

BULLETIN

Northwest Mining Association

SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER 2002

Annual Meeting News: Session Updates

All of you have received the most recent Annual Meeting brochure. If you haven't, please contact the office or go to www.nwma.org. Since that brochure went to print, we are excited about the new talks that have been added.

SHORT COURSE UPDATES

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COEUR D'ALENE SYMPOSIUM

Jim Duff, Vice President for General Development, **Coeur, The Precious Metals Company**, is now chairing the Coeur d'Alene Basin Symposium. Participants to this Symposium will depart from Spokane on Monday morning and return Tuesday afternoon. Space for the underground tours is limited so register early. Additional talks on Monday include:

- **Sedimentation of the Ravalli Group**, *Dr. Don Winston, University of Montana*
- **Stratigraphy of the Revett Formation in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District**, *Dr. Jeffery L. Mauk, University of Auckland, New Zealand and Dr. Brian G. White, NIOSH Spokane Research Center*
- **Hydrothermal Alteration in the Coeur d'Alene Mining District**, *Andrea Strand and Dr. Jeffrey Mauk, University of Auckland, New Zealand*
- **Geology, Exploration & Mining of Fault Hosted Veins at the Galena**, *Rob Fredericks and John Sims, Coeur Silver Valley, Inc.*
- **Explanation of Mine Models:**
 - Galena and Coeur Mines** - *Mike Maslowski, Coeur Silver Valley, Inc.*
 - Sunshine Mine** - *Bill Bond, Geologist or Cole Carter, Geologist*
 - Bunker Hill Mine** - *Jim Duff, Coeur, The Precious Metals Company*

PERMITTING EXPLORATION AND MINING PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LANDS

Debra Struhsacker, Environmental Permitting & Government Affairs Consultant, Reno, Nevada, **Lisa Kirk**, **MAXIM Technologies**, and **Scott Haight**, **BLM Lewiston Field Office**, will be part of the teaching faculty for the Permitting Exploration and Mining Projects on Federal Lands Short Course.

MEASURING MINERAL RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - WORKSHOP

The Sustainable Minerals Roundtable Workshop will be coordinated by **Dr. Dirk J.A. van Zyl**, Chairman/Professor, Mining Life-Cycle Center, University of Nevada, Reno, Deborah Shields, U.S. Forest Service, and Lorie Wagner, USGS. A description of the workshop and list of speakers follows.

Mining and how it contributes to Sustainable Development is a major topic of interest to the industry and to members of associations such as the Northwest Mining Association. Since 1999, the U.S. Forest Service and the USGS have sponsored a series of meetings to develop a set of national level indicators of sustainability for Mineral and Energy Systems. The Sustainable Minerals Roundtable (SMR) (www.mackay.unr.edu/smr) has met in many locations around the U.S. during the last two years. Rather than work toward a single, consensus set of indicators, participants in the SMR are free to propose any indicator that they believe will provide information essential to analysis of the contribution minerals and energy systems make to sustainability. The group agreed that a series of questions would



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Suite 220
Spokane, WA 99201
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Vol. 108, No. 2
© 2002
Tel: 509/624-1158
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website: www.nwma.org
(Published four times a year)

need to be answered for each proposed indicator. To wit: 1) What aspect of sustainability will it quantify? 2) What specific issue will it address? 3) Is the indicator measurable and at what cost? 4) Is the indicator interpretable? 5) Does adequate underlying science exist to justify the use of the indicator? 6) What data will be required and are they available? 7) Is the measure unbiased? 8) At what spatial and temporal scales is the indicator applicable?

Indicators have been developed under four main topics: environmental impacts, socio-economic benefits, productive capacity and legal and institutional. This workshop will review the concepts of sustainable development as they relate to mineral and energy systems as well as the development of the indicators. The morning session will be devoted to these topics. Participants will be asked to review specific indicators in the afternoon session in small working groups. This will allow all participants to comment on the draft indicators. Speakers include:

- **Dr. Deborah Shields**, *U.S. Forest Service Research, Fort Collins, CO*
- **Lorie Wagner**, *U.S. Geological Service, Lakewood, CO*
- **Dr. Ted Heintz**, *Department of Interior, Washington, DC*
- **Dr. Joy Hecht**, *New Jersey Sustainability Institute*
- **Dr. Dirk van Zyl**, *Mining Life-Cycle Center, University of Nevada, Reno*

USGS OPEN INDUSTRY BRIEFINGS

USGS OPEN INDUSTRY BRIEFING

Steve Box has organized the following talks that will be presented on Tuesday morning at the USGS Open Industry Briefing. Speakers and topics in order of appearance:

- **U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Resources Program: Focused on the Americas**, *Kathleen Johnson, Program Coordinator/Minerals Program, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, VA*
- **Stratigraphic Control of Copper-Silver Deposits in the Revett Formation, Western Montana, and Northern Idaho: Application to Resource Assessment**, *David Boleneus, Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Spokane, WA*
- **Late Cenozoic Evolution of the Great Basin: Implications for Precious-Metal and Diatomite Deposits**, *Alan Wallace, Geologist, Mackay School of Mines, Reno, NV*
- **Digital Maps of Tectonic & Ingeous Features, Northern Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Western Montana and Eastern Washington**, *Arthur A. Bookstrom, Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Spokane, WA*

TECHNICAL SESSION UPDATES

MINERAL DEPOSITS, GEOLOGY & EXPLORATION

ALASKA

Session Chairman **Tom Crafford** has added **The New Discoveries within the Giant Pebble Copper-Gold Sulphide System**, *Bruce A. Youngman, President, HunterDickinsen, Vancouver, BC*.

