Monitor new gold rush

Oregon’s environmental protection laws face a test from the prospect of the opening of one or more large gold mines near Owyhee Reservoir in Malheur County.

Oregon’s Legislature has strengthened the state’s controls over the environmental effects of mining in successive sessions beginning in 1981. The rules have not yet been applied to a major new development, but soon they may be.

At least eight companies are doing exploratory drilling in the rocky, sagebrush-covered country near the Oregon-Idaho border south of Vale. No mining has begun, but one prospecting company, Atlas Precious Metals Inc., has announced a discovery of sandstone ore holding more than 1 million ounces of gold on Grassy Mountain.

The public has a legitimate concern with the impacts a major mining operation can have on its surroundings. These inevitably include digging up the ground, and that raises concern about such things as air and water pollution and disturbance of wildlife. One widely used process, which might be applied in the Owyhee country, is heap leaching, in which ore is piled in a pit and sprinkled with a weak but potentially poisonous cyanide solution to extract the gold.

Oregon’s laws do not require restoring the land to its original state. They do require the miner to leave the land in a clean, safe and non-polluting condition, the Oregon state geologist, Donald A. Hull, told The Oregonian. A miner must post a bond to pay for the land reclamation if he fails to do it himself. If he uses the cyanide leaching process, he must provide a separate bond to assure its cleanup.

Oregon’s laws require a mine to have a permit from the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries before it starts operating, and a separate water-quality permit from the Department of Environmental Quality.

There are provisions for an interdepartmental team to study the area before mining begins and to set requirements for protecting it as conditions of the operating permit. The team may include representatives not only of state agencies, but also of county and federal governments. Most of the Owyhee claims are on federal land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

That study is just getting under way in the case of the Owyhee prospects, Hull said.

On paper, Oregon appears to be on top of the need to supervise mining operations. A gold boom along the Owyhee would put its plans to a major test and would require close monitoring.
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Victor, here's some info on Newmont's attempt to permit Grassy Mtn.
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NEWMONT TO PROCEED WITH EXPLORATION DRILLING OF GRASSY MOUNTAIN

DENVER, February 27, 1993 – Newmont Gold Company today announced it will resume exploration drilling on its Grassy Mountain property in eastern Oregon's Malheur County this spring.

Until the results of the exploration program are complete, the company said it has reclassified the 996,000-ounce deposit, which it previously reported as a reserve, as mineralized material not in reserves.

Drilling will be conducted on areas peripheral to the Grassy Mountain deposit that are believed to contain similar ore bodies. Once this has been ascertained, Newmont will construct an adit, a horizontal underground shaft, needed to determine the gold distribution within the main ore body.

The original geologic model used by Atlas Corporation, from whom Newmont purchased the mineral rights in 1992, was not confirmed by Newmont's core drilling. The Atlas model assumed the low and medium grade ore was evenly disseminated in the deposit. Further drilling in late 1993 and early 1994 showed the ore is contained in higher grade veins interspersed with low-grade material.

(more)
Bill could doom mining
Grassy Mountain

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Newmont Gold says it's ready to mine gold in hostile Oregon

North America's largest gold-mining company will formally notify Oregon in February of its intent to mine on Grassy Mountain near Vale, the Associated Press reported.

At the same time, a coalition of environmental groups has planned to file an initiative petition designed to keep Newmont Gold Company and others from moving into Eastern Oregon.

Andy Kerr of the Oregon Natural Resources Council says the environmentalists want to send this message: "You may have a right to the gold, but you don't have a right to the land or the water." Kerr believes it can win over environmentalists. In October, the company paid Atlas Corporation $30 million to lease mining rights at Grassy Mountain for 35 years. With the option to renew the lease for another 30 years.

Newmont expects to develop Oregon's first open pit gold mine on the mountain, extracting 1.2 million ounces of gold in 8 years.

In the late 1990s, about 40,000 gold-mining claims were filed in Eastern Oregon. Although the great majority were abandoned, the state gained for an expected gold rush by writing new regulations to minimize the impact on rivers, ground water, air quality and wildlife. Last year, the Environmental Quality Commission passed cyanide heap-leach mining rules widely regarded as the toughest in the nation.

The Grassy Mountain site is on public land administered by the BLM under the 1872 Mining Act. State and local governments cannot bar mining, but they can regulate the effects on the region's environment.

The initiative the ONRC and The Wilderness Society want to place before voters would impose reclamation requirements so exorbitant no mining company could afford to operate in Oregon.

