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**Issue Sponsor:**



# UTAH MINING

It's time to start celebrating the industry that makes our way of life possible

*True or False: Mining makes every aspect of your life possible.*

It really is true, though most people never think about the pivotal role mining plays in their daily lives. Mined products are key to the advanced, technological, comfortable and more healthful existence we enjoy.

*Think about it.* Try to name one thing you did today that wasn't made possible in some way by mining. You were awakened at your home (mined) by an alarm (mined) and got out of bed (mined). You showered (mined), brushed your teeth with toothpaste (mined) and put on your clothes (mined).

You hopped in your car (mined) and drove on roads (mined) to your place of business (mined) and immediately checked your email on your computer (mined). Well, this could go on all day, but you get the idea.

Mining is a unique industry in that it is the basis for our entire way of life, yet few people ever give

it a second thought, much less consider its significance. That needs to change.

Every year, the average American uses hundreds of newly mined minerals. It is relatively easy to visualize that we need mining for items such as cars, televisions, computers, cell phones and even our national security. New hybrid cars use twice as much

copper as cars powered by gasoline alone — electric cars even more. Computer chips are made from as many as 60 different minerals or their constituent elements. And the U.S. Department of Defense uses more than 750,000 tons of minerals annually.

But, did you know mining also helps feed the world? Today's farmers are working on a shrinking agricultural land base to grow the food needed to feed an ever-growing world population. From the farm machinery they use to the fertilizers that improve food production, mining makes modern



MARK COMPTON

see **COMPTON** pg. **F6**



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Utah officials seemed to have jumped on a couple of Trump administration themes: "America First" and the funding of "shovel-ready" infrastructure projects. The 2017 Utah Legislature took significant steps to fund the development of large-scale infrastructure with an acceleration of the state gas tax, bonding authority increases and the authorization of public/private partnerships. This year, the Governor's Office of Energy Development is also implementing a new high-cost infrastructure tax credit which, over a 20-year period, would allow a credit of up to 50 percent of the cost of infrastructure construction. At Utah's coal mines, while the credit would not extend to major purchases such as long-wall mining equipment, it could apply to the linear infrastructure associated with the project, such as roads, rail spurs and transmission lines.

## Infrastructure development: Utah takes a page from Trump policies

The Utah State Legislature has joined with the Trump administration to help facilitate large-scale infrastructure development. On Feb. 28, Pres. Trump asked Congress to approve a \$1 trillion investment in infrastructure, financed through both public and private capital to create millions of new jobs. The president also struck a decidedly "America First" theme by promoting the use of American-made steel and products in these projects.

Previously, the president took executive action to lift regulatory obstacles and help streamline environmental permitting for large-scale infrastructure projects. This theme was echoed once again on March 16 in Trump's "America First" budget blueprint for fiscal year 2018.

Following the lead of Pres. Trump, just two days before the end of its 2017 session, the Utah Legislature authorized \$1 billion in general obligation bonds. Under SB277, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Harper, R-Taylorsville, these bonds may finance state or local highway construction, reconstruction, transportation facilities or multi-modal transportation projects.

Funding for transportation projects was further supported by early implementation of a statewide motor fuel tax increase. The tax is calibrated to increase with the wholesale fuel price, under SB276, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Van Tassell, R-Vernal. Finally, SB197(S3) provides a sales and use tax exemption on inputs for refineries that produce Tier 3 fuels, a cleaner-burning motor fuel.

Similar to the president's "America First" policy, the Utah Legislature enacted several measures to keep jobs local. Joint resolution SJR2 was passed to encourage the Salt Lake City Department of Airports to substantially employ Utah workers for its \$2.6 billion airport terminal redevelopment project. The Governor's Office of Economic Development is directed by SB164, "Utah First Economic Development Amendments," to promote employment of Utah workers, goods and business.



