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Sun Advocate
February 13, 2007
Coal General

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Coal continues to reign as king, dominates Utah's mining industry

By RICHARD SHAW
Sun Advocate publisher

While Carbon and Emery officials work toward diversifying the industrial bases, coal remains a major factor in the counties' economies.

In the latest report released by the Utah Department of Natural Resources, the amount of coal revenues generated statewide increased and the mines in Utah produced \$599,500,000.

The total revenue figure was up from \$485,400,000 in 2005 and represented the largest revenue level reported since 1997.

During most of the last 47 years, coal revenues have grown primarily because of expanded production, according to the department of natural resources.

In 1960, coal mines in Utah produced \$212,200,000 in revenues.

By 1970, the figure had dropped to \$177,300,000.

But during the 1980s, an

energy boom brought prices up and increased production brought the states revenues to \$821,700,00.

Only once in the history of coal production in the state have revenues topped \$1 billion dollars and that was in 1982, when the figure reached \$1,029,100,000 noted the department of natural resources.

The bulk of the coal in the state is produced in Carbon and Emery counties.

Of the 931,361 thousand short tons of coal produced since 1960 in Utah, 804,774 thousand short tons came from the two counties.

Nationally, Wyoming leads in per year coal short ton production with the Cowboy state producing 406,364 short tons in 2005.

West Virginia ranks second, producing with 153,560 short tons in 2005.

Wyoming has a large number of mining operation and a lot of

the coal produced in the state is pit mined.

In the national rankings, Utah places 14th in coal production.

Overall production of coal in the United States has increased

In 2005, the country produced 1,133,290 short tons of coal for a growth of 1.9 percent compared to 2004.

At present, the western region produces more than 51 percent of the coal mined nationwide each year.

Production levels and the technology used to produce coal have affected the number of Utahns working at mines.

In 1960, 2,418 people were employed at 45 coal mines in Utah, pointed out the department of natural resources.

By 1970, the number of employees decreased to 1,469, with only 21 mines operating across the state.

Employment at mines hit a peak in 1982 when 29 coal oper-

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Local seniors go all out

Perry and Dot Fry enjoy pajama day at County Senior Citizens Center. The eve

Mayor highlights Price, city department accomplish

By CHARLES MCMANUS
Sun Advocate reporter

On Feb. 7 Price Mayor Joe Piccolo delivered his fourth state of the city address.

The address gives a general overview of the city's activities for the past 12 months and discusses goals and initiatives for the upcoming year.

Last Wednesday, the mayor took time during the presentation to focus on the local community and the city's employees.

"We are trying to get the community to be more involved and proactive in their government and we also want the city's

director Nick Tatton, prepared and inserted a survey into city employees' paychecks.

The questions on the survey ranged from hiring and promotions to community attitude and improvement projects.

"We are looking for trends in this survey so that we can adequately plan for the future and see how we can make our city a better place for its citizens and employees," commented Piccolo.

According to the mayor, the city has seen employee involvement in the survey climb from 58 percent to 82 percent.

"We are hiring from within, even with a competitive bid-

Price City's Official charge to the community

During his state of the city address, Price City Mayor Joe Piccolo charged the local community with the following initiatives:

- Attend for public meetings and public hearings, become active and involved.
- Be a quality person and do quality work.
- Carry the spirit of progress and friendliness.
- Work hard to help your fellow community member be successful.
- Support and encourage everyone to reach their full potential.
- Make the more City future bright.

our city recorder from within," continued Piccolo.

During the address, Piccolo presented Wilma Barnett of the Price city customer service office with the employee of the

Get Active Utah program, for which Price city schools have won an award for the last two years.

Piccolo presented Creekview Elementary with a key to the city for outstanding participa-

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Coal continues to reign as king, dominates:

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 operations in Utah reported a record number of 4,296 employees.

In 2005, there were 13 mines in Utah, with eight operators and 1,803 employees.

Nevertheless, the production of coal has increased considerably, despite fewer mines and employees.

When employment at coal mines peaked in 1982, the state produced 16,912 thousand short tons.

In 2006, the department of natural resources projects that Utah mines will produce 26,715 short tons with less than half the employees reported in 1982.

The single largest producing mine in the state in 2005 was SUFCO in Sevier County, with 7,567 thousand short tons produced.

Next was the Dugout mine in Carbon County, operated by Canyon Fuel, which produced 4,592 thousand short tons.

Deer Creek mine in Emery County was third with 3,910 thousand short tons.

The vast majority of the coal produced in Utah goes for electric power generation, with a slightly less than one-half being

transported out of state for that purpose.

In 2005 20,164 short tons went for making electricity, with 5,934 short tons going to out-of-state generation plants.

In terms of industrial use, the story is just the opposite with the vast majority of coal from Utah going to this purpose going out of state.

In 2005, 3,313 thousand short tons of coal were transported to locations outside of Utah for industrial uses, while 713 thousand short tons stayed within the boundaries of the Beehive State.

Although many Utahns continue to think that coal produced by operators in the state is transported overseas to places like

Japan and Korea, the assumption is not true.

Between 1981 and 2003, major amounts of coal were going to the Pacific Rim with more than 5,400 short tons exported in 1996.

But in recent years, the amount of exported coal has dropped, registering at 212 short tons in 2005.

The majority of Utah's exported coal went to Canada.

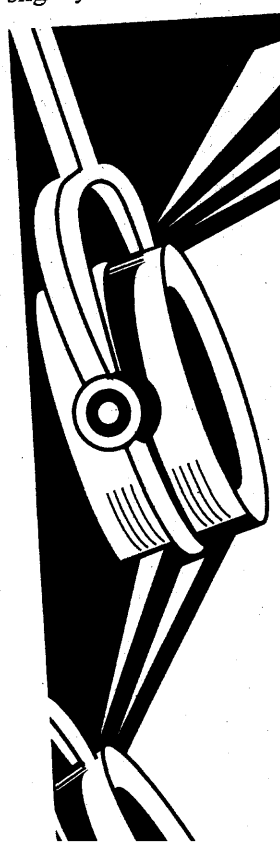
The department of natural resources forecasts that, in 2006, there would be no export of Utah coal across American borders

Most of the Utah coal shipped to areas within the borders of the United States goes to Nevada and California.

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