The initiative would require companies to backfill the pits after mining, return the land to its original contours, seed it with native plants and restore surface waters and underground aquifers.

Companies would be required to exclude wildlife from contact with all chemical solutions and care for the site following the mine's closing.

Newmont already has built a gold-mining empire in northeastern Nevada to capitalize on the cyanide heap-leach technology it pioneered during the last quarter-century.

The technique uses a weak cyanide solution to extract submicronic gold particles from low-grade ore. The technology makes it profitable to mine ore that once left in the ground, but only if it can be done on a massive scale.

The lowest-grade ore is piled in heaps on pads and treated with a cyanide solution. Higher-grade ore goes into piles to be crushed and milled. Waste rock is dumped in ponds to be contoured, seeded and left on the landscape.

While cyanide heap-leach mining has left a trail of incidents of leakage, Newmont has experienced only one serious cyanide leak in recent years. A cyanide solution leaked from a spillage impoundment into ground water several years ago near its Gold Quarry mine in Nevada. Newmont is now pumping water out of the ground in a project that will continue until no cyanide can be detected.

And Newmont has taken the initiative in promoting Nevada's first mine reclamation law and rules requiring reporting of wildlife deaths.

The company's mines in Carlin, Nevada, stretch the length of 13 football fields. The terraced hole is just slightly smaller than the pit the company hopes to dig at Grassy Mountain, but it is dwarfed by the Gold Quarry mine, 20 miles to the north and 10 times as large.

"I think you can make a case that an open pit mine, properly done, is a heroic structure," says Graham Clark, Newmont's vice president.

"Many people in our industry don't want to go to Oregon because it has such a daunting environmental reputation," he said.

"We think the environmental regulations are tough and vigorous, but we can meet them."

Larry Tottle, Oregon director for The Wilderness Society, is concerned about the environmental impact of cyanide heap-leach mining.

"There's a continuing body of evidence that shows most of mining simply cannot be done in an environmentally safe way," Tottle said.

"You're leaving a pile of highly toxic materials out there that's going to have to be monitored forever," Kerr says. "In the year 2292, it will still be toxic, and it will still be there."

PRB coal producers are hurting

From Casper Star-Tribune
Casper — January 20th

There are several reasons why coal companies in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming are in financial trouble, according to industry officials.

They list overcapacity in Western coal fields, soft prices and the disappearance of lucrative long-term contracts.

"The contracts for $112 to $114 a ton are going to go away and you'll be left with a lot of contracts in the $3.50 to $3.50 range," said Sam Scott, government and environmental affairs director for Kiewit Mining Company, one of the partners in Decker Coal Company in extreme southern Montana.

"There are a lot of coal companies in the Powder River Basin for sale or that have been sold," said Scott. "Some are barely making money, or not making the return on their investment."

Marion Loomis, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, said 3 coal mines in Wyoming's Powder River Basin were sold last year and at least 1 more in the Gillette area is for sale.

"Wyoming's coal industry is under real pressure," Loomis said. "Two or 3 companies are doing real well, but the rest are marginal."

Scott said it's not uncommon for Western coal companies to win contracts with profit margins of 3 cents to 5 cents per ton, so industry officials are concerned anything legislators consider raising severance taxes.

Last summer, the Montana Legislature enacted a 7 percent surcharge on most state taxes, including the 15 percent coal severance tax.

"If we bid a contract today and the taxes go up, we assume those taxes, and it could be that the tax goes up beyond our profit margin," Scott said.

Jim Mockler, director of the Montana Coal Council, said state coal mines produced about 39 million tons last year, up from just over 38 million tons in 1991. But Loomis said Wyoming coal production declined in 1992 by about 4 million tons, down from 193.8 million tons in 1991. After the federal Clean Air Act was amended in 1990, some industry officials predicted a boom for producers of low-sulphur Western coal. But both Mockler and Loomis agree that those predictions probably were overly optimistic.

Of Mines And Men

Amax Coal's western units become separate entity

Amax Coal Company's western operations became a separate entity January 1st.

Amax Coal West Inc. includes the Belle Ayr and Eagle Butte mines at Gillette, as well as the Wyoming Mining Operations office in that city and the Western Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado.

The change gives Amax more lega flexibility and organizational benefits, particularly in marketing.
Caretakers who are able to donate to this philanthropic effort that helps so many in need in the area each year.