STATE AND PROVINCE REPORTS

Session Chairman **Earl Bennett** has completed his lineup for Wednesday's full day State and Province Reports session. Speakers in order of appearance are:

- **California**, *Don Dupras, Assoc. Geological Engineer, California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Sacramento, CA*
- **Alaska**, *Dave Szumigala, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Div. of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, Fairbanks, AK*
- **British Columbia**, *Tom Schroeter, P. Engineering/P. Geo., Ministry of Employment and Investment, Geological Survey Branch, Mineral Development Office, Vancouver, BC*
- **Colorado**, *Jim Cappa, Chief/Minerals Section, Colorado Geological Survey, Denver, CO*
- **Wyoming**, *Ray E. Harris, Industrial Minerals Specialist, Wyoming State Geological Survey, Laramie, WY*
- **Idaho**, *Dr. Virginia Gillerman, Economic Geologist, Idaho Geological Survey, Boise, ID*
- **Montana**, *Robin McCulloch, Associate Research Mining Engineer, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Butte, MT*
- **Nevada**, *Dr. Jonathan Price, State Geologist, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Reno, NV, and Alan Coyner, Administrator, Nevada Division of Minerals, Carson City, NV*
- **Washington**, *Robert Derkey, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology and Earth Resources, Spokane, WA*
- **Yukon**, *Mike Burke, Dept. of Indian Affairs & Northern Development, Exploration and Geological Services Division, Whitehorse, YT*

EXPLORATION RESEARCH WITHIN THE AMERICAS

Session Chairman **Tommy Thompson**, Director/CREG, Mackay School of Mines, has organized the following talks for this session.

- **Geologic Characteristics of the Empire Cu-Zu Skam Deposit, Mackay, Idaho, and Implications for Exploration and Genesis**, *Zhaoshan Chang, Washington State University*
- **Galena and Solid State Reactions in Silver Deposits**, *Nathan I. Chutas, University of Washington*
- **Geologic Characteristics of Skam and Porphyry Zinc Mineralization at the Bismark Mine, Chihuahua, Mexico**, *Jesse Starr, Washington State University*
- **Structural Controls on Gold Mineralization at the Deep Post Mine, Carlin Trend, Nevada**, *Fredy Marino, Mackay School of Mines, UNR*
- **Geology of the True North Mine, Fairbanks Mining District, Alaska**, *Keith Campbell, Mackay School of Mines, UNR*
- **Overview of Recent Research by CREG Team Members From the Carlin Trend to South America**, *Tommy Thompson, Mackay School of Mines, UNR*

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MINING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Session Chair: **Dirk, J.A. van Zyl**, *University of Nevada, Reno*

A follow-up to the Sustainable Minerals Roundtable Workshop, this session will focus on how the mining industry addresses economic, environmental and social issues in a way that creates business value. The session also will present ideas on how one measures progress towards sustainable development and the indicators of sustainable development.

- **Indicators of Sustainable Development – A Report from the Sustainable Minerals Roundtable**, *Dr. Deborah Shields, U.S. Forest Service Research*
- **Sustainable Development in the Mining Industry – It’s a Journey, Not a Destination**, *Steven B. Hellem, Executive Director, Global Environmental Management Initiative, Washington, DC*
- **The National Mining Association’s Sustainable Development Principles**, *Constance Holmes, Senior Economist and Director, International Policy, National Mining Association, Washington, DC.*
- **Seven Questions to Sustainability – How to Assess the Contribution of Mining and Minerals Activities**, *Speaker to be announced.*

WINNING IN THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION III, ARE WE MAKING PROGRESS?

Session Chair, **Eric Williams**, will focus this session around National Mining Association’s first ever nationwide public opinion survey, what we learned, and how to best use that knowledge. The session will also look at NMA’s Grassroots Training efforts, their ACT (Advocacy Campaign Team) online communication tools, and the Women’s Mining Coalition’s grassroots efforts.

- **NMA’s Public Opinion Research and the Development of an Effective Grassroots Effort**, *Myron Meche, Director of Grassroots and Constituent Relations, National Mining Association, Washington, DC*
- **The Women’s Mining Coalition’s Constituent Outreach and Recruitment Project – An Update**, *Ann Carpenter, Consultant, Domestic and International Mineral Development, Reno, NV*

OPERATIONS

MINE OPERATIONS & METALLURGY

The afternoon portion of this day long session will be chaired by **Troy Fierro**, *VP Mining Services, Coeur d’Alene Mines Corp., Coeur d’Alene, ID*. Session talks and speakers will include:

- **Apollo Gold - Montana Tunnels Operation Update**
- **Golden Sunlight Underground Operations**, *Henry Bogert, Underground Mine Superintendent, Placer Dome/Golden Sunlight Mines, Butte, MT*

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

THE BUSINESS OF EXPLORATION AND MINING

Session Chairman **Don Birak**, Vice President Exploration, **AngloGold NA**, has a dynamite session featuring the following features and topics in order of their appearance:

- **Trends in Mineral Valuations and Regulations - Part I**, *Neil Prenn, President, Mine Development Associates, Inc., Reno, NV*
- **Trends in Mineral Valuations and Regulations - Part II**, *Barney Guarnera, President, Behre Dolbear & Co., Inc., Denver, CO.*
- **Managing Risk and Value in Mineral Exploration**, *Christopher Lee, Structural Geology & Mining, SRK Consulting, North America, Vancouver, BC*
- *Dan Jepsen, Executive Director, British Columbia-Yukon Chamber of Mines, Vancouver, BC*
- **A Perspective on Junior Company Financing**, *Dave Adamson, President, Rubicon Minerals Corp., Vancouver, BC*

