

National:

Former NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Cabinet Secretary Ken McQueen was appointed the new EPA Region 6 Administrator.

EPA Region 6, or the “south central region spans five states: New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana and additionally 66 Tribal Nations. McQueen emphasized the importance of regulatory certainty when it comes to implementing federal rules and overseeing highly regulated industries.



The House Natural Resources Committee approved a punitive overhaul of the Mining Law of 1872. The Hardrock Leasing and Reclamation Act of 2019 (H.R. 2579), sponsored by Committee Chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), includes sweeping changes such as eliminating mining claims and substituting a minerals leasing system that will substantially chill, if not eliminate, private sector

investment in exploring for and developing minerals on Federal Land.

NMMA submitted a letter of Opposition to H.R. 2579 in advance of the committee’s action on the Bill.



The National Mining Association has reported that U.S. Mining Companies reinvest back into the economy through extensive local, state and federal taxes. In fact, the industry pays between 40 to 50 percent of earnings in federal, state and local taxes and other fees to benefit the communities in which it works. Furthermore, industries that use minerals and metals as raw materials

contributed \$3.02 trillion to the U.S. GDP in 2018 – underscoring the importance of mining to our economic stability.

State:

Mining and Minerals Division Director in the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is still open.

Director: Mining and Minerals Division

The Mining and Minerals Division Director directs and oversees the Division's statewide statutory and regulatory responsibilities with respect to coal and non-coal mining and reclamation, mine registration, reporting and safeguarding, and the abandoned mine lands program. The Director directs programmatic, technical, administrative, and financial activities, as well as supervising 32 current staff, both technical and administrative, within the Division's programs. The position reports to the Cabinet Secretary of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources and is appointed by the Governor.

The 64th Annual New Mexico Water Conference, Hosted by the NM Water Resources Research Institute and Co-sponsored by the Pueblo of Pojoaque was held on November 6-7-8 at the Buffalo Thunder Casino and Resort. This year's conference was titled: "Sacred Water: Tribal perspectives on water Issues in New Mexico. NMMA was in attendance at the meeting.



NM State Representative Bobby Gonzales has been recommended to the Governor by the Taos County Commission to replace the late Senator Carlos Cisneros who passed away on September 17, 2019. Carlos was retired from the Molybdenum Mine in Questa. Representative Gonzales is a former School Superintendent.

**Federal Grant Secured to repair southern New Mexico Highway**

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the state a \$12.5 million grant to repair and add safety enhancements to Highway 285 between Loving and the Texas Border. That 21 mile strip of highway is a major route in the Permian basin and has been damaged by increased vehicle traffic during the current oil boom.

New Members:

NMMA would like to welcome two new Associate Members, **New Mexico Bank & Trust**; and **ROMCO, Inc out of Texas**. Welcome aboard.

Upcoming:

Nov. 12-14 - Economic and Rural Development Committee
State Capitol - Room 322

Nov.15 – Land Grant Committee – State Capitol - Room 307

Nov. 19-22 – Legislative Finance Committee - State Capitol Room 322

Dec. 3 – NMMA Board of Directors Meeting – NM Mining Museum - Grants