Money donations may be
taken to the Ontario First Inter-
state Bank and the Argus
Observer. Donations of toys,
food and clothing may be left at
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Interstate Bank, Payette's
Independent Enterprise, KSRV Radio, Poole's
Pareytte, WICAP in Weiser, Mal-
heur Enterprise, Weiser Pioneer
Elementary School, Weiser
IGA Super Center, Payette
County Recreation, New Hor-
rizon Realty in New Plymouth,
Fruitland's Front Porch and
Wal-mart.

Also, drivers are needed to
deliver the donations Dec. 21.
To register, contact Gene at
889-5387.

Minning

From Page 1A

timber or mining.

"This would mean the Grassy
Butte gold mine would be shut
down. That's 250 high-paying
jobs and for no particular
reason."

Rep. Larry Luce, R-
Idaho, said he was not will-
ing to discuss issues which
would mean amending the bill,
but he did say Oregon's strict
laws should play a part.

"We have zero tolerance (in
Oregon)," he said. "We're not
destroying the land at all. The
land has to be restored. There
are no scars and there are
very stringent standards to
work with. If a jack rabbit gets a
black eye, you shut the mine
down."

Sen. Larry Craig, R-
Idaho, was a sponsor of the bill, which also
had the support of the mining
industry.

With the bill being so
different, members of Congress
will go into a joint committee
to amend the bills into one when
the government reconvenes in
January.

"Anybody who makes a dollar
in America pays taxes on it."
Smith said. "It would seem to
me to encourage people to make
investments so they could pay
money to the governmental
so we could make more
money. It seems to me we're doing
the opposite (with the House bill).

"I heard the Clinton Admin-
istration says "people first,"" he
said. "And it seems to me he's putting
the people last."

Two young children die in blaze

PRAIRIE CITY, Ore. (AP) — Two young children have died in
a fire at their mobile home in this small Eastern Oregon town.

The victims of the Monday night blaze were identified as
Anthony Timmons, 4, and Rebecca Timmons, 18 months.

Their parents, Melvin Dean Timmons and Mary Timmons,
left the children in the care of their babysitter, Laura Clark,
according to Grant County District Attorney Ed Hofbush.

Clark escaped the blaze and sought help from neighbors,
who were unable to get inside the home to rescue the children.

The cause of the fire remained under investigation.
Atlas Corporation's Grassy Mountain mine in Malheur County, Oregon is the first of about half a dozen prospects in that state that are about ready to be turned into mines. Because of this timetable, Atlas is leading the struggle of the state's new mining industry to create reasonable regulations for the industry. Early proposals have put forth rules that would make mining almost impossible in the state.

**Oregon DEQ delays rules setting, okays objective study**

By Gary Dillard  
Staff Reporter

To the relief of the state's mining industry, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission agreed December 13th not to enact rules so stringent that they would effectively ban mining from the state before having an independent expert look them over.

The industry had been concerned that the EQC, which sets policy for the state Department of Environmental Quality, was going to approve its draft policies, which were far more stringent than anything else in the nation.

Those policies were so strict and intractable that mining companies have been telling Oregon elected officials and bureaucrats that they would eliminate the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the state, particularly in the depressed east.

At the same time, the industry has said, the policies wouldn't go far enough to protect the environment more reasonable rules in force in other states.

At the Friday 13th hearing, each "side" got about 15 minutes for a presentation on the policies. Speaking for the environmentalists was Larry Tuttle of the Wilderness Society.

Ivan Uronvit, manager of governmental relations for the Northwest Mining Association, led the presentation for the industry, with Mike Filion of Teck and John Parks of Atlas Corporation filling in technical and financial details.

The industry made the stronger presentation, Uronvit said, emphasizing the technical issues. The EQC had to back off from immediately adopting the policies, he added, because "enough questions and valid concerns had been made."

The matter now will go to a disinterested third party, but the Commission has not determined who that will be. It will have to be someone outside the mining industry without ties to the environmental movement, perhaps someone in academia.

While no one left the hearing knowing who would be reviewing the proposals, "We did get some feel for the kind of questions that will be asked," Uronvit said.

Among the items to be reviewed are closure standards, methods and measures, including waste classification testing, and the question of whether all of the required liners and caps on waste are necessary.

The industry questioned whether the program, which required triple-liners, detoxification of heaps and capping, was "overly redundant," Uronvit said.

