and environmental policy, including Manchin's work on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.



Williamson began his career in public service as an attorney-advisor to Administrative Law Judge Jacqueline R. Bulluck at the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. He earned a juris doctor from the West Virginia University College of Law, a master's of public policy from American University, and a bachelor of arts in political science and economics from West Virginia University. Williamson is originally from Dingess in Mingo County, West Virginia.



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## Egypt to host COP27 international climate conference in 2022: Minister / Friday, 12 November 2021



Egypt will host the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in the Red Sea city of Sharm El Sheikh in November 2022.

The decision was taken during this year's conference, COP26, which is hosted by the United Kingdom in Glasgow.

In her speech at the COP26, Egypt's Environment Minister Yasmine Fouad expressed appreciation for all the African parties for their trust

and support for Egypt to host the coming conference.

She also lauded the global efforts to confront the challenge of climate change which does not discriminate in its effect between countries and requires active and dynamic multilateral measures involving all parties.

The minister pointed to President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's speech at the World Leaders summit at the COP26, in which he asserted that the COP27 will be a real African conference.

Fouad hailed the efforts of the United Kingdom's presidency of the current conference, the big progress made in the agenda of the negotiations and the announced initiatives.

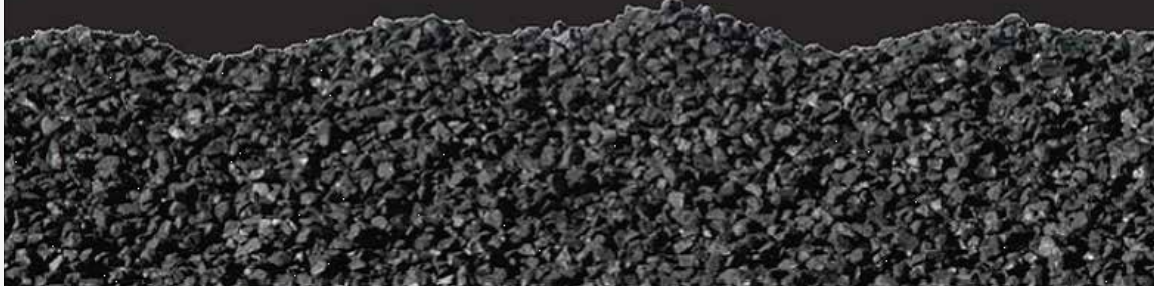
She reaffirmed Egypt's commitment towards all parties through working on building bridges of cooperation, removing differences and finding a common ground that helps in making progress in the decisive issues.



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## OSMRE recognizes coal operators with 2021 'Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards' / December 17, 2021

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has recognized Luminant Mining Company, LLC of Mount Pleasant, Texas, and North American Coal Corporation, Mississippi Lignite Company, of Ackerman, Mississippi, as the winners of its 2021 'Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards' during a live virtual presentation on 13 October 2021.

The 'Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards' are presented to coal mining companies whose reclamation projects demonstrate exemplary results and go beyond the reclamation requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977 in returning a site to productive use after completion of mining. Past award recipients demonstrated a commitment to sound mining practices and effective reclamation plans that enhanced the post-mining use of the land.

OSMRE's 'Excellence in Surface Coal Mining

Reclamation Awards' recognise mine operators in two award categories: the National Award and the Good Neighbor Award.

### National Award

This award is presented to a coal mining company for achieving the most exemplary mine reclamation in the country. A coal mining operation may be nominated for achievement in a specific aspect of the reclamation, such as the design and implementation of sedimentation control practices, or for its overall performance in meeting the goals of SMCRA.

This year's awardee is:

***Luminant Mining Company, LLC***

***Monticello-Winfield Mine***

***Mount Pleasant, Texas***



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Luminant was nominated for outstanding mining and reclamation practices that have produced diverse post-mining land uses exceeding pre-mining conditions. Mining activities near Mount Pleasant, Texas, began in 1974 at the Monticello–Winfield Mine and continued until 2015. Over that time, the operation mined more than 15 500 acres. The nomination focused on an area called H-area, where the last 418 acres were approved for Phase III Bond release on 23 September 2020. Luminant reclaimed 2438 acres in the H-area; the reclaimed acreage includes post-mine land use for pastureland, forestry, fish and wildlife habitat, and developed water resources.

## Good Neighbor Awards

Mine operators are selected to receive Good Neighbor Awards for successfully working with the surrounding landowners and the community while completing mining and reclamation.

