

INSIDE



Production gaining steam

As Rio Tinto's Utah Kennecott Copper Bingham Canyon Mine marks the first anniversary of its massive landslide of 2013, officials report progress in restoring full mining operations. **page F2**

Mining Lists

Utah mineral mines **page F8**

Utah coal mines **page F11**

Issue Sponsor:



Tumbleweeds and sagebrush have taken over the site of the historic Kanab uranium mine. But if mineral exploration companies and speculators are right, that may change. Rising demand and improving prices have spurred a renewed interest in securing old uranium properties. Yellowcake uranium (right) is the first step in processing the element for use in nuclear power plants and other applications.

Market conditions, increased activity could point to a renewal of Utah's uranium boom

John Rogers
The Enterprise

Today it is known for its slickrock bicycling and river running. But, in the 1950s, a small southeastern Utah town had another distinction as the Cold War began to heat up.

Utah's Moab — and thousands of square miles in every direction in the area where the borders of four states come together — became the "Uranium Capital of the World." Beginning with the start of the Manhattan Project, the United States' breakneck race to develop the atomic bomb, millions of tons of uranium ore were extracted from the Colorado Plateau that covers parts of Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

No other state felt a greater eco-

nomie impact than Utah. Thousands of prospectors, miners, mill workers and camp followers — and millions of dollars — poured into the state. Uncle Sam, desperate to spur production, guaranteed a high price for uranium and paid huge bonuses for new producing discoveries. Lucky prospectors like Moab's legendary Charlie Steen — fired as a geologist and working as a carpenter to support three kids and a pregnant wife — bought Geiger counters and Jeeps and became overnight millionaires.

But by 1964, the Atomic Energy Commission had decided it had ample uranium stockpiled for the foreseeable needs of the defense industry. The price of uranium was allowed to seek market levels, guarantees ended and the boom was over.

The large demand for uranium for

nuclear weapons development is no longer what drives production of the radioactive element. Now the demand ebbs and flows with the popularity — and political viability — of nuclear power generation.

And a lot of signs are pointing to a resurgence of a Western states uranium boom. Some analysts believe long-abandoned uranium properties in the Southwest may become viable again. A number of mining companies and speculators are counting on it.

Last month, the uranium market got a big boost from a draft that was released of Japan's new Basic Energy Plan that calls for renewed emphasis on nuclear power despite the Fukushima power plant meltdown of March 2011. The worldwide uranium spot price hit



Kennecott recovery well underway as anniversary passes

A year after the largest landslide in the history of mining, Kennecott Utah Copper's Bingham Canyon Mine is taking steps to return to normal operations.

But the slide was so immense, a full return is still at least two years away.

The April 10, 2013, slide pushed 165 million tons 120 mph down the side of the mine, leaving, on average, 300 feet of material at the bottom of the pit.

"Preparing and responding to the slide tested our mettle, and I am proud of how our teams rose to the occasion," said Matt Lengerich, the mine's general manager.

"The magnitude and aftermath of the slide was unprecedented and has presented numerous challenges to overcome. It has been inspiring to see individuals and teams come together and create innovative approaches to conquer complex tasks quickly, effectively and safely."

On April 10, 2013, 165 million tons of material broke loose from an upper region of Kennecott Utah Copper's mine in the Bingham Canyon of Salt Lake County. One year later progress is being made in restoring the mine to normal operation.