While there was no specific timetable for completing the review, the EQC indicated it should be done as soon as possible. It may be possible to select a contractor, decide on the scope of work and get the report back by March 1st.

This delay doesn't benefit the mining industry, since there are no old regulations to fall back on. What it means is that companies like Atlas, which are ready to move ahead with permitting, will have to wait a little while longer.

"Even though there's going to be a postponement of final approval," Uronvit said, "it doesn't benefit the industry because any applications can't be processed until it's final."

Filion, who represented Teck at the hearing, got one other point across to the commissioners as well. He said that Teck had been ready to pump $80 million into a project in Oregon, but decided that under the proposed mining rules, it would be a poor investment.

"It feels like a stay of execution," Uronvit said, "but at least they will be taking a long, hard look at it from a party that has no vested interest. We're confident that our argument is strong enough that it will be supported by the third-party reviewer."

Mining obviously isn't going to get a total reprieve. Even if the policies are modified considerably, Oregon still is likely to have "the most stringent requirements in the country," he said.

The EQC made it clear it expects the rules to provide for zero-percent release of fluids, both during mining and after. "They expect full containment," Uronvit said.

But rules that were going to be impossible to live with should end up being more flexible while doing the job. "Hopefully we'll end up getting the kind of relief we need," he said.

**Draft policies a surprise**

The final draft policies adopted November 7th by the state's EQC had surprised and shocked the mining industry, which had been expecting strong regulations, but none such as those, which effectively would mean the elimination of the nascent mining industry from the state.
DEQ delays...

The severity of the proposed policies prompted the NWMA to issue a press release stating: "Oregon policies to halt gold mining."

The company at the vanguard of the scramble to modify the Oregon rules has been Atlas Corporation, which wants to bring on line its Grassy Mountain mine in east-central Oregon, an $80 million project that would produce about 100,000 ounces of gold and an equal amount of silver each year.

Since it is the first of almost half a dozen companies with gold projects in Oregon to be ready for permitting, it has been leading the fight. Parks, Atlas' senior environmental coordinator at Grassy Mountain, also chairs the Oregon Mining Council.

Atlas, the Mining Council and its parent, the Northwest Mining Association, were in continual communication with Oregon regulatory agencies, the governor's office and legislators prior to the December 13th hearing in an effort "to make them understand what's going on there," Urnovitz said.

The mining industry had suggested that the EQC not adopt full rules governing mining, but just start with rules for application and permitting, to meet their deadline for setting down rules by the first of the year and to allow mining companies to start their work, Urnovitz said. The Commission chose to delay all of its rule-setting.

Then, the industry suggested, the EQC should create an impartial council to review data from various sources and report back within 60 days on what the state should do, he added.

The data supplied to the EQC — especially those from the mining industry — need to be studied, Urnovitz said, because the Commission "has not seriously considered all our input."

The stringent policies adopted by the EQC took the industry somewhat by surprise. The first draft of the policies, put forth about a year ago, was like the one adopted, said Robin Lee, investor relations representative for Atlas in Denver.

The company and the Oregon Mining Council went to considerable expense to provide technical advisers to talk with commissioners one on one and that produced a second set of policies which was "more reasonable and more livable," she said.

But when the Commission adopted the third and final set in early November, it went back to the "extreme side" as originally presented.

What the EQC considered December 13th, Urnovitz said, was "a very unwieldy set of regulations."

The mining industry had hoped the EQC would appoint a panel of knowledgeable people to hammer out rules that are workable — yet will still protect the environment.

Urnovitz suggested that panel might consist of people in regulatory agencies who have dealt with mining and other persons with geotechnical experience to "help round out the picture."

In the week before the DEQ meeting, Parks and other industry representatives were preparing a "white paper" for the agency. "We want to make sure we give the state people good, solid information to make their decisions on," Urnovitz said.

Since there has not been much mining in the state, the agency doesn't have much background information, he added.

The general political mood in Oregon seems to favor sensible rules for the mining industry. In the NWMA release, Parks said, "I am very disappointed that the EQC has seemingly ignored all our concerns, especially since both Governor Barbara Roberts and the Legislature are on record as not wanting regulations to be burdensome that the mining industry would be driven out of the state."

By issuing policies far more strict than federal rules, Urnovitz said, the EQC "caved in to demands of environmental extremists that have been calling for a ban on gold mining in Oregon."

Get out or litigate

Dave Barrows, legislative counsel for the Oregon Mining Council, said the policies ignore both the letter and the intent of HB 2244, which was passed by the Oregon Legislature in the last session.