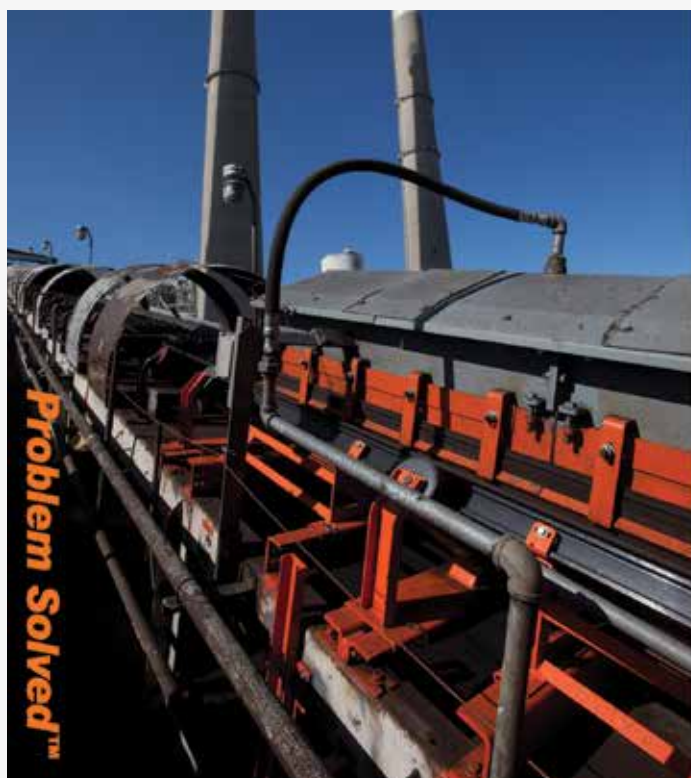
This year's awardee is:

***North American Coal Corporation, Mississippi Lignite Company***

***Red Hills Mine***


***Ackerman, Mississippi***

North American Coal was nominated for its superior community outreach, education, and contribution. The Red Hills Mine (RHM) in Choctaw County, Mississippi, began development in 1998. Recognising the forestry industry as important to the local economy, the company has permitted 68% of its 4678 acres as forestry post-mining land use. To date, 867 056 trees have been planted on the mine. The company has hosted annual Arbor Day events since 2009 with fourth graders from Choctaw County and gifted a hardwood tree seedling to each child to take home and plant in their community. RHM also partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to sponsor an annual poster event that educates the students about environmental topics such as watersheds, soils, trees, and pollinators.




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# NMA Statement on NERC's 2021 Long-Term Reliability Assessment, Stressing the Need for Maintaining Fuel Security and Dispatchable Fuel Diversity / December 17, 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Mining Association (NMA) issued the following statement from Rich Nolan, NMA President & CEO, responding to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2021 Long-Term Reliability Assessment. The Assessment underscores that the rapid remaking of the nation's electricity mix presents the greatest challenge to reliability over the next decade, and that maintaining a fuel-assured, diverse generation mix is essential to ensuring reliability in the years ahead.

“This assessment very clearly echoes many of the concerns the industry has raised about an escalating reliability crisis and provides important recommendations about the need to

maintain dispatchable fuel diversity and fuel security over the coming decade. The coal fleet offers invaluable optionality to the grid, shielding consumers from natural gas price volatility and provides fuel security and a reliability backstop we must stop trying to dismantle. The challenges of integrating variable sources of power and building new electricity infrastructure are growing more acute, not less. Responsibly managing the energy transition should mean building on the shoulders of the existing coal fleet, not in place of it. It's time for policymakers and regulators to recognize that without greater steps to reinforce the reliability of the nation's grid, last winter's Texas grid catastrophe, or something tragically similar, will happen again.”



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# STOP

## THE WORDSMITHING AROUND COAL

*Op-ed from WCA CEO Michelle Manook, first published in the [Financial Times](#) 17 November 2021.*

**AUTHOR: CHRISTOPHER DEMETRIOU**





**Y**ou can't phase out or phase down something that is critical to the energy needs of billions of people.

**The COP to end coal**, so Alok Sharma proclaimed. Where do you go from there when you are educated on the naïveté of that statement? You start wordsmithing. "Phase down" coal — whatever that means.

As I receive pats on my back from around the world for a job well done, let me be clear. There are no winners from COP26. There's just more confusion.

