

**National:**



Congratulations to Bisti Fuels Company (NA Coal) for Winning the NMA Sentinels of Safety Award in the Large Coal Processing Category for Navajo Mine. The National Mining Association’s Sentinels of Safety Award recognizes coal and mineral operations in 10 categories for recording the most hours in a calendar year without a single lost-time injury. A minimum of 4,000 hours is required for award consideration.



**State:**

**Uranium Mine to close and go into reclamation**

Rio Grande Resources has notified the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department that it intends to close the Mount Taylor Mine near Grants. The Department said that company officials provided the notice in early December. The Mine has been on standby status since 1999 but a permit provision approved by the state in 2017 allowed it to go active again.



Congratulations to NMMA President Erich Bower of Freeport-McMoRan on his appointment to the New Mexico Coal Surface Mining Commission. This will be in addition to his duties on the NM Mining Commission.



Maggie Hart Stebbins has been appointed as the new Natural Resources Trustee for New Mexico. Ms Hart Stebbins served ten years on the Bernalillo County Commission. The Office of Natural Resources Trustee is an independent state agency but has an administrative link to the New Mexico Environment Department.



Our December Board meeting was held at the Mining Museum in Grants. The meeting was followed by a Tour of the Museum conducted by former NMMA President Terry Fletcher. If you have not visited the Museum recently, I would highly recommend that you do.



The Miners’ Coalfax Medical Center hosted a Miners’ Day Celebration at the Raton Convention Center on December 6. There was reading of both the Governor’s and City of Raton Proclamations. Additionally, there was a presentation by our Safety Committee Chairman, Cotton Jarrell, who is also a Board Member of the MCMC. Presentations were also made by a UNM Research Team on dust related illnesses; the acute care facility and the long term care facility. This is going to be a yearly event and I would love to see us fill the hall next year with folks from the Mining Industry.



Longtime Lobbyist and Former State Representative John Lee Thompson passed away on December 9, 2019. John Lee was one of the most respected lobbyist in New Mexico. He will be greatly missed.



Taos Mayor Dan Barrone has been selected to replace Bobby Gonzales in House District 42. Bobby Gonzales was selected to replace Carlos Cisneros in Senate District 6.



Marian Matthews was selected to fill the vacancy in House District 27 to replace Representative Bill Pratt who passed away. Ms. Matthews is a retired lawyer and educator.

Upcoming events:

December 16 – Legislation may be prefiled for the 2020 Legislative Session until January 17.

January 21 – 2020 Legislative Session begins at noon

February 11 – NMMA Legislative Board Meeting and Legislative Reception & Dinner Santa Fe Hilton

February 20 – Legislative Session Ends.

May 13 – 15 – NM Mine Health & Safety Conference Isleta Resort

July 15 -17 – ALEC Meeting Orlando, Florida

Aug 11 -13 – NCSL Meeting Indianapolis, Indiana

Aug 26 – 28 – NMMA Convention Sandia Resort

Sept 28 – 30 – International Mine Expo Las Vegas, Nevada