see KENNECOTT pg. F5



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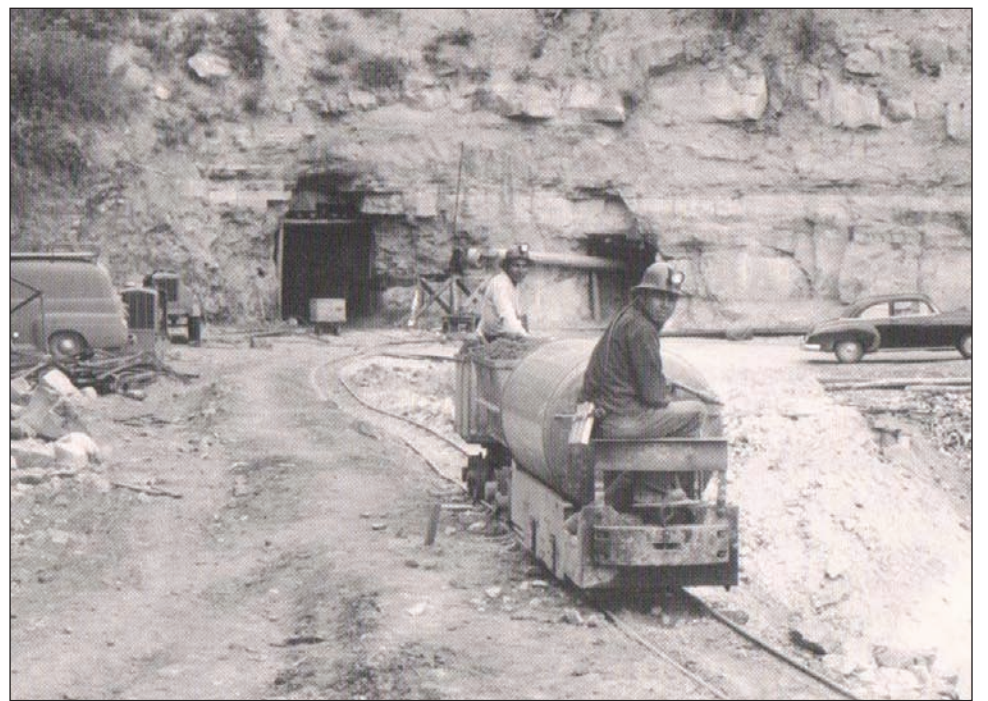
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Most of the states where uranium mines are located have undertaken projects to seal the old mine entrances due to safety concerns. In recent months, mining speculators have begun opening the shafts and testing for the viability of renewed mining.



In the 1950s, thousands of miners found work in the uranium mines of the Four Corners area of the Southwest. Over 4 million tons of ore were extracted from mines on the Navajo Indian Reservation where this mine was located.

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URANIUM

from page F1

an eight year low when Japan ordered all 48 of its nuclear power generating stations shuttered. But within the past few weeks most have applied for permission to restart and the go-ahead is anticipated soon.

The long-term outlook for uranium market and producers such as Denison Mines, Paladin Energy and Rio Tinto's subsidiary Energy Resources has certainly improved due to dwindling supplies and anticipated new or renewed demand.

One of the key drivers for uranium market in the long term will be China, which already has 20 nuclear reactors in operation and is constructing 28 more. A statement from Chinese Pres. Xi Jinping in March highlighted the fact that the world's second-largest economy sees nuclear energy playing an important role in ensuring its energy security and independence.

The spot price of uranium has continued to hover around \$35 per pound, down 50 percent from the price prior to the Fukushima accident. Still, the long-term outlook for uranium has certainly improved as nuclear energy is once again being seen favorably, especially by emerging economies such as China, India and Russia.

So now comes the mining companies and speculators.

One such company is Anfield Resources Inc. of Phoenix. A mineral exploration company with both copper and uranium assets, Anfield has been on a shopping spree of late. In recent months the company has acquired uranium assets that now total 337 mining claims and nine state leases on over 11,000 acres in southeastern Utah — plus 24 mining claims in Arizona.

Anfield believes that it may not have wait long to see a return on the money it has invested in Utah properties — many of which were big producers during the uranium boom. CEO Peter Epstein explained that the company doesn't like to wait long for investments to pay off. "Our model allows for relatively quick cash flow generation without significant

see URANIUM next page

NEXT MONTH . . . **How to Choose a Geiger Counter**



THINKING of buying a Geiger counter for uranium hunting? Which of the dozens that are on the market, with all kinds of gadgets and price tags, will serve you best? In the January issue of *POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY*, an article on how to choose a Geiger counter will offer expert advice to guide you when you go shopping. From practical experience the author, Griff Borgeson, compares the features of current models and tells which are most desirable—and why.

274 POPULAR SCIENCE

The Utah uranium boom that started just after World War II caused thousands of would-be millionaires to buy Geiger counters and head for the hills. This 1955 ad in Popular Science Magazine promised to help readers pick just the right instrument.

URANIUM

from previous page

upfront capitalization, extensive permitting times or follow-on sustaining capital expenditures,” Epstein said.

Just last month, Anfield made another major purchase of a historically producing property. The company expanded its holdings at the Firefly Mine complex, located in the La Sal area of the Paradox Mining District in San Juan County. Favorable historic reports prompted Anfield to expand the claim group from the original eight claims it had previously purchased to a total of 55 claims. In a company release, Anfield gave every indication that it wants to start mining uranium soon. “The expansion of the claim group is in anticipation of proposed exploration and project development at the site with an aim of near-term production,” the release said. The Firefly mine produced 23,311 tones of high grade uranium ore in the 10 years from 1948 to 1958, according to Atomic Energy Commission records.