Finally, the Trump administration is seeking to jump-start project construction. Pres. Trump took action on Jan. 24 to streamline the permitting of high-priority infrastructure projects. Only four days following his inauguration, an executive order was issued by the president titled, "Expediting Environmental Reviews and Approvals for High Priority Infrastructure Projects." By the terms of the order, the chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) determines whether a project qualifies as a high-priority infrastructure project. The CEQ is to respond within 30 days to a request for project designation from a state or federal agency or governor. The selection of a project is based on broad criteria, including its importance to the general welfare, value to the nation, environmental benefits and such other factors as the chairman deems relevant. The types of high-priority projects listed by the order include those to improve the U.S. electric grid and telecommunica-

tions systems, repairs and upgrade to critical port facilities, airports, pipelines, bridges and highways.

The first two high-priority projects were directly designated by the president rather than by CEQ. A presidential memorandum, issued Jan. 24, designated the controversial North Dakota Access Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline, which had been blocked by the previous administration. Designation cleared the way for final approval for these two significant crude oil projects. On February 8, the North Dakota Access Project received a key permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

A third presidential memorandum, also issued on Jan. 24, directs the secretary of commerce to develop a plan to require that new and retrofitted pipelines use U.S. steel, iron and products in their construction. Although the memorandum is broadly based to cover products manufactured in the United States, the National Mining Association has petitioned the secretary to extend this policy to require the use of minerals mined in this country. Notably, this policy has been somewhat difficult to fully implement. On March 3, the administration confirmed that the Keystone Pipeline was grandfathered from the "America First" policy.

Prior to inauguration, the Trump administration transition team identified some 50 potential projects totaling some \$137 billion for designation as high-priority infrastructure. To date, only one high-priority infrastructure project affecting Utah has been identified for environmental streamlining. The TransWest Express Transmission

Line Project is proposed to connect wind energy produced in Wyoming and routes through Utah to the desert Southwest region. Due to the large amount of public land involved in the transmission right of way, the high-priority infrastructure designation should help to expedite permitting.

The Utah governor's office is also working on additional requests which include construction of a unit-train capacity rail line to service an "inland" port from Salt Lake City's NorthWest Quadrant; a new liquefied natural gas facility located in Utah and network of natural gas pipelines connecting to export facilities in Coos Bay, Oregon; an oil pipeline project to transport Uintah Basin's waxy crude from Duchesne to Carbon County and the Gateway South Transmission Project to extend a high-voltage transmission line from southeastern Wyoming to Mona.

Overall, the 2017 Utah Legislature has taken significant steps to fund the development of large-scale infrastructure, including acceleration of the state gas tax, bonding authority increases to an unprecedented \$1 billion and authorization of public/private partnerships. This year, the Governor's Office of Energy Development is also implementing a new high-cost infrastructure tax credit which, over a 20-year period, would allow a credit of up to 50 percent of the cost of infrastructure construction. Utah code defines the credit to include new industrial, mining, manufacturing and agriculture activities in Utah that involve new investment of \$50 million where the

# MINERAL MINES

Listed Alphabetically



List Development Laneace Gregersen | laneace@slenterprise.com

Mine Name	Commodity	Mine Location	Mining Method	Owner	Year Opened
American Gilsonite	Gilsonite	Near Vernal, Uintah Co.	Sub-surface	American Gilsonite	1904
Ash Grove	Portland Cement Products	Leamington, Millard Co.	Surface	Ash Grove Cement Co.	1980
Cricket Mountain	Limestone, Limestone Products	Near Delta, Millard Co.	Surface	Graymont Corp.	*
Devil's Slide	Limestone, Cement Products	East of Morgan, Morgan Co.	Surface	Holcim Inc.	1904
Great Salt Lake Minerals	Sulfate of Potash, Magnesium Chloride	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar Evaporation	Compass Minerals	1972
Moab Facility	Potash	Near Moab, Kane Co.	Solar Evaporation	Intrepid Potash Inc.	1965
Morton Salt	Salt	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar Evaporation	Morton Salt	*
Simplot Vernal Mine	Phosphates and Derivatives	Near Vernal, Uintah Co.	Surface	J.R. Simplot Co.	1960
Timple Facility	Salt	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar Evaporation	Cargil Salt Inc.	*
Wendover Facility	Potash	Great Salt Lake, Tooele Co.	Solar Evaporation	Intrepid Potash Inc.	1938



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## UTAH FOUNDATION REPORT

# Coal keeps Utah's energy costs down, but production is declining

A new research report from the Utah Foundation shows the landscape of the state's coal industry is changing. Utah produced only about half as much coal in 2015 as it did in 2001, the report said.