If it surprises you that I am not taking the win — well don't be. You have been led to believe that coal is the climate enemy. Frankly, the coal value chain has done itself no favours in collectively educating otherwise.

## **SO, THE WORDS WE NEED TO INSERT ARE: "ENOUGH OF THIS MADNESS."**

Because, every day we spend distracted by climate politics and diplomatic wordsmithing to save face is just another day where emerging and developing nations contend with the social, economic and environmental costs of not accelerating the deployment of abated coal, which involves the generation of electricity with carbon capture and storage.

Why did a growing number of world leaders question the worth of coal against the dearth of not having it? It was a reality correction, long overdue.

You can't phase out or phase down coal while it is still critical to the energy needs of billions of people. Households and energy-intensive industries rely on coal in countries where the stable and affordable energy options remain limited.

You can't phase out or phase down the building block to the manufacture of steel and wind turbines, cement and aluminium, and the supporter of intermittent and underperforming renewables.

And knowing all of this, you don't phase out

or phase down anything that can be abated.

## **IF I AM NOW REQUIRED TO TINKER WITH THE WORDING — THEN "PHASE IN" CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGIES.**

Because if your legitimate goal is to move to a decarbonised economy, then immediately shift your focus away from fuels and firmly move them to all of the abatement technologies necessary to achieve a sustainable net zero future. That includes carbon capture and storage, which pleasingly remains on the table.

As an organisation of responsible coal participants (that's right, responsible and coal can live in the same sentence), and as long-standing supporters of the Paris Agreement (that's also correct, we have not been in climate denial), the role of any COP is to support the many nations who, in good faith and full transparency, advised that they choose coal and choose decarbonisation through the clean technologies that exist today.

It is not the job of the developing nations and those countries who support them to help the rich countries save face through wordsmithing.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT ABOUT POPULISM. BILLIONS OF PEOPLE DEPEND ON COAL AND BILLIONS WILL DEPEND ON IT GOING FORWARD.**

There is now a definite signal that countries must listen and respect each other, accepting all fuels and all technologies, and understanding that different countries will have different pathways of reaching the same, shared goal. That's what a just transition really means.

**We will all be back in Egypt next year to revisit the Paris Agreement and, as US climate envoy, John Kerry said, the wording on coal can be reviewed again then. That matters but actions matter more.**

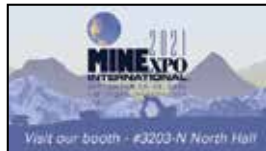


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## World News:

# Interview with Alexey Danilov, Director of Carbo One/

1 March, 2021

*- In your speeches at Coaltrans Conferences, in particular in 2015 and 2019, you noted several times that given the growth of electricity usage across the world, especially in developing countries, coal will continue to play an important role in the global energy balance, despite strengthening pressure on the coal industry. What has changed in recent years? What new challenges will the global coal industry have to face?*

- It goes without saying that it's impossible not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a negative effect on the world economy, and, naturally, didn't spare the coal industry. In 2020, coal prices fell to historical lows, and supply and demand diminished during lockdowns and quarantine measures across the world. Nevertheless, the situation is gradually turning to the better, and I hope that starting in 2021 and onward, global coal indices will increase in comparison with 2020. This hope is already being borne out by the growth in coal



demand and increase in global prices at the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021. Our position regarding the importance of coal's future role in the global energy balance is still unchanged. Nowadays, in terms of fuels used in global energy consumption, coal is second only to crude oil. According to the most recent forecast of the International Energy Agency (IEA), coal is predicted to still generate 25% of the world's electricity in 2040.

***- The EU plans to become the first climate-neutral union of countries in the world by 2050. The European Green Deal is aimed at the decarbonization of the economy, and all European countries have announced their intentions to renounce coal-fired electricity generation by 2035-2038. How will this affect the global coal trade in the near future?***

- Definitely, we are seeing a decrease in coal consumption in Europe, and this decline will continue, as Europe strives to achieve so-called climate neutrality and to stop the usage of coal power. Still, right now, 75% of the global coal trade is concentrated in Asian countries, where there are large populations, and the power usage per person is still fairly low. Power usage per person will continue to grow, which will accordingly support a stable growth both of total electricity generation and of coal-fired electricity generation in particular. For the majority of Asian countries, coal is the cheapest power source, while renewable energy sources for power generation are still and will long stay a very expensive alternative. In addition, the decrease in coal consumption in the EU will also be compensated by the growth of demand in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

***- In that case, what about the popular opinion that coal is the strongest polluter of the atmosphere in the modern world, and, accordingly, that it is the main enemy of climate initiatives such as the Paris Agreement?***

- Any idea can be taken to an absolute, just as any idea can be misrepresented and turned into a target for the local, regional, or even global public, if there's desire, benefiting parties, and the needed financing.