Should Anfield — or any of a number of

other mining and exploration companies — pull the trigger and begin mining uranium again in Utah, the capacity to refine the ore and ship yellowcake uranium concentrate is just a few miles away. Energy Fuels Corp.’s White Mesa Mill is positioned within 100 miles of most of Anfield’s newly acquired assets and is currently running at only 12.5 percent of its capacity. The mill is located just south of Blanding in the extreme southeast corner of Utah.

In regards to the Firefly acquisition, Dias said, “The company is preparing to enter into a new phase with regard to its uranium properties. Up to this point, we have been focused primarily on acquisition of target properties. We are now beginning the process of moving selected acquisitions forward to exploration and near-term production.”

Uranium demand is a fickle thing. It comes and goes with the economic and political tides — even with a change in the White House. But by most accounts, Utah could be back in the business in a bigger way — and soon.

KENNECOTT

from page F2

The company had worked since about 2004 to remove waste material in the area of the slide as it prepared to mine the ore underneath. But inspections and geotechnical equipment indicated a slide was imminent, prompting the company to shut down the mine. No one was injured when it finally occurred.

The company was able to resume operations within 48 hours and the first ore was delivered 17 days following the slide. New-ore delivery remains consistent.

Kelly Sanders, president and chief executive officer, said last summer that the slide traveled 2,500 farther than the company had anticipated, leaving about \$200 million worth of equipment covered, most being large trucks and shovels. But that represented less than 10 percent of the mine’s equipment. Sixteen pieces of large equipment have been recovered, four haul trucks are back in service, and valuable components have been salvaged from an electric shovel, haul trucks and drills damaged in the slide.

An access road that provides top-to-bottom access within the mine opened in November, seven months ahead of schedule.

“There are many success milestones and moments of pride to celebrate; however, we recognize that there is still a significant amount of work and tremendous challenges that lie ahead of us,” Lengerich said. “We anticipate it will be 2016 before we return to normal operations.”

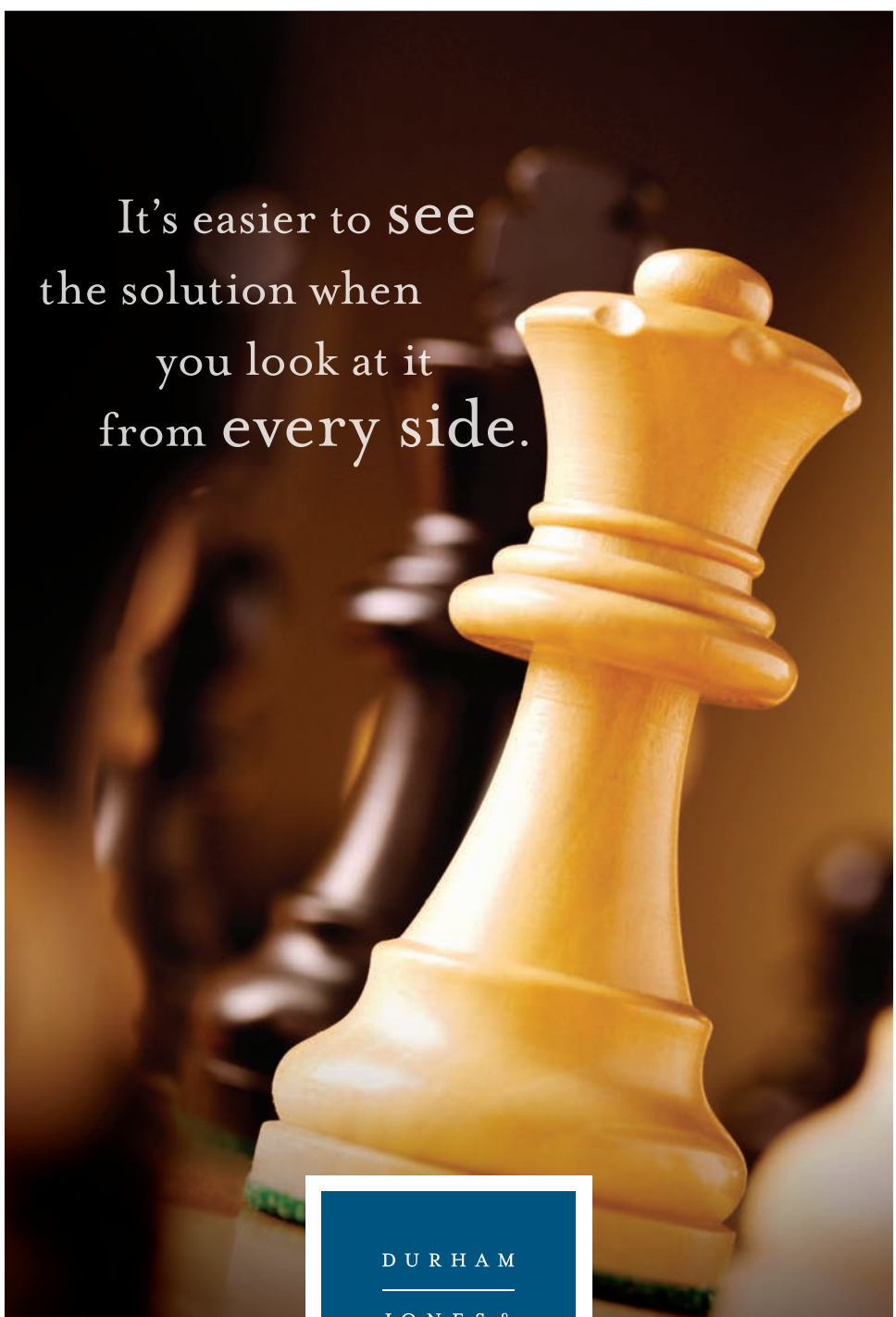
In the meantime, the company will continue cleanup work, recover more equipment and continue to deliver ore.