Still, more than two-thirds of Utah's electric power is produced in coal-fired power plants. The legacy of coal in Utah's energy mix has helped to keep electricity prices low, according to the foundation.

Key findings from the report include:

- Coal production has been declining in Utah for years. In 2015, production was just over half of what was produced in 2001.
- States with a greater proportion of coal power in their mix of electricity generation tend to have lower electricity prices
- Utah is fifth-highest in the nation for percentage of coal-fueled electricity in its mix of electricity generation.
- The cost of electricity from natural gas, wind and solar is now typically lower

than operating, maintaining and upgrading coal-fueled resources.

• Natural gas electricity production surpassed coal nationally in 2015. Utah is trending that direction with the recent closure of one electricity plant and possible timelines for ceasing coal-fueled operations at two others.

"Electricity production uses the lion's share of coal in Utah and the nation," said Shawn Teigen, author of the report. "As electricity generation continues to shift from coal to natural gas and renewables, we'll continue to see downward pressures on coal production. This is going to keep nerves on edge for those rural Utah communities that rely heavily on coal production and coal-fueled electricity generation."

The report, "Utah's Coal Counties Part I: Coal Energy, Production and the Future," is the first of three that will examine the role coal plays in the economy of Utah's rural counties. The reports will include historical data about the

state's coal industry as well as projections for the future of mining and other industries tied to Utah's coal resources.

Part II of the report will explore coal mine jobs and the economic benefit and Part III will look at the communities in Utah supported by the industry.

Most coal consumption in the United States is for electricity generation, said the report. However, coal-fueled electricity's share of the total has been decreasing. This is due in large part to the availability of low-cost natural gas, stringent environmental regulations that affect coal-fueled power plants, and favorable tax treatment for renewable technologies. Coal-fueled power plants have been closing and others are reducing their total output. As a result, coal production is also decreasing.

Utah is one of only six states that gets more than two-thirds of its electricity from coal. However, this may change given that natural gas, wind and solar projects are cheaper to develop and maintain than coal projects.

In fact, coal projects that are retiring across the country are not typically being replaced by other coal projects, but with natural gas and renewables. Utah is following that trend. For instance, the Intermountain Generating Station's coal-fueled turbines in Millard County may be retired by 2025 when the company completes construction of its natural gas turbines.

These trends are not likely to reverse under the current presidential administration, even given the likely unwinding of the previous administration's environmental and climate change measures which put a burden on coal-fueled power plants. Nonetheless, demand for coal may increase in the short term with an expected increase in natural gas prices.

Utah Foundation is a non-partisan public policy research group. Founded in 1945, the foundation publishes research on a range of topics, including natural resource issues, taxation, public school funding, healthcare and many others.





## COMPTON

*from page F1*

agriculture work.

We all know that average life expectancy is rising, made possible by tremendous advances in medical science. But did you stop to think that mining makes those advances in modern medicine possible? Lifesaving medical devices require minerals and metals — and lots of them. As just one example, a CAT scan machine contains a variety of minerals, including tungsten, copper, lead, silver, chlorine, aluminum and gold. Mining truly is the beginning of the supply chain for the healthcare industry.

Demand for minerals in our advanced society is increasing every day. Minerals are essential to developing the innovative technologies that will propel our economy, enable America to compete globally and improve our quality of life. They are the building blocks for the manufacturing, construction and automotive industries, and are vital to growth in fields such as advanced energy and healthcare.

We assume the things we need and want will always be there. But the bottom line is: without mining to provide the foundational minerals and metals for the things we use every day, our society would be much different.