GROWTH COMPANIES IN THE AMERICAS

Session Chairman **Steve Craig** has added the following presenters to this Investor Related session:

- **Hecla Mining Company**, *Phil Baker, VP and CFO, Coeur d’Alene, ID;*
- **Pacific Rim Mining Corp.**, *Tom Schrake, CEO, Reno, NV*
- **Earthworks Technology, Inc.**, *Rick Richins, VP/Environmental & Government Affairs and Eric Klepfer, VP Engineering & Technical Services, Boise, ID.*
- **Minefinders Corporation Ltd.**, *Reno, NV*

ENVIRONMENTAL

SUCCESSES AND FAILURES IN THE PERMITTING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ARENA

Session Chair **Pat Gochnour** has added the following talks to his session.

- **The Beal Mountain Story**, *Kelvin Buchanan, President, HB Engineering Group, Reno, NV*
- **The New World Mining District Response and Restoration Project**, *Allan Kirk, Senior Geologist, Maxim Technologies, Inc., Bozeman, MT*

RECLAMATION SUCCESS STORIES

Rick Richins, *Earthworks Technology, Inc., Boise, ID* will chair this environmental session. Speakers and talks include:

- **Innovative Reclamation Practices at the Coeur Rochester Minesite**, *Jerry Hepworth, Environmental & Loss Control Superintendent, Lovelock, NV*
- **Examples of Sustainable Reclamation Activities at the Coeur Golden Cross Minesite, New Zealand**, *Randy MacGillivray, Senior Mine Reclamationist, Earthworks Technology, Inc., Boise, ID*
- **TVX Mineral Hill**, *Pat Platenberg, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, MT*
- **McLaughlin Mine**, *Pat Putrel, General Manager, McLaughlin Mine, Lower Lake, CA*

The bottom line is that we have an outstanding, cutting edge technical program that you can’t afford to miss. Sign up today and we’ll see you in Spokane.

**NORTHWEST MINING ASSOCIATION'S
2002 SCHEDULE BY TRACK**

SHORT COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND OPEN INDUSTRY BRIEFINGS

MONDAY DECEMBER 2

Morning 8:30 - 11:30	Coeur d'Alene Symposium <i>Jim Duff Wallace Idaho</i>	Pursuing Success in the NW Industrial Minerals Sector <i>Dave Holmes Mike McClave Suite C</i>	Permitting Exploration & Mining Projects on Federal Lands <i>Mike Doran Paul McNutt Suite B</i>		
Afternoon 1:30 - 4:30					

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3

Morning 8:30 - 11:30	Coeur d'Alene Symposium <i>Jim Duff Mine Tours</i>	Pursuing Success in the NW Industrial Minerals Sector <i>Mica Clay Plant Tour</i>	Permitting Exploration & Mining Projects on Federal Lands <i>Mike Doran Paul McNutt Suite B</i>	Sustainable Minerals Roundtable Workshop <i>Dirk van Zyl Suite C</i>	USGS Open Industry Briefing <i>Steve Box Suite D</i>
Afternoon 1:30 - 4:30					NIOSH Open Industry Briefing <i>Ros Hill Suite D</i>

TECHNICAL SESSIONS BY TRACK

MINERAL DEPOSITS
&
GEOLOGY &
EXPLORATION

BUSINESS &
FINANCE

OPERATIONS

LEGISLATIVE &
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ENVIRONMENTAL
PERMITTING

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4

Morning 8:30 - 11:00	State & Province Reports <i>Earl Bennett Suites A & B</i>	Growth Companies in the Americas <i>Steve Craig Suite C</i>		Mining & Sustainable Development <i>Dirk van Zyl Suite D</i>	
Afternoon 2:15 - 4:45			Energy Minerals <i>Dan Cornette Evergreen Room</i>		Successes & Failures in the Permitting & Environmental Arena <i>Pat Gochnour Suite D</i>

THURSDAY DECEMBER 5

Morning 8:30 - 11:00	Alaska <i>Tom Crafford Suite A</i>		Mine Operations & Metallurgy <i>morning - Mark Anderson & Corby Anderson afternoon - Troy Fierro Suite C</i>		Reclamation Success Stories <i>Rick Richins Suite D</i>
Afternoon 2:15 - 4:45	Large Left Lateral Leaps <i>Jack Satkoski Suite B</i>	The Business of Exploration & Mining <i>Don Birak Suite A</i>			

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6

Morning 8:30 - 11:00	Exploration Research Within the Americas <i>Tommy Thompson Suites A & B</i>		Industrial Minerals <i>Dave Holmes Mike McClave Evergreen Room</i>	Legislative Affairs <i>Laura Skaer Suites C & D</i>	
Afternoon 2:15 - 4:45				Winning in the Court of Public Opinion III <i>Eric Williams Suite C</i>	

NORTHWEST MINING ASSOCIATION'S
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The Way I See It

By Glenn Marx, *Whitehall Ledger* publisher

Reprinted with permission from the August 21, 2002 *Whitehall Ledger*

The timing was ironic and largely unnoticed, but it was indeed illustrative to note that at the same time the Montana State Legislature was meeting in Helena to fix a \$50 million hole in the state budget caused by a sluggish economy and declining tax revenue, a district judge and state agency were working to kill any hope of expanding the local economy and increasing tax revenue to the state.