In 2013, Kennecott produced 213,000 tons of copper, 192,000 ounces of gold, 2.1 million ounces of silver, and 6,300 tons of molybdenum.

The mine is the second-largest copper producer in the nation, with its more than 19 million tons annually accounting for nearly one-fourth of U.S. copper production.

United Kingdom-based Rio Tinto purchased Kennecott and related facilities in 1989 and has invested more than \$2 billion in modernization since that time. Kennecott has also spent more than \$350 million on the cleanup of historic mining waste and \$100 million on groundwater cleanup.

Rio Tinto employs 2,800 people and influences more than 14,000 indirect Utah jobs. In 2011, Kennecott invested \$1.2 billion in the state of Utah in wages, benefits, taxes and purchases from nearly 1,000 Utah area businesses.



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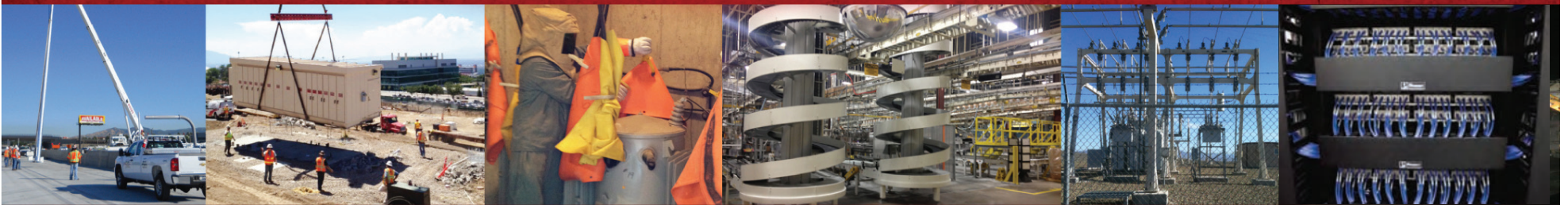
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Arch Coal exits Utah with the sale of top-producing coal mines

St. Louis-based Arch Coal has left the coal mining business in Utah. The company has sold its Utah Canyon Fuel operations to Bowie Resources LLC for \$435 million. Canyon Fuel includes the Sufco Mine and Skyline longwall mines and the Dugout Canyon continuous miner operation in Carbon County. The deal closed late last year.

In addition to these active operations and related support facilities, Bowie received approximately 105 million tons of bituminous coal reserves in Utah. Bowie kept in place the 725-person workforce at the Canyon Fuel operations.

Bowie Resources, based in Louisville, Ky., and the Galena Private Equity Resource Fund managed by Galena Asset Management entered into a joint venture for the acquisition of the Utah mines.

The new company, Bowie Resource Partners LLC, also owns the Bowie Mine in Paonia, Colo., and has a regional office in Grand Junction. BRP has a productive capacity of 15-17 million tons of thermal coal and a workforce of 1,100 employees.