It is more important than ever for the U.S. to responsibly utilize our own mineral and energy resources. In fact, it is a national imperative. But to become a national priority, as a society we need to make the connection between mining and our quality of life. And our quality of life in the U.S. is good.

We take for granted in this country that the lights will go on when we flip the switch and that our heating and cooling systems will keep us comfortable. But the fact is, as many as half the world's 7 billion people live without proper access to energy for basic human needs.

Like food and water, energy and minerals are essential. Yet, electric heat, lights, refrigerated food and medicine — crucial for basic needs that many take for granted — are still unavailable in many parts of the developing world.

Eliminating extreme poverty here at home and abroad will require lots of minerals and affordable access to energy. To satisfy the world's energy needs will require an "everything, everywhere, all the time" approach to energy generation, including coal, gas, oil, nuclear, hydropower and renewables. Using today's advanced technologies to improve emissions, all of these forms of energy development

will play a significant role in ending global energy poverty and raising the standard of living for everyone.

Our modern society runs on energy. Think for a minute about the relationship between mining and the energy we demand and consume. From the coal mined in Utah that accounts for the majority of our state's electricity generation, to the uranium used to power our nation's nuclear energy reactors, to the copper, molybdenum, iron ore, lead, zinc and other important metals and minerals that make renewable energy possible, mining is critical to energizing our modern society.

And here in Utah, energy plays a meaningful role in our state's economic development. Utah is well known as a business-friendly state, with a low burden of regulation and low cost of doing business. But we must keep in mind that one of Utah's significant advantages to attracting businesses, including manufacturing and high-technology jobs, is our low cost of electricity. Simply put, cheap power lowers business costs and makes Utah more competitive.

Fortunately, the U.S. possesses extensive domestic reserves of many important mineral resources, if we are able to access them. Mines can only be located where economically viable mineral deposits exist, so the ability to access mineral deposits is critical.

And if we are able to access the deposits, the ability to permit projects in a timely manner becomes an important component to attracting mining investment in the United States and in Utah. Considering the foundational importance of the mining industry to our way of life, these are issues that deserve our attention.

Mining creates new wealth and provides the high-paying, family-wage jobs with good benefits that Utah and our country needs. In fact, mining jobs in Utah pay twice the statewide average wage.

Today's safe and environmentally responsible mining industry is vital to the state of Utah, our economy and quality of life. It always has been and always will be. The mining industry is not some distant, corporate entity. It is woven into the fabric of our society and our daily lives. We are all connected to the mining industry and we all have a vested interest in making sure the industry thrives in Utah.

Pres. Abraham Lincoln once declared, "Utah will yet become the treasure house of the nation." More than a century and a half later, Lincoln's vision is a reality and we are all better off for it. Sometimes we just need to be reminded of that.

Mark Compton is the president of the Utah Mining Association.