"I can't see that they are leaving mining companies, who have been dealing in good faith throughout this entire process, much choice but to either get out of the state or litigate," he said.

Urnovitz told PAY DIRT that the proposed...
DEQ delays...

Oregon policies consist of a number of rules, each of which may be in effect at a particular site, but when taken together make mining almost impossible.

The policies, for example, place a total ban on mining-related construction in a "jurisdictional wetlands" area, within a 100-year floodplain or within 200 feet of live water.

Even in the eastern part of the state such rules would be challenging, Urnovitz said, but in the western part of the state, with its heavy rainfall, it would be hard to find a site where construction is possible.

"Literally taken," he said, "you might not be able to build a road across a stream."

Making tough rules onerous

Making the difficult rules even more onerous, he added, is that there is no provision for waivers based on site-specific conditions.

The policies also require "triple liners on everything," Urnovitz said. Such lines would be required on heap-leach pads, ponds and emergency overflow facilities, he said, adding that tailings ponds would have to be netted.

The bottom liner would have to be 36 inches of clay, which is a standard requirement for toxic waste, not mine tailings.

Under the policies, when a mine was closed, tailings would have to be handled as hazardous waste. A composite liner would need to be placed on top of the tailings and the entire area capped.

But there are other, more practical ways of isolating these deposits after mining is completed which will do an equally good job of preventing discharge.

What's suggested in the Oregon policies disregards numerous studies, Urnovitz said, including one by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that say mine waste should not be treated as hazardous waste. What is being suggested by the Oregon EQC "are just the wrong methods," he said.

The state should be using the EPA test devised specifically for mine waste, he added.

The policies also specify one way of detoxifying the cyanide dumps, which calls for recycling or reuse. This method, however, limits options for reclamation and does not allow a company to use the technology best suited for the particular site.

In other states, such as Nevada, regulations are designed for a bottom line — protecting the groundwater — but allow the company flexibility in designing protection and reclamation methods that take into account the type of waste, site-specific considerations and operating characteristics.

The ones in on the company to devise a method acceptable to the state regulators. The Oregon method, which one environmental expert called the "Betty Crocker cookbook approach," doesn't require regulatory officials, because everything is in black and white, a situation that doesn't exist in the real world.

Very difficult to impossible

Taken together, these policy suggestions and others make mining far less likely to become an Oregon industry. "You start placing item after item after item on the industry," Urnovitz said, and it makes mining "somewhere between extremely difficult and impossible."

Several companies have given state regulators examples of how much more it would cost to operate under the proposed policies than under rules in effect in other states, such as Nevada.

Lee at Atlas said her company believes the rules could bring about an increase in cost of up to 30 percent.

Another industry expert estimated the policies would increase capital cost by 20 percent (over the cost of meeting rules in neighboring Nevada) and would increase operating costs by 10 percent. "It is an economic burden on the company with no benefit to the environment," he said.

Developing a large-scale gold mine — like Atlas' Grassy Mountain would be — already is an expensive proposition, costing as much as $100 million before any metal is taken out of the ground.

Adding 20 percent or 30 percent to the capital cost is likely to make some mines uneconomic or unfinanciable. Even for those that may choose to develop a mine under those conditions, Urnovitz said, "it will be a tough nut to crack."

The addition of 10 percent to operating costs, in today's gold market, would narrow the margins at most existing mines in the country to the point of making them money losers.

Many gold companies already have reported losses for the third quarter, and even for the first nine months. While larger companies are still reporting profits, though considerably smaller than those a year ago, many of them are worried about what will happen early next year when they no longer have forward sales contracts that keep their sales price far above the spot market.

Be a boon for eastern Oregon

A viable mining industry could be very good for Oregon, especially the eastern part of the state where most of the activity is taking place.

Some geologists apparently believe that eastern Oregon is an excellent area for exploration and may have a number of large deposits, making it another — though likely smaller — version of Nevada.

Each gold-mining project would have a substantial effect on Oregon's economy. For Atlas' Grassy Mountain, for example, the company will spend about $80 million for capital costs initially and about $125 million over the life of the project, Lee said.

Of the initial $80 million, about $10 million to $15 million would be spent locally for construction and purchases.

The mine would employ 20 workers at peak and 150 workers on average. The average payroll would be $5 million a year.

Grassy Mountain would pay $5 million to $6 million in state income taxes over the life of the operation and another $3 million to $12 million for property taxes.