Arch said the sale of its Canyon Fuel Co. subsidiary is consistent with its ongoing plan to boost shareholder value by selling certain non-core ther-

mal coal assets. Arch said it expects the sale to result in cost savings of more than \$200 million from 2014 through 2017. The company also will recognize a pre-tax gain of about \$120 million related to the sale.

"The sale of our Utah operations is consistent with our previously announced plan to unlock value for our shareholders by divesting certain non-core thermal coal assets," said John W. Eaves, Arch's president and CEO at the time of the sale. "As part of our strategy, we have been diligently focused on optimizing our asset base, expanding our coal export network, reducing our discretionary capital spending and re-aligning our portfolio for growth. With this transaction, we're delivering on a number of these initiatives while also enhancing our financial flexibility."

Arch Coal spokesperson Kim Link echoed the statement issued by Eaves by saying the deal fit in with the direction Arch mining operations were going. "After evaluation, we have determined it is the right move to divest our portfolio of coal mining operations," she said. "It is part of a three to five year long-term goal in which we getting out of the lessening market for sulfite coal from the Utah area."

When asked if the decision to divest

of the Canyon Fuel Coal mining operations had any connection with Pres. Barack Obama's climate change policies, Link said that there was no connection.

"These types of sales take a long period of time," she said. "With respect to the president's policies, he doesn't even name coal. The Environmental Protection Agency has been implementing strict regulations for quite a while. So to that end it was not a surprise."

In a separate press release, Bowie Resources LLC Principal Owner John J. Siegel said, "From the inception of our ownership of Bowie, our goal has been to establish a core business rooted in the western bituminous region and to grow it, not only organically but with synergistic acquisitions. In that context, it would be hard to imagine a more logical next step in our evolution than the purchase of these superior Canyon Fuel mines."



Bowie Resource's Sufco Mine loadout facility in Carbon County.

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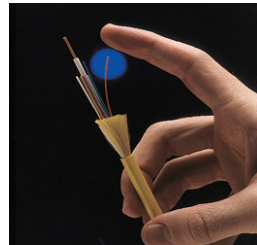


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Top Mineral Mines in Utah

Listed by Estimated 2012 Revenues*

Mine Name	Primary Product Mined	Mine Location	Mining Method	Owner ----- Owner Location	Year Mining Began	Approximate 2012 Revenue*
Bingham Canyon Mine (Kennecott Mine)	Copper	Southwest Salt Lake County	Open pit	Kennecott Utah Copper Corp. Rio Tinto Group London, England	1906	N/A
Rowley Operation U.S. Magnesium	Magnesium, calcium chloride, iron chlorides	Rowley, Tooele County	Solar evaporation	U.S. Magnesium LLC Salt Lake City	1972	N/A
Iron Mountain Project	Iron	Iron County, west of Cedar City	Open pit	CML Metals St. George	Late 1800s	\$158 million
Great Salt Lake Minerals	Sulfate of potash, magnesium chloride	Great Salt Lake, Tooele County	Solar evaporation	Compass Minerals Overland Park, Kan.	Approx. 1972	\$115 million
Simplot Vernal Mine	Phosphates and derivatives	Northwest of Vernal, Uintah County	Surface	J.R. Simplot Co. Boise, Idaho	1960	N/A
American Gilsonite	Gilsonite	Southwest of Vernal, Uintah County	Sub-surface	American Gilsonite Co. Bonanza, Utah	1904	\$85 million
Cricket Mountain	Limestone and associated products	Southwest of Delta, Millard County	Surface	Graymont Corp. Richmond, B.C., Canada	N/A	N/A
Wendover Facility	Potash	Great Salt Lake, Tooele County	Solar evaporation	Intrepid Potash Inc. Denver, Colo.	Approx. 1938	\$70 million
Moab Facility	Potash	Great Salt Lake, Tooele County	Solar evaporation	Intrepid Potash Inc. Denver, Colo.	1965	\$65 million
Ash Grove	Portland cement products	Leamington, Millard County	Surface	Ash Grove Cement Co. Overland Park, Kan.	1980	\$61 million
Lisbon Valley Mine	Copper	Southeast of Moab, Grand County	Open pit	Lisbon Valley Mining Co. Moab	1999	\$42 million
Devils Slide	Limestone, cement products	East of Morgan, Morgan County	Surface	Holcim Inc. Bedford, Maine	1904	\$39 million
Timpie Facility	Salt	Great Salt Lake near Grantsville, Tooele County	Solar evaporation	Cargill Salt Inc. Minneapolis, Minn.	N/A	\$35 million
Morton Salt	Salt	Great Salt Lake near Grantsville, Tooele County	Solar evaporation	Morton Salt Co. Chicago	N/A	\$35 million
Topaz Mountain	Beryllium	Northwest of Delta, Juab County	Surface	Materion Corp. Mayfield Heights, Ohio	1968	\$20 million