The state will reportedly face a deficit of over \$200 million for the coming biennium, and by the end of that biennium the economic benefits, taxes and community contributions made by Golden Sunlight Mine could be gone. Gone not because the gold ran out or because of financial reasons or because the company rejected continued investment in Montana. But gone because environmental groups and a district judge have made it absolutely clear that Golden Sunlight Mine and the jobs it creates and the benefits it generates are not wanted in this state. Gone because at a time when Montana desperately needs expanded employment opportunity and economic stability, a district judge and a state environmental agency are insisting that a mountain literally be moved to create 235 acres of wildlife and livestock grazing. Gone because what environmental groups want is more important than actual environmental quality.

Montana District Judge Thomas Honzel, in the First Judicial District Court in Helena, issued a ruling on June 27 ordering Golden Sunlight Mine to backfill its open mine pit. Golden Sunlight Mine contends backfilling the pit is a mistake, and is considering several options, including appealing the Honzel decision or possibly suing the state. Golden Sunlight Mine officials have also said that because of efficiencies in operating the pit and climbing gold prices, the pit expansion discussed for the past five years or so is becoming temptingly feasible. But GSM has stated that if the goal of the state is to require the open pit be filled, it makes no sense for GSM to pay to make the pit bigger.

The pit expansion, if approved by GSM's parent company, Placer Dome, would keep the mine open an additional three or four years, employ about 150 people during that time period and generate millions of dollars of revenue for the local economy, local school districts, and local, county and state government.

How much revenue? In 2001, GSM produced 195,000 ounces of gold. That same year the company paid \$5.4 million in payroll. And the company paid \$1.7 million in fringe benefits. And the company paid \$401,000 in property taxes. And the company paid \$503,000 in gross proceeds taxes. And the company paid \$842,000 in state metal mines taxes. And the company paid \$1.35 million in federal and state income taxes.

The company also helped build the addition to the Whitehall Community Library, helped fund the Jefferson Valley Community Foundation, helped fund the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce and helped the community in abundant ways.

Clearly, for the state of Montana to deliberately turn its back on millions of dollars of revenue potentially generated by GSM, the environmental risk of not backfilling the pit must be severe. If the pit is not backfilled, there must be the risk of significant harm to air and water quality. There must be, you're thinking,

environmental benefits commensurate with the economic loss that justifies the pit backfill.

Not even close. Here is the reason the pit must be partially backfilled and the potential GSM expansion plans will be eliminated: the pit would look better, and 235 acres of wildlife and livestock grazing would be created.

That's no joke. Those are the reasons. Standing above the Jefferson and Boulder valleys, the GSM mine site is surrounded by an ocean of wildlife and grazing habitat. Pre-mining, the site was at best marginal for grazing. GSM has spent \$12 million the last few years reclaiming lands adjacent to its pit, and if you walk on that reclaimed land right now you'll see wildlife. To backfill the pit, that reclaimed land would have to be, according to GSM, torn up and hauled back into the pit. Can that possibly make sense? Only to Judge Thomas Honzel, Montana environmental groups and, apparently, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Nowhere else in America would such a ruling even be considered let alone ordered. Montana stands alone in that regard, which is one reason why Montana stands at the bottom of the American economy.

Judge Thomas Honzel, in his order, writes only that the DEQ stated in 1998 that backfilling the pit meant "more comprehensive reclamation." In the 1998 environmental impact statement prepared by DEQ, the department admits that backfilling the pit would lead to "negligible" environmental benefits. The "more comprehensive reclamation" in the EIS means the side walls of the pit would be less visible and the bottom of the pit would be improved for wildlife and livestock grazing.

It is incomprehensible madness. It would be laughable if it wasn't so sad. It would be unbelievably ludicrous if it happened in another state, but it is tragically close to business as usual in Montana.

Montana has tough environmental laws, and for a good reason. We want our air, our water, our wildlife habitat, our environment protected. We live in a beautiful place, and we want to keep it that way. Golden Sunlight has had a few bumps in the road, but it has successfully operated within countless state and federal laws and rules, it has prepared a reclamation plan and complied with a \$54 million reclamation bond requirement.

But the pit backfill has nothing to do with environmental quality. Filling the pit isn't a way to improve the water or air quality at the mine, but backfilling the pit is a way to eliminate mining in Montana. No company will ever dig another open pit gold mine if the pit has to be filled, and filled for no environmental reason. GSM estimates it will cost somewhere in excess of \$20 million to backfill the pit. And GSM says if the pit is backfilled, it would be more difficult, more expensive and less effective for the company to manage water quality and acid rock drainage. Wouldn't it make sense for the reclamation plan to contain provisions that makes the water quality easier and more effectively managed?

At a time when Montana is attempting to improve its business climate, create jobs and lift the state economy from the bowels of the American economy, requiring GSM to backfill the pit sends this message to every corporation and business in the

world: You'd have to be an idiot to re-locate your business and try to create jobs in Montana.