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# URANIUM MINES

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Mine Name	District	County	Owner	Mine Name
Blue Jay	Fry Canyon	San Juan	enCore Energy Corp.	Acquired from Energy Fuels
Cedar Mountain	Cedar Mountain	Emery	enCore Energy Corp.	Acquired from Energy Fuels
Daneros (Lark Royal)	White Canyon	San Juan	Energy Fuels Inc.	On stand-by: 740,000 lbs. U3O8 inferred resource
Energy Queen (HeclaShaft)	La Sal	San Juan	Energy Fuels Inc.	Permitted resource: 1.2 M lbs. U3O8
Frank M	Henry Mountain	Garfeld	Anfield Resources Inc.	Resource: 1.1 M tons at 0.1% U3O8
Geitus	White Canyon	San Juan	enCore Energy Corp.	Resource: 40,000 ton at 0.3% U3O8
La Sal No.2	Lisbon Valley	San Juan	Laramide Resources Ltd.	Resource: 808,000 tons at 0.167% U3O8
Marcy-Look	Elk Ridge	San Juan	enCore Energy Corp.	Acquired from Energy Fuels
Pandora-Snowball-Beaver	La Sal	San Juan	Energy Fuels Inc.	On stand-by: 1.2 M lbs. U3O8 reserve
Rim-Columbus	Dry Valley	San Juan	Energy Fuels Inc.	Permitted resource: 660,000 lbs. U3O8
Sage Plain (Calliham Sage)	Ucolo	San Juan	Energy Fuels Inc.	New NI 43-101* completed (Peters, 2015)
San Rafael	San Rafael River	Emery	Baobab Asset Management LLC	Indicated resource: 758,050 tons at 0.23% U3O8
Shootaring Canyon U Mill	Henry Mountain	Garfeld	Anfield Resources Inc.	Acquired from Uranium One Inc.
Thompson Project	Thompson	Grand	Energy Fuels Inc.	Acquired 6,672 acres
Tony M-Bullfrog	Henry Mountain	Garfeld	Energy Fuels Inc.	Permitted resource: 1.684 M tons at 0.24% U3O8
Velvet-Wood	Lisbon Valley	San Juan	Anfield Resources Inc.	New NI 43-101* completed (Beahm, 2015)
Whirlwind	Beaver Mesa	Grand	Energy Fuels Inc.	Permitted resource: 656,000 lbs. U3O8



\*Courtesy of Utah Geological Survey, Utah Department of Natural Resources 2015  
 \*An NI 43-101 is a Canadian National Instrument technical report prepared to a codified set of rules for the public reporting of mineral exploration and development data on properties operated by companies listed on Canadian stock exchanges. \*\*A PEA is a preliminary economic assessment.  
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# COAL MINES

Ranked by Tons Mined 2015



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Mine Name	County	Coal Field	Owner	Thousand Short Tons Mined 2015
1 SUFCO	Sevier	Wasatch Plateau	Bowie Resource Partners LLC	6,000
2 Skyline No. 3	Carbon	Wasatch Plateau	Bowie Resource Partners LLC	4,409
3 West Ridge	Carbon	Book Cliffs	Hidden Splendor Resources Inc. America West Resources Inc.	1,580
4 Dugout Canyon Mine	Carbon	Book Cliffs	Canyon Fuel Co. LLC	763
5 Castle Valley No. 4	Emery	Wasatch Plateau	Rhino Resource Partners LP	757
6 Lila Canyon Mine	Emery	Book Cliffs	Utah American Energy Inc. Murray Energy Corp.	350
7 Coal Hollow	Kane	Alton	Alton Coal Development LLC	316
8 Castle Valley No. 3	Emery	Wasatch Plateau	Castle Valley Mining LLC	218
9 Deer Creek Mine	Emery	Wasatch Plateau	Energy West Mining Co. – PacifiCorp	15
10 Burton No. 1	Kane	Alton	Alton Coal Development LLC	11
11 Emery	Emery	Emery	Bronco Utah Operations LLC	-
12 Horizon	Carbon	Wasatch Plateau	Hidden Splendor Resources Inc. America West Resources Inc.	-



\*Courtesy of Utah Geological Survey, Utah Department of Natural Resources 2015.  
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# METAL MINES

