



87th Annual Convention and Trade Show

Schedule at Glance

Sunday, September 13

5:00 – 7:00 PM | Rooftop Welcome Reception

- *Drury Plaza Rooftop*

Monday, September 14

11:00 AM | Golf Tournament Registration

12:00 PM | Golf Tournament Shotgun Start

- *Santa Fe Country Club*

6:00 – 8:00 PM | Exhibitor Showcase Reception

- *Palace Garden*

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 – 11:00 AM | General Sessions

- *Palace Ballroom*

11:30 PM – 1:00 PM | Awards Luncheon – Reclamation Awards & Safety Certificate Awards

- *O'Keeffe Room*

1:00 – 4:00 PM | General Sessions

- *Palace Ballroom*

Annual Banquet & Hall of Fame Presentation

5:30 PM | Reception

6:00 – 9:00 PM | Dinner

- *O'Keeffe Room*



87th Annual Convention and Trade Show

General Session Agenda

Tuesday, September 15

8:00 – 8:15 AM | Matt Thompson, New Mexico Mining Association

- *Welcome & Opening Remarks*

8:15 – 8:45 AM | Dr. Michael Jackson, New Mexico Tech

- *Preparing the Next Generation of New Mexico's Mining Workforce*

8:45 – 9:15 AM | Mike Neumann, NES, Inc. & Jon Indall, Uranium Producers of America

- *Uranium Renaissance in the US and NM - Really!*

9:15 – 10:00 AM | Ryan Sistad, Better In Our Backyard

- *Public Advocacy & Messaging: Better In Our Backyard*

10:00 – 10:15 AM | Break

10:15 – 11:00 AM | "Hot Rocks"

11:00 – 11:30 AM | Dr. Richard Luarkie, Native American Mining and Energy Sovereignty Initiative

- *NAMES Initiative*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Erin Taylor, Acting Secretary, EMNRD

- *Awards Luncheon – Reclamation Awards & Safety Certificate Awards*

1:00 – 1:45 PM | Dal Mollenberg, Gallagher & Kennedy & T.J. Trujillo, Trujillo Law Group

- *Modernizing NM Regulatory Procedures*

1:45 – 2:15 PM | Ginger McLemore, NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources

- *Critical Minerals in New Mexico*

2:15 – 2:30 PM | Break

2:30 – 3:00 PM | Matt Thompson & Rebecca Hammer, New Mexico Mining Association

- *Novi AMS Update*

3:00 – 3:30 PM | Laura Phelps, Freeport-McMoRan

- *NMMA Outreach Working Group Update*

3:30 – 3:45 PM | Matt Thompson, New Mexico Mining Association

- *General Membership Meeting*

3:45 – 4:00 PM | Matt Thompson, New Mexico Mining Association

- *Closing Remarks*

2026 Speakers

Jon Indall – *Senior Policy Advisor, Uranium Producers of America*

Jon Indall retired in 2024 from the Maldegen, Templeman and Indall Law Firm after more than 40 years representing uranium mining and other natural resource companies. He now serves as Senior Policy Advisor for the Uranium Producers of America and is a graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law.

Dr. Michael Jackson – *President, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology*

Michael Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in physics and applied mathematics from SUNY-Oswego and a doctorate in physics from New Mexico State University. After faculty and academic leadership roles at three universities, including as Founding Dean of the College of Science and Technology at Millersville University of Pennsylvania, he became New Mexico Tech's Vice President for Academic Affairs and now serves as its 19th President. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Dr. Richard Luarkie – *Director, Native American Mining and Energy Sovereignty Initiative*

Dr. Luarkie draws on diverse tribal, public, and private sector experience in business development, strategy, and economic advancement, including work in competitor analysis and business capture strategy. He brings the perspective of a dynamic entrepreneur, a recognized tribal leader, and a strategic thinker. Dr. Luarkie served two terms as Governor of the Pueblo of Laguna and sits on numerous local and national boards, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian Board of Trustees. He holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of New Mexico, an MBA from New Mexico State University, and a Ph.D. from Arizona State University.

Dr. Virginia "Ginger" McLemore – *Lead Research Scientist, NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources*

Ginger McLemore has served as an economic geologist with the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, a division of New Mexico Tech, since 1980, studying the state's mineral resources. She holds B.S. degrees in Geology and Geophysics and an M.S. in Geology from New Mexico Tech, and a Ph.D. in Geoscience from the University of Texas at El Paso. She was inducted into the New Mexico Mining Hall of Fame in 2023.