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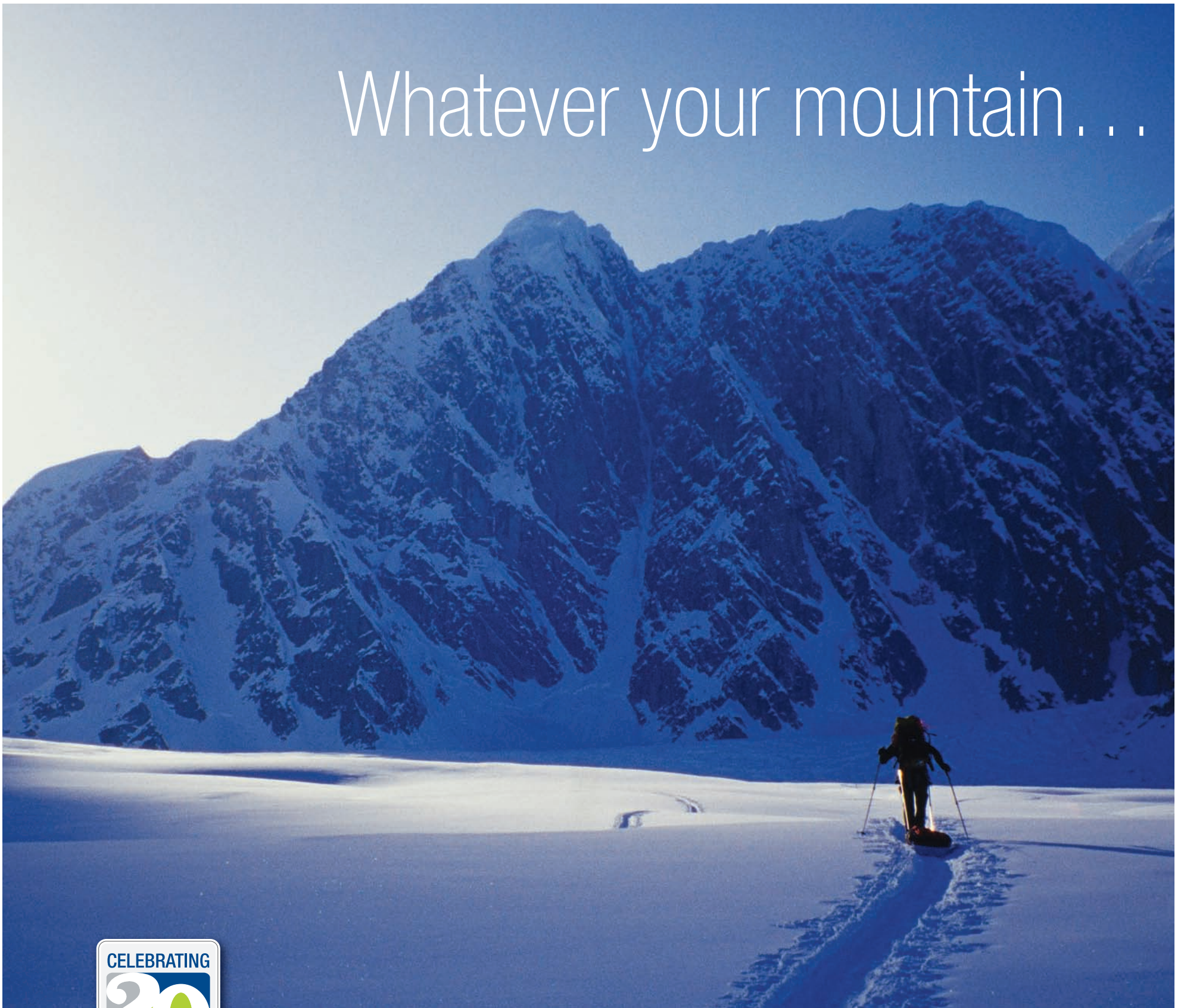
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Top Coal Mines in Utah