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Mine Name	Commodity	District	County	Owner	Progress
Big Hill	Copper	East Tintic	Utah-Juab	Kennecott Exploration Co.	Five deep holes completed and property dropped
Bingham	Copper-Gold Molybdenum	Bingham	Salt Lake	Kennecott Utah Copper Co.	Ongoing deep, near mine
Blair Project	Silver-Gold	Antelope Range	Iron	Silver Peak Exploration-Tuvera Exploration Inc.	State section acquired and unpatented claims staked
Bromide Basin	Gold-Copper	Henry Mountain	Garfield	Bromide Mining LLC	Large block of claims
Burgin	Lead-Silver	East Tintic	Utah	Chief Consolidated Mining Co.	NI 43-101* completed (Tietz and others, 2011)
Cave Mine	Polymetallic	Bradshaw	Beaver	Grand Central Silver Mines	Two holes totaling over 1,300 feet completed
Deer Trail	Polymetallic	Mount Baldy	Piute	Western Pacific Resources Corp.	NI 43-101* and underground drilling completed
Drum Mountain	Polymetallic	Drum Mountains	Juab	Freeport-McMoRan Exploration Corp.	Drilled two deep (>2,000 ft.) core Millard holes completed
Dutch Mountain	Gold-Silver	Gold Hill	Tooele	Newmont USA Ltd.	Staked over 1,500 unpatented claims and began drilling
East Canyon	Polymetallic	Lucin	Box Elder	Tuvera Exploration Inc.	NI 43-101* completed
Goldstrike	Gold-Silver	Goldstrike	Washington	Pilot Gold Inc.	Pilot Gold drilled 18 holes and major plans for 2016
Hidden Treasure	Polymetallic	Ophir	Tooele	Kennecott Utah Copper Co.	Ongoing deep exploration drilling
Iron Mountain	Iron	Iron Springs	Iron	CML Metals Corp.	Iron ore mine closed in late 2014 due to low prices
Jumbo	Gold-Silver	Gold Springs	Iron	TriMetals Mining Inc.	14 new holes and NI 43-101* PEA** completed
Kiewit	Gold-Silver	Gold Hill	Tooele	Desert Hawk Gold Corp.	Small open pit — heap leach in production
Kings Canyon	Gold	Kings Canyon	Millard	Pine Cliff Energy Ltd.	NI 43-101* completed
Little Bingham	Copper	West Tintic	Juab	Cerberus Venture LLC	Property retained
Lisbon Valley Copper	Copper	Lisbon Valley	San Juan	Lisbon Valley Mining Co. LLC	Operating copper mine with ongoing exploration
Milford Copper	Copper-Silver	Rocky Range	Beaver	CS Mining LLC	Open-pit copper mines and agitation leach SX-EW
North Lucin	Gold-Silver	Lucin	Box Elder	Newmont USA Ltd.	Large block of 300 claims and drilling continued
Straight Fork	Gold	White Rock	Box Elder	Newmont USA Ltd.	Property dropped
Speedway	Gold	Silver Island	Tooele	Emu NL-Genesis Gold Corp.	One core hole completed and property dropped
Sunshine	Gold	Mercur	Tooele	Priority Minerals Ltd.	Acquired land position and drilled several holes
SWT Porphyry	Copper	Southwest Tintic	Juab	Freeport-McMoRan Exploration Corp.	Freeport purchased the property from Quatterra
Thompson Knoll	Polymetallic	Kings Canyon	Millard	Inland Explorations Ltd.	NI 43-101* completed
TUG	Gold-Silver	Tecoma	Box Elder	West Kirkland Mining Inc.	NI 43-101* and PEA** completed
West Desert	Polymetallic	Fish Springs	Juab	InZinc Mining Ltd.	NI 43-101* and PEA** (Crypto) completed (Nilsson, 2010)
Wildcat	Gold-Silver	Drum Mountains	Juab	TroyMet Exploration-Renaissance Gold Inc.	Acquired by TroyMet and exploration underway



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## DRAGOO

from page F3

cost of infrastructure is greater than 10 percent of the total project cost or \$10 million.

For instance, as to new large coal

mines, while the credit would not extend to major purchases such as long-wall mining equipment, it could apply to the linear infrastructure associated with the project, such as roads, rail spurs and transmission lines. Further, these legislative changes and tax incentives appear to be “in sync”

with the president’s high-priority infrastructure policies. This combination of state and federal policies may allow Utah to realize the Trump administration’s promise to help fund “shovel-ready” infrastructure or at least streamline the permitting process for these projects.

Denise A. Dragoo is a partner with the Salt Lake City office of Snell & Wilmer. She focuses her practice in natural resources and environmental law, including coal, water, mining, public land, and issues affecting energy-related minerals and the oil and gas industry. She serves on Utah’s Energy Advisory Council to the Governor’s Office of Energy Development and on the board of directors of the Utah Mining Association.

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