Dal Moellenberg – *Partner, Gallagher & Kennedy*

Dal Moellenberg is a shareholder with Gallagher & Kennedy, P.A. in Santa Fe, where he chairs NMMA's Environment Committee. Over more than 35 years, he has represented NMMA and other mining clients in a wide range of administrative and regulatory proceedings in New Mexico, including matters before the Water Quality Control Commission, Environmental Improvement Board, Mining Commission, NMED, MMD, and the Oil Conservation Division and Commission.

2026 Speakers

Mike Neumann – *Owner, NES, Inc.*

Mike Neumann has more than 40 years of experience permitting mineral exploration and mining projects across the western U.S., with particular expertise in the uranium industry. He has served as corporate VP of Environmental Affairs for mining companies, an independent consultant, and a manager of environmental programs, working with regulatory agencies and stakeholders to permit uranium, copper, aggregate, hard rock quarries, and coal mines. A graduate of the University of Wyoming (B.S., Biological Sciences), he is a past chairman of the New Mexico Mining Association.

Laura Phelps – *Senior Administration Manager, Freeport-McMoRan*

Laura Phelps is Senior Administration Manager for Freeport-McMoRan's New Mexico Operations. With 14 years of experience in the mining industry, she focuses on external stakeholder engagement, working with neighbors, community leaders, and state agencies in support of copper mining in New Mexico.

Ryan Sistad – *Executive Director, Better in Our Back Yard*

Ryan Sistad, of Fosston, Minnesota, studied business management at the University of North Dakota. He has led Better in Our Back Yard since founding it in 2019, growing it from two members to over 115 and building a social media following of more than 30,000. Under his leadership, the organization has gained national recognition, connecting public officials, business leaders, and communities around a pro-industry message supporting federal permitting reform, critical minerals, and domestic energy production.

Erin Taylor – *Acting Secretary, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department*

Erin Taylor was appointed Acting Secretary of EMNRD in December 2025, after serving as Deputy Cabinet Secretary beginning in April 2025. She began her EMNRD career in the Mining and Minerals Division before leading federal energy investment deployment and regulatory compliance as Deputy Division Director for Energy Conservation and Management. She later joined the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs, directing technical assistance across all 56 states and territories and serving as state liaison to the federal Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Pennsylvania State University, a postgraduate diploma in sustainable rural development from the University of Aberdeen, and a master's degree in environmental policy and management from the University of Denver.

T.J. Trujillo – *Owner, Trujillo Law Group*

T.J. Trujillo is of counsel with Gallagher & Kennedy and provides government relations services through Trujillo Law Group. He has practiced law in New Mexico for over 20 years, representing NMMA, other trade organizations, and mining industry companies in regulatory proceedings, with a practice at the intersection of government relations and the litigation of regulatory matters.

Tony Trujillo – *Owner, Tony Trujillo & Associates*

Tony Trujillo owns and operates Tony Trujillo & Associates Consulting Services, a government relations firm focused on lobbying at the state and local government levels in New Mexico. Prior to starting his own firm, he spent over 41 years in government relations and other roles with Freeport-McMoRan before retiring. He has been inducted into the New Mexico Mining Association Hall of Fame and currently chairs NMMA's Legislative Committee.



2026 Hall of Fame Honorees

Jerrold Hogue, Navajo Mine

Jerrold has worked at Navajo Mine for over 50 years, starting as a laborer in 1974 and advancing through truck driving, heavy equipment, and loader operation, a role he still holds today. Diné (the Navajo term for themselves) and raised on a family farm near Farmington, he is the son of a coal miner who worked the same mine. He has run in 42 St. George Marathons (43rd this year), roughly 39 Shiprock Marathons, and an Ironman, and in 2008 BHP sent him to Beijing as an Olympic torch bearer. Married 51 years with five children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, he is known for quiet integrity and five decades of dedication to the industry, and as a global ambassador for the Navajo Nation, New Mexico and our mining industry.

Dalva "Dal" Moellenberg, Gallagher & Kennedy

Dal is a Shareholder and Santa Fe office manager at Gallagher & Kennedy, with roughly 30 years representing regulated industries in environmental, natural resources, and administrative law. He has appeared before the NM Water Quality Control Commission, Mining Commission, State Engineer, and EPA Environmental Appeals Board, and has argued before the 10th Circuit and NM Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. He currently chairs NMMMA's Environment Committee and previously won the association's Doc Weiler/Marvin Watts Award for Professionalism in 2012. He is ranked in Chambers USA and listed in Best Lawyers in America across multiple categories.

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