Listed by 2013 Coal Production in Tons

Mine Name	Mine Location	Mining Method	Owner ----- Owner Location	Year Mining Began	2013 Coal Production (tons)
Sufco Mine	Northeast of Salina, Sevier County	Underground, longwall	Bowie Resource Partners LLC Louisville, Ky.	1941	5,960,266
Deer Creek Mine	Northwest of Huntington, Carbon County	Underground, longwall	Energy West Mining Co. subsidiary of PacifiCorp Portland, Ore.	N/A	2,810,298
West Ridge Mine	East Carbon, Carbon County	Underground, longwall	UtahAmerican Energy Inc., subsidiary of Murray Energy Group St. Clairsville, Ohio	1982	2,629,495
Skyline Mine	Southwest of Scofield, Carbon County	Underground, longwall	Bowie Resource Partners LLC Louisville, Ky.	1981	1,714,469
Bear Canyon Mine	West of Huntington, Emery County	Underground, longwall	Castle Valley Mining Huntington	N/A	881,333
Coal Hollow Mine	Alton	Surface strip	Alton Coal Development LLC Cedar City	2011	741,000
Dugout Canyon Mine	Northeast of Price, Carbon County	Underground, longwall and room & pillar	Bowie Resource Partners LLC Louisville, Ky.	1998	561,121
Lila Canyon Mine	South of Price, Carbon County	Underground, longwall	UtahAmerican Energy Inc., subsidiary of Murray Energy Group St. Clairsville, Ohio	2010	257,358





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Coal producers file suit against EPA over Clean Air Act

The owner of a pair of Utah's top producing coal mines has joined a dozen other mining and energy companies and filed a federal lawsuit claiming the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is not doing her job correctly in regards to the Clean Air Act.

UtahAmerican Energy owns and operates the West Ridge Mine and the Lila Canyon Mine in Carbon County and is a subsidiary of Ohio-based Murray Energy Group.

The companies filed the lawsuit last month in U.S. District Court in Wheeling, W.Va., claiming Gina McCarthy, as administrator of the EPA, is required to "conduct continuing evaluations of potential loss or shifts of employment which may result from the administration or enforcement of the provision of [the Clean Air Act] and applicable implementation plans, including where appropriate, investigating threatened plant closures or reductions in employment allegedly resulting from such administration or enforcement."

Joining the Murray companies are the AmericanCoalCorp., TheHarrisonCounty Coal Co., KenAmerican Resources Inc., the Marion County Coal Co., the Marshall County Coal Co., the Monongalia Co. Coal Company, OhioAmerican Energy Inc. and the Ohio County Coal Co..

The companies claim McCarthy has not taken such actions and, in fact, has enforced the Clean Air Act "in a manner that is causing coal mines to close, costing hard-working Americans their jobs, and shifting employment away from areas rich in coal resources to areas with energy resources preferred by the Agency."

The plaintiffs claim the "continued pressure" placed on the coal industry by the EPA "will irreparably harm plaintiffs if allowed to continue unchecked." They seek a determination that McCarthy's failure to perform such actions required by the Clean Air Act violates the act itself. They also seek an order requiring her to take the actions and an injunction barring McCarthy from "promulgating new regulations impacting the coal industry before completing the acts required by the CAA."

In the complaint, the companies say the EPA has waged a war on coal for the past five years "in a manner that places immense pressure on the electric generating sector – and other industries that traditionally burn coal – to reduce their consumption of coal."

Those actions include encouraging facilities to switch from coal to other fuels, imposing costly regulations that have compelled or incentivized coal-burning facilities to shut down, engaging in enforcement that discourages the repair and continued operations of existing coal-burning facilities and developing regulations and guidance that will make it more costly and possibly impractical for new coal-burning facilities to be built.

The companies also claim the EPA's actions in recent years have forced many coal-fired power plants to idle, shut down

or convert to other fuels. "Since 2010 alone, it has been estimated that 330 coal-fired electric generating units across the nation have been or are retiring or converting to other fuels because of EPA's regulations and enforcement activities," the complaint states. "These retirements and conversions, caused in whole or in part by EPA's administration and enforcement of the Clean Air Act, have had a direct and significant impact on the market for coal."

"In February 2014, it was reported that national coal mine employment has dropped nearly 20 percent in the past two years, from a high of about 94,000 jobs in the fourth quarter of 2011 to about 77,000 people today," the complaint states. "In total, the administrator's administration and enforcement of the Clean Air Act has caused or contributed to the loss of tens

of thousands of coal mining jobs over the past five years."

The plaintiffs say McCarthy repeatedly refused to acknowledge the need or her obligation to evaluate these job losses.

"The administrator has repeated stated ... that the EPA does not and will not evaluate the employment impacts of its regulatory actions," the complaint states.