Golden Sunlight operated for 20 years with a reclamation plan. It operated 20 years with a reclamation bond. Now a judge and a state agency insist that plan and bond are not good enough. That's just plain unfair. If the mandate to fill the pit would have been required by the state in 1982, when the mine opened, the mine simply would never have existed. There never would have been a Golden Sunlight Mine. There would not have been \$170 million paid in wages to area employees and nearly \$45 million paid in fringe benefits. There would not have been over \$9.2 million paid in property taxes, \$11 million paid in gross proceeds taxes, \$12 million in state metal mines taxes or \$34 million paid in state and federal income taxes. Over 2.2 million ounces of a valuable raw product needed for international commerce would not have been produced. And for over two decades, hundreds of jobs for families in the Jefferson Valley area would not have been created. All this, plus the tangible benefits of GSM's generosity to the area, would have been lost. Why? For 235 acres of wildlife and grazing land at a place where there was only marginal wildlife and grazing land.

It doesn't make sense. The Montana Legislature attempted, in good faith, to modify the Metal Mines Reclamation Act to ensure that nonsense like pit backfilling would only be required if it produced clear environmental benefits. Judge Honzel rejected that legislative attempt. He has ordered the DEQ to require pit backfilling at Golden Sunlight, and DEQ has apparently, although possibly reluctantly, decided to comply with the judge's order.

Golden Sunlight will be meeting with DEQ and Martz Administration officials on August 21, and Golden Sunlight hopes to open the eyes of the Martz Administration to the ramifications of the backfill order.

In a battle – and make no mistake, this is an economic battle – you're never sure where to draw the lines of engagement. Well, this is the place, this is the issue, and this is the time. If Golden Sunlight Mine is required to backfill the pit and do so for no apparent reason, we will have lost, our economy will have lost, and we will have surrendered our future to the violence of environmental greed.

History of Washington's Gold Mines

Oso Publishing Company, Arlington, Washington, has published a second volume in its "Discovering Washington's Historic Mines" series. *Volume 2: The East Central Cascade Mountains and the Wenatchee Mountains* by Phil Woodhouse, Daryl Jacobson, Vic Pisoni, and Greg Cady retails for \$34.95.

Volume 1 introduced readers to all the known hardrock mines in Washington's West Central Cascade Mountains. Now, *Volume 2*, which is roughly twice the size of *Volume 1*, covers the East Central Cascade Mountains and the Wenatchee Mountains. The books contain detailed maps, directions, hiking guidelines, and much more. There are dozens of photos, maps, isometric drawings, etc. If you like mining, history, or would like the opportunity to go and visit some really interesting sites, this book is a treasure unto itself. For more information, go to www.osorail.com or call the publisher at 800/337-03547.

In Memoriam

Jerry D. Lewis, a valued NWMA Trustee in the late 1980's, and a former Annual Meeting program chair, passed away on July 15, 2002. Jerry was working at Specialty Minerals in Adams, Massachusetts as the plant environmental engineer. He is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Renee, and son Geoffrey. Jerry will be sorely missed by his family, friends and all of the Northwest Mining Association members that knew him over the years.

It is with great sadness that we report that **Dan Schneider**, a Montana native and long time NWMA member, died of a heart attack on September 4 while on a business trip to Elko, Nevada. Dan was a highly respected landman, having worked for Noranda, Battle Mountain Gold, and most recently as an independent consultant. He is survived by his wife Debbie and two young children, Matt and Claire. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

China National Coal Association Delegation Visits Spokane

Nine delegates from the China National Coal Association led by its president, Professor Fan Weitang, spent two days in Spokane in early July. The visit with Northwest Mining Association and NIOSH was part of a two-week trip that included stops in Denver and Washington, D.C. While in Spokane, the delegation made presentations on China's coal and coal bed methane industries. This meeting was a follow-up to the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the two organizations last year. Former NWMA Special Projects Director, **Ivan Urnovitz**, was instrumental in setting up the visit and ensuring that the delegation's visit to Spokane was mutually beneficial.

Members on the Move

Patrick M. James, Chairman of **Constellation Copper**, was elected chairman of the Minerals Information Institute. NWMA member **Guy Johnson**, President of Technology Applications and Marketing, was re-elected Secretary Treasurer. Also, NMA President and CEO, Jack N. Gerard, was named as a new director. NWMA congratulates these outstanding industry professionals. MII is the mineral industry's leading provider of educational materials for the classroom and public dissemination.

Ronald W. Clayton has joined **Hecla Mining Company** as Vice President – U.S. Operations. Ron has more than 22 years of operational and management experience in the mining industry and returns to Hecla after working for Stillwater Mining Company for two years. In his previous career with Hecla, Clayton was general manager of the Rosebud, Republic and Lucky Friday mines. NWMA welcomes Ron back to the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene area.

New Executive Order Strengthens SBREFA

In 1996, Congress passed SBREFA, the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, to put some teeth into the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA). The RFA was designed to require federal agencies to consider and mitigate the impact of their regulations on small businesses and small governmental entities. Prior to 1996, agencies could ignore the RFA requirements by merely certifying that their rulemaking proposal would have no adverse impact on small entities. SBREFA changed that by requiring an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis of the impacts on small entities during the NEPA process. If an agency wanted to certify no adverse impact, they now have to provide a factual basis for that certification. Most importantly, the new law provided for judicial review of an agency's determination under the RFA.

This law came to the forefront when NWMA sued former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for publishing illegal bonding regulations in 1997, without performing the required analysis of the impact of the new rules on small businesses. As most of you know, the federal district court in Washington, D.C. agreed and invalidated the illegal regulations because BLM failed to comply with the Regulatory Flexibility Act requirements.

Despite several federal court rulings adverse to federal agencies, many agencies are still publishing new regulations while giving only lip service at best to the requirements of the RFA. The Clinton Roadless Rule is a prime example.