I remember that at the Coaltrans conference in 2015, with a joint effort we managed

to save the world's cow population from the threat of extermination when we laughed off the polemics of some of the most frenzied and zealous advocates of environmental defense, who were arguing that animal husbandry, particularly of cattle, produces methane during the digestive cycle, which in the US amounts to 1/3 of farming emissions. For some, accusing cows of being the cause of global warming might seem absurd and grotesque. Unfortunately, in the current paradigm of world-wide resistance to so-called global warming, much is often built on absurd ideas and sometimes this resistance takes on the form of a Quixotean battle with windmills, and sometimes, unfortunately, turns into a witch-hunt.

The development of clean technologies for coal burning and the introduction of these innovations at coal power plants and in the metallurgical industry allow for the minimization of coal's impact on the environment. In addition, the use of ecologically clean coal should not be overlooked. For example, at the Coaltrans Virtual World Coal Leaders Network 2020 conference, one of the event's headliners was EcoCarbon Ltd. (<https://ecocarbon-ltd.com/2020/09/eco-coal-as-ecofriendly-product/>), a global trader of high-quality multi-origin steam and metallurgical coal. The company offers only eco-grade coals to the international market, which stand out for their unique quality characteristics. The low sulphur content of the coal supplied by EcoCarbon results in lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, while the coal's low ash levels limit emissions of toxic elements and metals both in slag and in fly ash, which are carried along with smoke into the atmosphere. The coal also has a low level of radioactive elements, such as uranium and thorium, which ensures the safe use of coal. Unfortunately, not all coal companies act responsibly in their business and our shared task is to switch to the most advanced standards and technologies in the coal supply chain, from producer to end user. All parts of the coal supply chain must promote the conservative and effective use of natural resources, prevent pollution, ensure emission control, and provide for the rehabilitation of land on mining sites. Eco-friendly companies are dedicated to the principles of ethical coal, strive to minimize any negative environmental impact, and comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmental protections applicable in different countries in accordance with the local communities.

We have to admit that the main propaganda and attacks from eco-activists are directed against coal, as it is their most evident opponent, given that it provides cheap access to electricity, especially in developing countries. Undoubtedly, the accessibility of coal and its low electricity usage costs, as well as its significant share in the global energy balance, are not in line with programs of huge, multi-billion dollar investments into renewable energy sources, taking into account the compensatory instruments for collecting return on investments through the so-called carbon border adjustment mechanism – a tax on goods from countries that do not share the EU's goals and do not take similar measures to combat CO2 emissions, and where the production chain includes the generation of electricity through fossil fuels.

With all the attacks on coal, it's rare that we see the issues associated with the downsides of renewable energy sources widely covered. Despite that, everyone is aware that the use of any type of power source, whether nuclear, wind, solar, or hydro, cannot be without impact on the environment, and every power source has its own certain threats or dangers. There are no universal solutions, and all technologies have their downsides.

***- What negative effects on the environment could come from solar or wind generated power? It seems like the most natural energy sources possible are used: the sun and the wind. There are no CO2 emissions into the atmosphere, and, thus, no harm is done to nature, just as when using electric vehicles.***

- Actually, this is a superficial look from the point of view of an average layman of a developed country, a user, let's say, of some certain services, who, for example, heats his home with solar panels, drives an electric car, eats vegan food, wears clothes made from recycled fabrics, and goes to protests to close local coal plants, and who thus thinks that he is contributing to the protection of the planet. Which is true, at least in principle, from his own perspective. But if you look at the same story from the perspective of the residents of certain third world countries across the globe, who simply cannot afford all of these undoubted

benefits of civilization, but instead are forced to face the side effects of green energy in the form of environmental disasters where lithium is mined for electric vehicles, poisoned water reservoirs, child labor in cobalt mines, and so on, then we are faced with a completely different picture. Then, the idea of a cozy paradise, where clean energy reigns, is revealed to be one-sided at the very least, and created exclusively for select countries, regions, and groups of people. There are a number of significant problems, far from the level of our given layman, which, nevertheless, he or his children will sooner or later have to face. Thus, for example, the usage of solar panels brings with it serious problems with which humanity might have to face in the next 10-20 years. Many of the materials used to make them are difficult

**According to the most recent forecast of the International Energy Agency (IEA), coal is predicted to still generate 25% of the world's electricity in 2040.**

to reprocess, and the recycling process itself requires a lot of power. Despite the ecological harmlessness of the usage of solar panels, their production and recycling can be harmful to the environment and to human health. Solar panels contain metals such as lead, copper, gallium, arsenic, cadmium, and synthetic materials, which are released into the soil and the atmosphere.

