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Spokane, Washington — Are we facing a national energy crisis? Stockpiles are being depleted, natural gas prices have soared and the United States continues to rely on overseas markets to supply our nation's growing energy needs. Can we develop our own untapped resources to meet this increased demand and control the cost of energy in the future?

The Northwest Mining Association presents *Energy Minerals-The Future is Now*, an in-depth look into the current energy crisis at its 107th Annual Meeting, Exposition and Short Courses, December 3-7 in Spokane, Washington at the Doubletree Hotel Spokane City Center.

The recent energy shortage in California sparked resurgence in the coal mining industry. Coal supplies more than 50% of US energy needs and is less expensive than natural gas. Stuart Sanderson, President and Chief Operating Officer, Colorado Mining Association will delve into the burgeoning coal market in the western states, and particularly Colorado, where coal production has seen its best year in the past decade. "New operations are coming online in Colorado and current mines are expanding as national energy issues have provoked renewed interest in coal," said Sanderson. He says what is happening in Colorado is a reflection of growing coal output on a national level. Sanderson will focus on coal's lower fuel costs, the clean coal technology with lower sulfur output and implications for the industry's future.

A more controversial energy source, uranium, and the current state and growth potential of the US nuclear power industry will be the focus of George Byers, Director, Government Affairs, Rio Algom Mining Corp. Currently, there is a move on Capitol Hill to forbid the Department of Energy from selling its stockpiles until 2009 and to provide funding for Research and Development to increase domestic uranium production to supply nuclear power needs. House Energy Bill HR.4 is in the US Senate after passing the House of Representatives. The nuclear industry generates 23% of US electrical power but only 6% of that is domestically produced. Byers says in the interest of national security and to fulfill our nation's demand for energy production levels the nuclear industry could increase its output and supply up to 25% of our domestic needs. Byers will look into the current state of domestic uranium production and the attempts by industry leaders to attract the interest of the White House and Congress.

The Energy Minerals-The Future is Now session is Wednesday afternoon, December 5, at 2:15 pm in the Doubletree Hotel, Spokane City Center, Suites C & D.

The Northwest Mining Association is a 106-year-old, 2,000-member, nonprofit, nonpartisan trade association based in Spokane, Washington. The purpose of the Association is to support and advance the mineral resource and related industries, represent and inform its members on technical, legislative and regulatory issues, provide for the dissemination of educational materials relating to mining, and foster and promote economic opportunity and environmentally responsible mining.