President Bush has taken an important step to ensure agency compliance with the RFA with Executive Order (EO) 13272 dated August 13, 2002. This EO requires each Executive Branch agency to establish procedures and policies to promote compliance with the RFA. Within 90 days, each agency head is required to submit their written procedures and policies to the SBA Office of Advocacy for comment and within 180 days of the date of the order, issue written procedures and policies to ensure that the potential impacts of agencies' draft rules on small businesses, small governmental jurisdictions, and small organizations are properly considered during the rulemaking process.

Executive Order 13272 was published on Friday, August 16 in 67 Fed. Reg. 53461-62.

BHP Billiton Pulls the Plug on Crandon

Shortly after the State of Wisconsin announced that it would not pursue purchasing the Crandon mine site and mineral deposit from BHP Billiton subsidiary **Nicolet Minerals**, the company announced several layoffs and that it would seek another mining company to purchase the property.

The state had been in negotiations with Nicolet, but abandoned the negotiations after two independent appraisers valued the mineral rights between \$51.2 and \$94 million. Wisconsin, like many states, is facing a budget deficit and does not have the funds to pay fair market value for the mine.

This issue has become one of the hot button issues in the Wisconsin Governor's race with the democratic candidate opposing the mine and advocating purchase.

The State Department of Natural Resources indicated that it would continue working on the permit. The mine has been in permitting since 1994.

It seems to NWMA that the environmental obstructionist groups who are adamantly opposed to the mine are the ones that should be offering to purchase the mine, not Wisconsin taxpayers. Given the asset base of a number of charitable foundations and trusts that fund the environmental obstructionist groups, they probably have a better looking balance sheet than the State of Wisconsin.

STUDENT POSTER SESSION CONTEST

Thursday, December 5

Chairman: Jim Ashleman

A one-day display whereby mining engineering and geology students have the opportunity to present papers to the convention attendees.

The contest is structured to simulate the presentation of a project or process to management by an engineer, geologist or metallurgist. The candidate will be judged on his/her ability to convey meaning and conviction that the work is significant and is of benefit to the minerals industry. The Student Poster Contest provides an excellent opportunity for young people to meet leaders in the minerals industry and to develop communication skills with other professionals who may not necessarily be skilled in the student's particular discipline. In the past, several students have obtained summer and/or full time employment as a result of their presentations.

We are extending invitations for papers dealing with exploration, operations, management, economics, reclamation, and other subjects pertinent to our industry.

PRIZES TOTALING \$875 WILL BE AWARDED

Interested students should contact Jim Ashleman at jashleman@aol.com, or the NWMA office (509) 624-1158, or e-mail nwma@nwma.org.

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ISSUE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) announced that they are planning to issue a rule to define their authority over isolated wetlands in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's groundbreaking 2001 decision that limited Clean Water Act jurisdiction over such wetlands. (*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) v. Army Corps of Engineers*). In a joint statement, EPA and ACOE stated, "We have determined that we should engage in rulemaking to define the federal role under the Clean Water Act and collect broad public input on important jurisdictional waters."

Fearing that the Bush Administration would use the rulemaking to expand the court's ruling in *SWANCC v. ACOE*, a number of environmental obstructionist groups issued statements strongly opposing the rulemaking effort. NWMA will follow this rulemaking closely and provide comments.

MINING LAW

Over the last several months, discussions have taken place between Nick Joe Rahall's office and Jack Gerard, President and CEO of National Mining Association. As previously reported, Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, in an October 2001 transmittal letter to Congress when she revised the Babbitt 3809 rules, indicated that Interior supported constructive amendments to the General Mining Laws. The mining industry also supports constructive amendments, and has been attempting to find a meeting of the minds with Congressman Rahall. DOI is supportive of these discussions and, in fact, has encouraged both parties to attempt to resolve some of the differences that have prevented revisions of the Mining Law in the past.

NWMA is participating in a National Mining Association Mining Law Task Force to ensure that the interests of our members are represented. NWMA has provided critical input to NMA for use in the discussions with Congressman Rahall's office. It now appears that Congress will not address Mining Law issues this year.

PUBLIC LANDS

Song Parody Blasts Environmental Obstructionists Over Arizona Fires

One of the best song parodies to come along, "We Didn't Start The Fire," nails the environmental obstructionists and the Clinton/Gore Administration right between the eyes for their role in causing the massive Arizona forest fire that destroyed personal property, wildlife, towns, and important habitat, not to mention lots of trees. If you want a good laugh, go to the NWMA website and under "Hot Topics" click on "We Didn't Start The Fire." If you are a Billy Joel fan, you'll recognize the tune.

NWMA Welcomes Elaine Brong

NWMA would like to welcome Elaine Brong to the Northwest. Elaine is the new Oregon/Washington State Director. She met with NWMA Executive Director Laura Skaer in August while on a trip through Eastern Washington with BLM Director Kathleen Clarke. NWMA looks forward to working with Elaine.

NWMA Meets With BLM Director

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke was in Spokane during the week of August 26. She met with NWMA Executive Director Laura Skaer on the 28th, along with new Oregon/Washington State Director Elaine Brong and Oregon/Washington Deputy Director Ed Shepherd. Director Clarke is the former head of the State of Utah Office of Oil, Gas and Mining. During the brief meeting, Ms. Clarke learned about NWMA, our members, and the public lands issues important to our members. NWMA's role in ensuring that there is a western on-the-ground voice into the policy discussions and decisions taking place at the national level was emphasized. Having spent most of her career in the west, Ms. Clarke echoes the comments of President Bush and Secretary Norton that "all knowledge does not reside inside the beltway."