The panel bases are made out of aluminum. All of this requires thoughtful disposal. Located across large swaths of land, they can affect the climate by disrupting the natural temperature rhythm. The production of solar cells and panels themselves is chemically dirty. Waste and waste gases have a pernicious effect on the environment. It's also rare to talk about the damage caused by wind turbines to bird populations, migrating animals, as well as soil and groundwater, or about the damage caused by infrasonic waves, which are harmful to local communities and fauna.

***- Nonetheless, could you give specific examples to explain how exactly electric vehicles can negatively affect the environment?***

- While the trend towards electric vehicles is a result of ongoing efforts to reduce the dependence of global development on fossil fuels, the UN warns that the resources used to produce batteries for electric vehicles are mostly concentrated in a few countries, and that the extraction of these batteries poses a serious threat to the surrounding environment. More than half of the world's lithium, a key compo-

nent of lithium-ion batteries, comes from the salt marshes of Chile, Bolivia, and Argentina, where lithium mining has already led to ecological disasters. According to a UN report, the production of these raw materials is often associated with undesirable consequences for the environment and violations of workers' rights. For example, in Chile, pumping brine from wells during lithium mining uses almost 65% of the water reserves of the Salar de Atacama salt flat. The Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth and lithium extraction has a direct impact on the water reserves in the region, as it takes a million liters of water to produce one ton of lithium. Groundwater levels are sinking and drying up, while rivers, streams, and wetlands are home to vulnerable wildlife. This has facilitated a degradation of the environment, landscape disruption, soil pollution, and a pollution and depletion of groundwater and drinking water.

Several years ago, there were massive protests in the Tibetan city of Tagonga, when a leak from a lithium mine into the Liki River led to mass fish deaths. Eyewitnesses claim to have seen cow and yak carcasses poisoned by the contaminated water lying in the river. This was the third such incident in the past seven years. After the second leak the authorities closed the mine, but it was later reopened, and the fish began to die again.

Lithium-ion batteries are considered to be a key element in the struggle for a cleaner planet. The Tesla Model S battery contains approximately 12 kg of lithium, and even more of it is necessary for renewable energy storage devices. UNCTAD estimates that electric vehicles sales will grow to 23 million in the next decade, thus in just a few short years the battery market should grow by more than 8 times its current level of \$7 billion dollars to \$58 billion dollars by 2024. At the same time, the production of energy-intensive batteries for these vehicles invariably contributes to significant CO2 emissions through the burning of fossil fuels, such that when an electric vehicle first hits the road it needs to drive 60 thousand km before it can begin to make up for the emissions accumulated during the course of its production cycle. Moreover, according to an IEA report, if the share of electric vehicles in the world were to grow 15 times, it would only reduce global CO2 emissions by 1%.

**Many energy sources that are now considered "green" in fact pollute nature no less than traditional technologies....**

Alongside lithium, cobalt is another key component for the batteries of electric vehicles. Two thirds of all cobalt is mined in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reports that about 20% of the cobalt supplied from the Congo is extracted in a crude fashion at mines where there are constant human rights violations and 40,000 children are employed in extremely hazardous conditions, without protective equipment, and for paltry wages.

Studies in South Korea have identified a high level of fire hazard associated with lithium-ion batteries when used in energy storage systems. These batteries have caused a series of fires over the last two years. From August, 2017 to October, 2019, there were 28 fires at backup power systems in Korean solar and other power plants. These incidents raised many questions about the dangers of backup power system batteries in connection with power plants based on renewable energy sources.

Many energy sources that are now considered "green" in fact pollute nature no less than traditional technologies, if we consider the entire production cycle and subsequent disposal of equipment, which may require many times more electricity than it will produce.