The plaintiffs cite a 2009 letter from McCarthy, who then was Assistant Administrator to Lisa Jackson, saying "there was no statutory requirement or purpose for conducting economic analysis" and that the EPA has not interpreted the Clean Air Act "to require EPA to conduct employment investigations in taking regulatory actions."

She echoed similar comments at her Senate confirmation hearings last year and at recent Senate committee hearings,

according to the companies.

The companies also note they sent a notice letter to McCarthy in January alerting her to the EPA's obligations under the Clean Air Act. She has yet to respond to that letter, they say.

The plaintiff companies say they employ more than 7,200 people and depend on a domestic coal market for their livelihood and the livelihoods of their employees. They ask the court to declare McCarthy's refusal to conduct evaluations of employment effects a violation of the Clean Air Act. They also want the court to order McCarthy to evaluate whether EPA actions have caused job losses or shifts in the coal industry and to enjoin her from approving more regulations that would affect the coal industry.



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Potash Ridge one step closer to mining operation in Beaver County

Potash Ridge Corp. has filed its "Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations" with the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining for the Blawn Mountain sulphate of potash project in Beaver County. The company plans to use low-cost surface mining to extract minerals from the

previously tested site.

"Our filing of this notice is another significant milestone culminating from considerable effort over the last 12 months," said Guy Bentinck, president and CEO of Potash Ridge. "The corporation has made major advances on the project since we start-

ed development just over two years ago. A strong economic case, based on 40 years of mineable reserves at Blawn Mountain, was reported in the positive pre-feasibility study completed last month. The Blawn Mountain project will create important jobs in Beaver County and surrounding areas, and the corporation will be working closely with Utah state and county officials to continue to advance the project."

Potash Ridge anticipates that the efficient review process in place in Utah will result in a timely approval of its application and allow the company to begin mining

within a reasonable time frame.

Potash Ridge is a Canada-based development company. Blawn Mountain consists of four areas of surface mineable alunite mineralization. Alunite is a sulfate mineral ore rich in both sulphate of potash and alumina. Located in a mining-friendly jurisdiction with established infrastructure nearby, the project covers approximately 15,404 acres of state-owned land. Extensive development was completed in the 1970s including a mine plan, feasibility study and three-year pilot plant operation.



Anadarko to clean up Navajo lands

The Justice Department has announced a settlement with Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and its subsidiary, the Kerr-McGee Corp., through which the companies will pay \$985 million to clean up about 50 abandoned uranium mines in and around the Navajo Nation of Utah and Arizona.

The Navajo Nation will additionally receive more than \$43 million to address radioactive waste left at a former uranium mill in Shiprock, according to the Justice Department. The settlement is the Justice Department's largest-ever environmental enforcement recovery.

Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M. and a mem-

ber of the Senate Indian Affairs and Environment and Public Works committees, said the agreement rights an "historic injustice."

"The Cold War took a toll in the West, perhaps most tragically in the Navajo Nation," Udall said in a statement. "Over the years, the federal government failed to ensure the safety of uranium workers, their families, and the people affected by the hazards of exposure to radioactive materials. Uranium mining companies emerged overnight, left a legacy of sickness and contamination, and then tried to walk away without impunity." Udall said there are still more former mines that need to be addressed.



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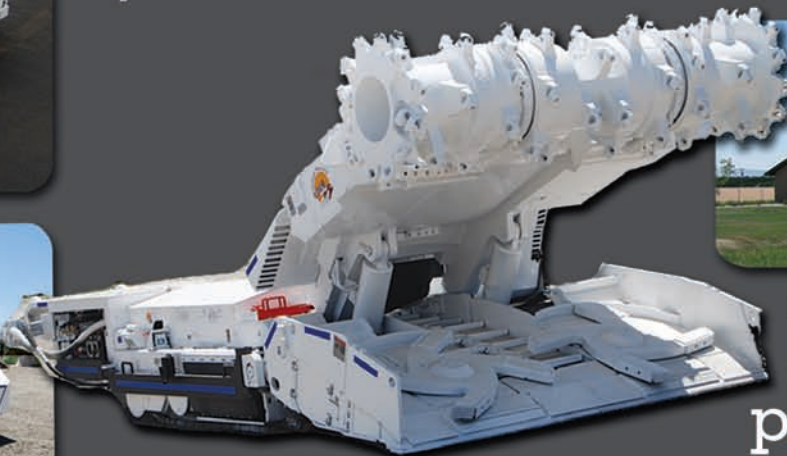


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