DOI Forms Bonding Task Force

A DOI task force, including officials from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Office of Surface Mining (OSM), Minerals Even before the terrorist activities of September 11, a number of mining companies, both coal and hardrock, as well as oil and gas operators, were finding it difficult to obtain new reclamation bonds at any price. A combination of bankruptcies (Enron, K-Mart, W.R. Grace, Global Crossing), and the terrorist activities of September 11, resulted in significant losses to the surety industry. Following September 11, surety bonds for mining related and oil and gas obligations became virtually unavailable at any price with or without collateral. It is estimated that the insurance industry lost about one-half of its \$150 billion pre-September 11 capital as a result of the World Trade Center bombings. In 2001, the surety industry lost approximately 32 cents on every dollar of earned premium.

As a result of the losses in 2000 and 2001, surety companies have altered their underwriting criteria and historical loss experiences no longer the principal risk factor. Contrary to a belief in the media and among some regulators and environmental obstructionist groups, the mining industry's lost experience has remained favorable. However, since mining represents less than 1% of the surety business line and has the longest "tails" due to regulatory requirements, the surety industry is seeking to invest their risk capital in other business lines.

Furthermore, just as the mining industry has experienced consolidation and contraction, so has the surety industry. The top 5 surety companies write 40% of the business. As a result, surety companies are lowering bond amounts to minimize exposure, writing only short duration bonds (less than 5 years) charging

ISSUE REPORTS

substantially higher premiums (as much as 500%), requiring cash collateral equal to the bond amount, and focusing on higher quality transactions that are somewhat benign and of short duration. As a result, the mining industry has been pretty much “pre-disqualified” from acquiring new surety bonds. And, the near term prospects for improvement are bleak, at best.

The DOI Task Force has held a number of meetings with industry, the surety industry, environmental obstructionist groups, and others. **NWMA has provided input to the DOI Task Force to make sure that its members’ interest is represented and communicated to the Task Force.** NWMA has also participated on a bonding task force formed by the National Mining Association.

One of the points industry has made is that there are several regulatory impediments to the mining industry’s ability to obtain surety bonds. The surety industry made this point clear as well. One of the regulatory impediments facing industry is that the duration of the obligation exceeds current surety risk assessment criteria. Another is the inability to obtain full bond release after completion of reclamation and closure work. Other problems include requiring up-front posting of the full amount of the bond and increasing the size of the bond through worst case scenario and ‘what if’ contingency analyses. A further problem is that the regulatory scheme is constantly changing and some regulators are attempting to apply new regulations retroactively to mining activities permitted under different rules.

In July, the House Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, held a hearing on the inability of the mining and oil and gas industries to obtain surety bonds. Among those testifying were the American Surety Association, NWMA Trustee and **Glamis Gold** Vice President and General Counsel, Chuck Jeannes, Steve Borell, Executive Director of the Alaska Miners Association, a representative of the Rio Tinto family of companies, and a representative of the environmental obstructionist groups. Jeannes told the Committee that “from an operations and reclamation liability standpoint, Glamis’s record is pristine, with no history of environmental problems and no long-term liabilities. Despite this record, Glamis is unable to obtain surety bonding in the current regulatory and market environment.”

The environmental obstructionist groups are trying to spin the DOI Task Force as a cover for another “environmental rollback.” They argue that any lessening of bonding requirements will result in more liability being placed on the taxpayers.

In response to criticism of the DOI Task Force by environmental obstructionist groups, a bipartisan group of 19 House members, along with environmental obstructionist groups, have urged the Department of Interior to maintain the new 43 CFR 3809 bonding regulations and not allow corporate guarantees.

The DOI Task Force is looking at a number of alternatives, including cash, letters of credit, collateralized securities, trusts and sinking funds, annuities, corporate guarantees, risk based instruments (liability insurance policies), state bond pools, incremental bonding, and phased in bonding. NWMA has pointed out that any financial instrument or alternative that requires cash, cash equivalents or draws on lines of credit, diverts scarce

capitol resources from wealth and job-creating activities. A requirement along this line, in effect, increases the capital cost of the project (in reality, a double charging). It also lowers the rate of return to unacceptable levels.

The mining industry is experiencing a capital famine, and solving that capital famine is a key to solving the unavailability of surety bonds situation facing industry. How do we attract capital to the business of writing mining reclamation surety bonds, and create an attractive risk reward ratio for those companies?

The DOI Task Force is expected to present its report to Secretary Gale Norton in November. **Task force leader, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Tom Fulton, is scheduled to speak on the DOI Task Force report at the NWMA Annual Meeting.**

BLM to Review Land Exchanges

The BLM announced it will undertake a 90-day review of all pending land exchanges being processed or under discussion to determine whether the agency is violating federal land exchange and land appraisal policies. The decision came on the heels of a report by The Appraisal Foundation, which advises BLM, that recommended a halt to all pending land exchanges because of apparent violations. BLM is establishing a working group to undertake a review of policies and to analyze recommendations contained in reports issued by the General Accounting Office and the Inspector General of the Interior Department during the past several years. BLM’s land exchanges came under scrutiny when several BLM employees charged that a pending exchange in Utah favors the state by turning over lands that contain significant mineral resources.