**- What do you think about natural gas, which many promote as a transitional fuel, considering it the least harmful of fossil fuels?**

- Natural gas and LNG are under less pressure from strong lobbies in Europe and the United States, but gas is not as harmless as it is sometimes thought to be. If we study the whole chain of production all the way to the end user, we see that gas brings about methane emissions, which are have an even worse effect on the environment than CO2. In addition, CO2 stimulates the development of vegetation through photosynthesis, which in and of itself contributes to an accumulation of CO2 and a release of significant amounts of oxygen, something which cannot be said about methane, which does not have such properties.

**- What, then, about global warming, and attempts to lower the planet's temperature by reducing CO2 emissions into the atmosphere?**



As the world's leading scientists have proven, global warming, as well as global cooling, are cyclical processes that have occurred throughout the entire existence of our planet. According to cyclical projections, we are now experiencing the last stages of a period of global warming which should be replaced by global cooling in a few decades. Frederick Seitz, former president of the US National Academy of Sciences, once published a petition that garnered the signatures of 15,000 scientists arguing that there was no conclusive scientific evidence that human emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases cause or will cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and a disturbance of the Earth's climate in the foreseeable future. There is strong evidence based on scientific studies that the world's oceans, which make up more than 70% of the planet's surface, each year release almost one hundred times more carbon into the atmosphere than all industrial emissions on Earth combined, simply due to temperature changes. As the temperature decreases, the amount of CO2 falls. In other words, global warming is a part of natural cycles that do not depend on man and his activities.

***- What do you see as the best direction to take: how should the energy sector develop so as to minimize the risks associated with environmental pollution?***

- It goes without saying that problems of air and soil pollution, harmful emissions, damage to flora and fauna, and natural disasters are the most important challenges facing mankind today. We, as members of the energy market, must, first of all, unite in our efforts to develop and implement new solutions and technologies that can cope with these threats, instead of recklessly following the doctrines of particular countries, who are pursuing their own economic and political gain while simultaneously trying to completely destroy competing industries, and are thereby depriving entire regions of the planet access to affordable and efficient sources of electricity.

When it comes to coal, I will say that coal has been and will remain a reliable source of energy both for developing and developed countries. Developing countries, which require more and more energy due to population growth, simply do not have enough funds to invest in expensive green technologies, but they still nonetheless need to achieve high economic growth. Developed countries need a reliable backup in case renewables cannot carry the load of demand, as occurred this winter in Europe, particularly in Germany, when solar and wind power failed

to cope with snowfalls and freezing temperatures. Thousands of square kilometres of solar panels, covered in snow and ice, stopped generating energy, while windless, frosty weather led to the stoppage of 30 thousand wind turbines. It was only due to coal and gas generated power that the country managed to avoid an energy collapse. In February 2021, a similar incident also happened in several US states such as

Texas, Virginia and Oregon, owing to a sharp drop in temperatures, which, combined with high humidity, led to icing of the blades of wind farms and their temporary failure. At the same time, a sudden cold snap caused an increased consumption of electricity. As a result, the renewable energy sources, that Texas has relied on in recent years, could neither withstand the weather disasters nor meet the increased demand. For that reason, about 2 million people were left without electricity in Texas alone. Using the foremost coal combustion technologies and eco-grades of thermal and metallurgical coals from companies such as EcoCarbon, we can take care of the environment and help ensure the smooth operation of global energy networks that are able to withstand serious natural and economic disasters at any time, in any place on Earth.

**Using the foremost coal combustion technologies and eco-grades of thermal and metallurgical coals from companies such as EcoCarbon, we can take care of the environment and help ensure the smooth operation of global energy networks that are able to withstand serious natural and economic disasters at any time, in any place on Earth.**