For its various needs, the mine would make $35 million to $30 million in local purchases during its life.

Because the eastern Oregon economy is depressed, these figures would mean a bit to the local population. "We have strong, strong local support," Lee said.

The average agricultural wage in the area is now less than $15,000 a year, while the average salary at the mine would be about $27,000 a year.

The mine would be located in Malheur County, but the benefits would be spread to other counties as well. Lee said the project has received support from three counties and from local officials. "Most of the resistance is coming from the West Coast."

Other money also is being spent by mining companies who are doing exploration work in Oregon. The Oregon Mining Council has about 96 members and more than 30 are operating companies. Most of those are at the point of exploration.

"There's a lot of money being put in the ground there," Urnovitz said.

But a number of companies have been writing letters to the governor and to legislators, talking economics. "People are becoming extremely concerned, to say the least," Urnovitz said.

Exploration in Oregon may account for millions of dollars of income for the state each year, and that flow may be drying up.

Reasoned one company official, if the state's policies make it untenable to mine in the future, "Why should we be there exploring in the first place?"

Several companies have expressed this feeling, Urnovitz said. While precious metals companies collectively put tens — perhaps hundreds — of millions of dollars a year into exploration, there's never enough to look everywhere, and it's likely that many will stop exploration efforts in Oregon.

"If these things go down," said one, "we're probably not even going to bother with Oregon."

Atlas is breaking the path

Atlas Corporation will be the industry's bellwether in Oregon. The company is hoping state policies won't preclude the development at Grassy Mountain or delay the project unduly.

(Continued on Page 13A)
DEQ delays . . .

(Continued from Page 12A)

The company hopes to have all its permits by early 1993, Lee said. Production should be started in 1994.

At present, all the company’s gold production, which totalled about 21,000 ounces in its fiscal 1991 (which ended June 30th), came from the Gold Bar mine near Eureka, Nevada. Reserves there will be exhausted after the middle of the decade.

Grassy Mountain production, planned for 100,000 ounces of gold and an equal amount of silver each year, will take the place of the Gold Bar mine and is thus critical to the company.

Lee describes the site location as perfect for a mining operation. It’s in eastern Oregon’s arid, high desert, which offers a limited number of recreational opportunities.

"It’s low visibility, low traffic, low visitation," she said.

When the mine’s million ounces of gold reserves and 2.5 million ounces of silver are exhausted, reclamation will leave the area in better shape than it’s in now. "When we’re done and the area’s reseeded," she said, "the area will have more vegetation, and more productive vegetation."

Will facts beat emotionalism?

In Oregon, as in the rest of the country, the struggle will continue between the need to create wealth and a strong lobby that is not interested in economics.

The environmentalists who are trying to prevent mining from entering Oregon are "very well entrenched, very well funded," Urnovitz said. The Oregon Mining Council, on the other hand, is a relatively new organization, which is still under the umbrella of the Northwest Mining Association.

Nevertheless, Urnovitz believes the industry will be able to win this particular struggle, by fighting emotionalism with facts.

"We think we can come up with regulations that mining can live with," he said, "and still meet Oregon’s stringent requirements."

But this battle — and others that are developing on every front — won’t be easily won. And the work can’t be done by the associations alone, Urnovitz said. "We have to get our members involved and get them out front on some of these issues."

Of Mines And Men

State senator says Nevada can’t stop waste storage

Going against the political grain in Nevada, State Senator Bill O’Donnell says the state does not have the political clout to block the Yucca Mountain project in Congress and that 70 percent of Nevadaans know that.

In a Las Vegas speech to the Associated General Contractors of the Las Vegas Republican said he hopes what he called the "emotional demagoguery" can stop. O’Donnell said Nevada stands to lose needed jobs, including potential future projects at the Nevada Test Site, by continuing to fight the dump.

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1 — Stoper drills
1 — Generator sets
4 — 12B Eimco muckers
1 — Misc. bucket cars
1 — Air & elect. shovels
2 — Portable welders
6 — Shop welders
3 — Shop compressors
1 — 8600 expansion & split-set bolts

Other miscellaneous mining equipment & supplies too numerous to mention.

Managers: Bill Rash & Sons
We have exceptional expertise gained from 25 years of operation and maintenance in underground and open pit mining to help you choose and locate the proper equipment needed if you don’t have it in stock.

Rocky Mountain PAY DIRT for December 1991  Page 13A