Tuesday, December 3, 2002, 7:00 pm at the Spokane Community College Lair Student Auditorium, 1810 N. Greene Street, Spokane, Washington

The Hunt for North American Diamonds

by author Kevin Krajick

Kevin Krajick, a longtime contributor to magazines including National Geographic, Science and Newsweek, examines the ultra-secret science of diamond-hunting, and the cutthroat competition between small-time prospectors and De Beers. In this exciting slide presentation, he reveals how diamond prospecting is a hidden but important part of U.S. history, taking the audience from 16th-century explorer Jacques Cartier, through diamond finds, frenzies and hoaxes of the 19th century Wild West and other regions, to today, when dozens of large companies including the De Beers cartel are roaming the continent in search of gems. He concludes with a look at an ongoing multibillion-dollar diamond strike on the northern Canadian tundra, the subject of his recent book **BARREN LANDS**.

This presentation is free and open to the public.

STATE REPORTS

IDAHO

Hecla Mining Company recently announced it is no longer pursuing the agreement in principle with the United States and the State of Idaho to settle the governments' claims for cleanup costs and natural resource damages related to historic mining practices in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, as well as cleanup related expenditures at three other sites in Idaho. As a result of improvements in the environmental conditions at Grouse Creek and lower estimated costs in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, the multiple properties settlement approach is no longer fair to the company.

Hecla Chairman and CEO Art Brown said, "We have worked very hard this year on outlining options at Grouse Creek that are environmentally responsible and cost-effective, and believe it does not make sense to have that property involved in an agreement with the government. Therefore, we will continue to pursue a less inclusive agreement that would deal only with the area covered in the litigation involving the environmental lawsuit in northern Idaho."

EPA Issues Record of Decision for Silver Valley Cleanup

On September 12, 2002, EPA Region 10 Regional Administrator, John Iani signed a Record of Decision for the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical Complex Operable Unit 3 (the expanded Silver Valley Cleanup). The ROD will be implemented by the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission, which met for the first time on September 27. Sherry Krulitz, a Shoshone County Commissioner, was chosen to chair the board for a two-year term. Although the State of Idaho signed the ROD, Governor Kempthorne issued a letter taking issue with several aspects.

In a related matter, the House Appropriations Committee endorsed legislation that allocates funding for a National Academy of Sciences review of the EPA Science and Decision to Extend Superfund cleanup status beyond "the Bunker Hill Smelter box" to most of the Coeur d'Alene River Basin. The appropriation is for \$850,000. A number of groups representing various interests in the Coeur d'Alene Basin have long criticized EPA science, and the NAS study is good news for all who are interested in a fair and impartial science-based decision.

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Manitoba Mining & Minerals Convention 2002 - Its All About Results, November 14-16, 2002. For more information, contact the Manitoba Industry, Trade and Mines in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada toll free at 1-800-223-5215 or 204/945-8093. Fax 204/945-8427. E-mail: convention@gov.mb.ca. Website: www.mineralsconvention.com.

San Francisco Precious Metals Conference, December 1-2, 2002. San Francisco Marriott, San Francisco, CA. Organizer: International Investment Conferences. Tel: (305) 669-1963, Fax: (305) 669-7350. Website: www.iiconf.com. E-mail: iiconf@iiconf.com.

Northwest Mining Association Trustee Meeting, December 3, 2002 being held in conjunction with our Annual Meeting & Exposition in Spokane, Washington. Contact Kathy Wilson at 509/624-1158 or fax 509/623-1241 for details. E-mail: kwilson@nwma.org.

Northwest Mining Association's 108th Annual Meeting, Short Courses and Exposition, December 2-6, 2002, Spokane, WA, for more information contact NWMA, Phone - (509) 624-1158, Fax - (509) 623-1241, E-mail - nwma@nwma.org, Website: www.nwma.org.

Association for Women Geoscientists Luncheon, Friday, December 6, 2002, 12:00 pm at the Azteca Restaurant, 200 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. No reservations or tickets necessary. Questions - contact Jennifer Leinart - Western Mine Engineering, (509) 328-8023.

Vancouver Investment Conference, January 26-27, 2003, Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Center, Vancouver, B.C. Organizer, Cam Conferences. (604) 684-4151, Fax (604) 687-4726. Website: www.cambridgeconferences.com

Cordilleran Roundup 2003, January 27 - 30, 2003. The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC. Organizer BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines. Tel (604) 689-5271, Fax (604) 681-2363. Website: www.chamberofmines.bc.ca.

105th National Western Mining Conference and Exhibition, February 9-12, 2003. Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, CO. Contact Colorado Mining Association, (303) 575-9199. E-mail colomine@coloradomining.org.

SME Annual Meeting & Exhibit, March 9-12, 2003 Cincinnati, OH. Contact SME Meetings Department, Phone: (303) 973-9550, Fax: (303) 979-3461. E-mail sme@smenet.org.

PDAC International Convention & Trade Show, March 9-12, 2003. Metro Toronto Convention Center, Canada. Contact PDAC, 34 King Street, Suite 900, Toronto, Ontario M5C 2X8. (416) 362-1969, Fax (416) 362-0101, E-mail info@pdac.ca.

CIM 2003 Conference and Mining Exhibition, May 4-7, Montreal, Canada. Contact John Gaydos, Director CIM Tradex, Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy & Petroleum, 3400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Suite 1210, Montreal, Canada H3Z 3B8. (514) 939-2710, Fax (514) 939-2714.

Elko Mining Expo 2003 Annual Convention, June 12-13, Elko Convention Center, Elko, NV. Contact ECVA at 800-248-3556.