**Let's keep coal eco-friendly!**

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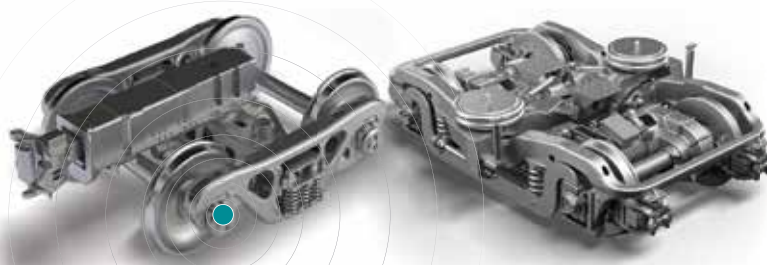
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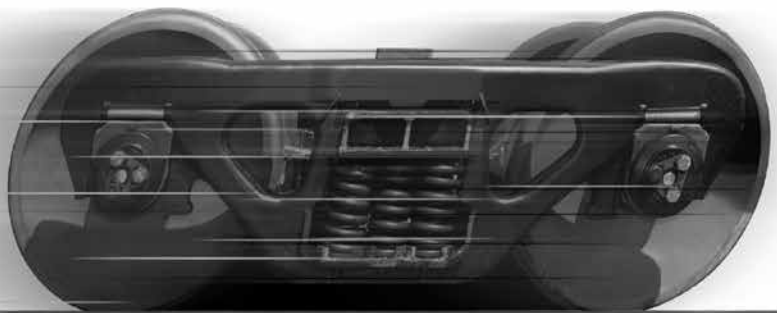
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Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Assn.	SPX Cooling Technologies	Wheat Belt Public Power District
PAR Electrical Contractors, Inc.	SPX Transformer Solutions, Inc.	Wheatland Electric Cooperative
Peak Utility Services Group	SRP	Wheatland Rural Electric Assn.
Peterson Company	St. George Energy Services Department	White River Electric Assn., Inc.
Pike Engineering	Stanley Consultants, Inc.	Wichita State University
Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc.	STP Nuclear Operating Company	Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects
Pipefitters Local Union #208	Sturgeon Electric Co., Inc.	WSU Energy Systems Innovation Center
Platte River Power Authority	Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative	Wyoming Municipal Power Agency
PNM Resources	Sundt Construction	
Poudre Valley Rural Electric Assn.	Sunflower Electric Power Corporation	Xcel Energy
Powder River Energy Corp.	Surveying And Mapping, LLC	
Power Contracting, LLC	Switchgear Solutions, Inc.	Y-W Electric Association, Inc.
POWER Engineers, Inc.	System One	Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc.
Power Equipment Specialists, Inc.	T & R Electric Supply Co., Inc.	
Power Pole Inspections	Technically Speaking, Inc.	Zachry Group
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# 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](mailto: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.*



# Upcoming Issue



2021 MINER'S MEMORIAL  
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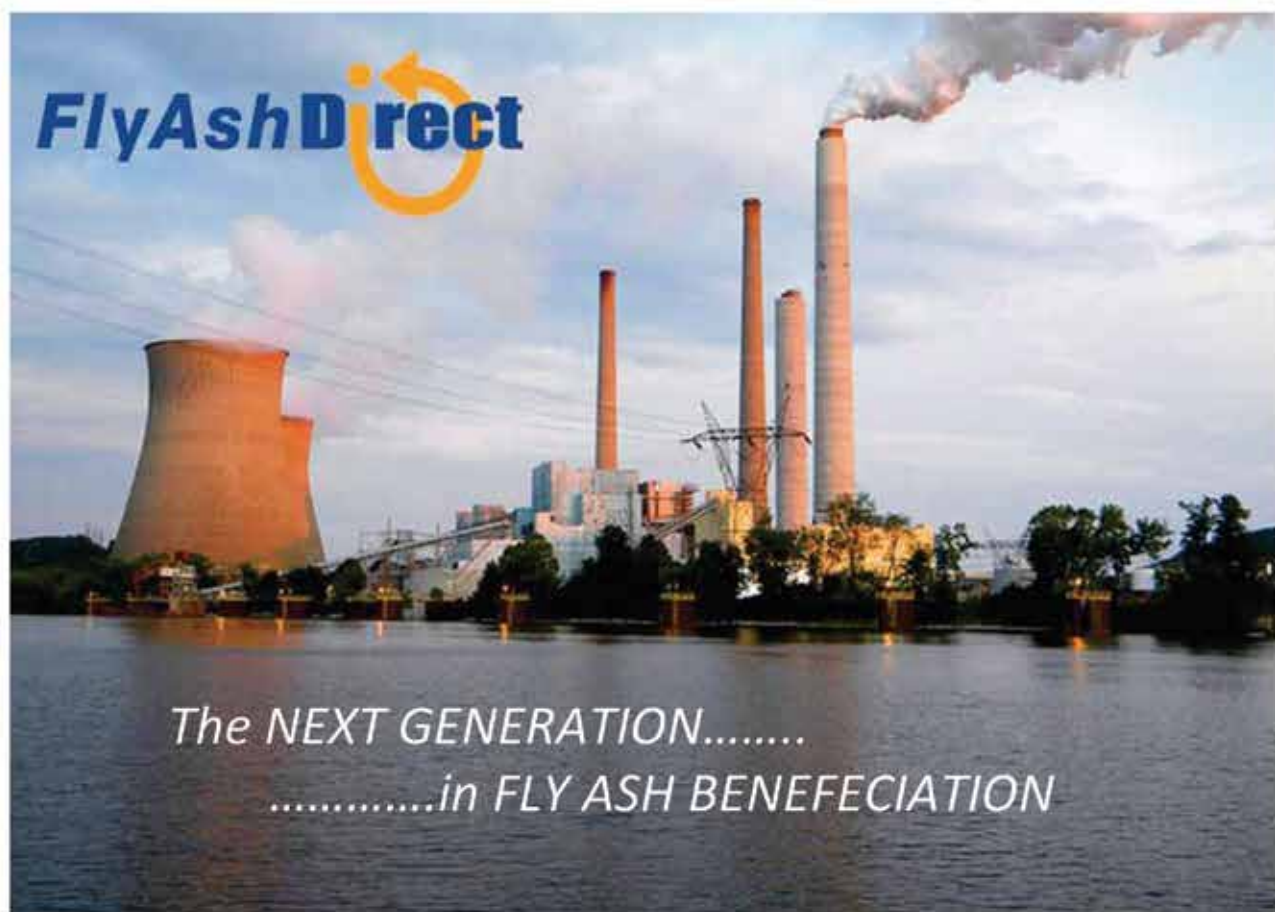
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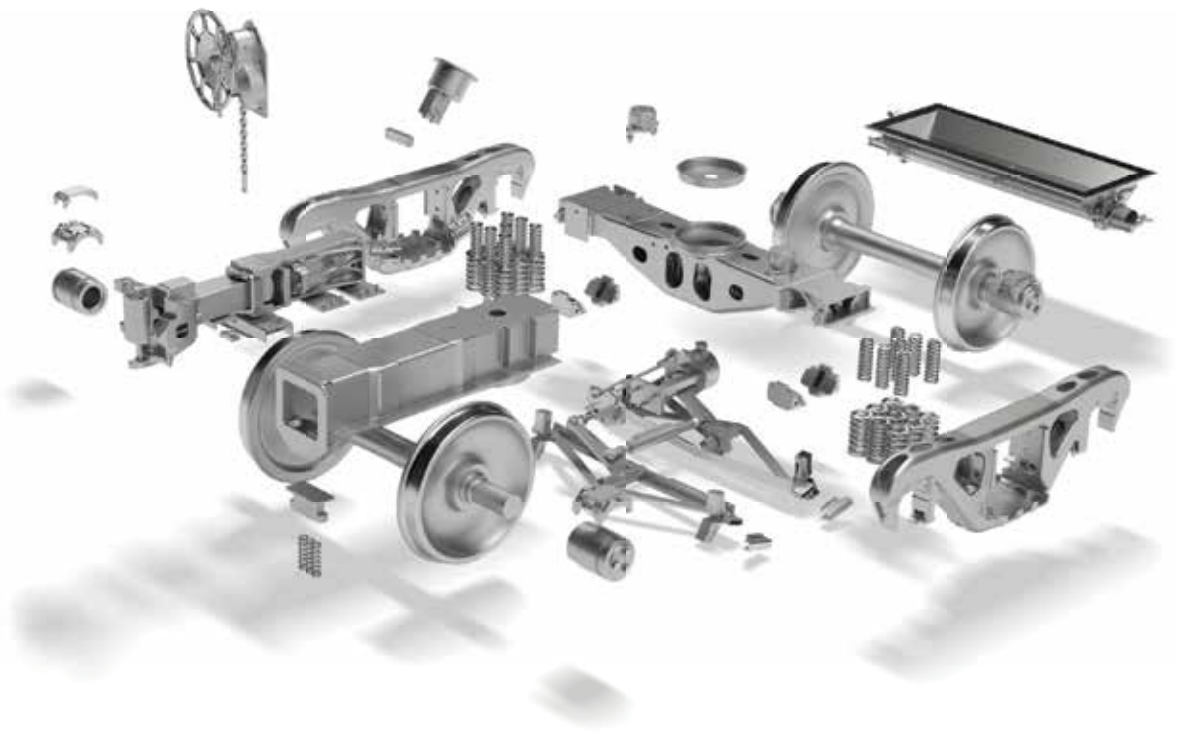
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