

WFA-Dry Fork Mine 2018 Safety Award-Department of Workforce Services Safety Summit

Jun 19, 2019



Wyoming State Mine Award Winners – Mine Operator and Mine Site Contractor - Large Employer

Western Fuels Wyoming, Inc. - Dry Fork Mine. The safety culture at Dry fork Mine is one in where “Employees take pride in where they work and in their individual contributions to the Company’s overall success.” The employees and members of the management team work together in what they refer to as “Cross-Functional Continuous Improvement Teams” to address important topics such as, near-miss

reporting, safety interactions, operational efficiencies, safety goals, and advanced training, among others. Their efforts in safety have assisted this operation in working over 3 years without a lost time accident. Dry Fork strives to develop a culture where “all employees demonstrate a positive attitude, belief, commitment, and accountability for their own safety and the safety of their co-workers.”

Dry Fork’s commitment to safety excellence is evident not just at their worksite but also in the support and education provided to their employee and their families. The Mine has conducted awareness presentations to both employees and their families on topics related to Active Shooter Situations and Suicide Prevention. In addition, they sponsor an Annual Kids Day Camp, focused on addressing safety concerns and awareness with children.

Dry Fork Mine Receives Perfect Safety Record Recognition

Apr 16, 2019



Dry Forks Mine achieved five years without a Lost Time Incident on December 14th!

Feb 23, 2015

Congratulations Western Fuels- Wyoming, Inc. Dry Fork Mine



Jayna Barber
Jeremiah Bock
Justin Brandt
Ken Brazee
Chris Carpenter
Duncan Carter
Bill Case
Curtis Cathey
Wade Cattnach
Joe Chapell
Merle Christopherson
Tracy Crippen
Rob Cummings
Sue Davidson
Lora Dilley
Fritz Eichhorst
Walt Elder
Derald Entzminger
Arnie Erickson
Bandy Fayle
Rocky Feddersen
Pat Gallagher
Dave Gauntner
Bill Gelatic
Fred Geringer
Ginger Gibbons
Jolene Graham
Dave Green
Ed Guernsey
Larry Halvorson
Shane Harrison
Brian Hauschild
Brent Helms
Doreen Heuck
Ed Hieb
Justin Hillius
Jason Hogan
Fritz Hugo
Randy Humphrey
Mike Jones



Amy Knapp
Levi Knuteson
Robbie Lang
Allen Larsen
Mark Lindsay
Tim Maliske
Dave Mandarich
Steve Miller
Jamie Milliken
Ed O'Dell
Tim Ogle
Dan Pennington
Jason Percy
Kelly Peterson
Robert Raisanen
Dave Reinert
Ron Rice
Pat Ritthaler
Randy Robbins
Chris Roberts
Matt Robidart
Mike Roden
Will Rohan
Luis Rosales
Jordan Rush
Craig Sanders
Ron Schabot
Calvin Schell
Dustin Schell
Lynn Schneider
Deb Smith
Mark Spear
Jay Stinson
Tom Thompson
Kristine Tolzien
Teran Vedsted
Marshal Wickham
Jeremy Wilde
Tom Worthington

Safety by choice, not by chance!

Dry Fork Mine receives 3rd place, 2013 State of Wyoming Safety Awards for Surface – Small Mines

Jul 01, 2014



Ron Schabot, Dry Fork Mine Superintendent and Lora Dilley, Dry Fork Mine Safety Coordinator are presented the third place 2013 State of Wyoming Safety Award for Surface – Small Mines by Wyoming Governor Matt Mead. To qualify as a small mine, mines have to work less than 500,000 manhours. The mines with the most manhours under 500,000 without a Lost Time Incident (LTI) will get the highest honors in this category. Dry Fork Mine received third place with 161,270 manhours and no LTIs. One of our neighbors, Rawhide Mine, won first place with approximately 489,000 manhours and no LTIs. This is the first time the Dry Fork Mine has ever been recognized by the State for our safety performance.

Dry Fork Mine won a prestigious Excellence in Surface Coal Mining award from the U.S. Department of the Interior

Jul 01, 2014



During 2010, the Western Fuels-Wyoming, Inc., Dry Fork Mine won a prestigious Excellence in Surface Coal Mining award from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining for exemplary compliance achieved during construction of a wetlands crossing project. Rather than permanently disturbing a wetlands area that had to be crossed with a conveyor and road, the mine opted to span the wetlands with a large arch type structure spanning 35 feet, which doubles as a permanent wildlife underpass. According to Beth Goodnough, Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Dry Fork Mine, "This design was significantly more extensive than the minimum design required by regulations and was a completely voluntary undertaking by the mine. In addition to the arch crossing and installation of an elaborate retaining wall that helped avoid filling nearby wetlands, the conveyor crossing was located such that it avoided disturbing protected alluvial valley floor features in the area, helping ensure long term environmental compliance along the route." The mine won two other awards for the same project, a Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality award for environmental excellence, and a Wyoming Game and Fish Department wildlife stewardship award.

Dedication Ceremony Held for Dry Fork Station

Aug 11, 2011

Gillette, Wyo. – The dedication ceremony for Wyoming’s newest coal-based power plant was held today at the \$1.35-billion Dry Fork Station six miles north of Gillette.

More than 1,100 people were in attendance for a program that featured Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead. He said the Dry Fork Station is a story of perseverance. “There were amazing hurdles that had to be overcome to get the plant built,” he said. “Coal is part of our past, present and future.”



Mead said the Dry Fork Station provides low-cost electricity that helps maintain a quality of life. “Coal from Wyoming has fueled American dreams. As we think about this, it’s grand to see a power plant up and running in the midst of other coal plants across the county being shut down,” he said. “We hope this is a sign of many more to come. I have confidence in the ability of coal to produce low-cost electricity. It’s not a question of need, but a question of desire. We want coal to produce low-cost electricity.”

U.S. Sen. John Barrasso said a project like Dry Fork takes a lot of vision to get it completed. “It takes passion, persistence and patience,” he said. “We need to protect the resources of this state. Coal is the most available, reliable and affordable energy resource that this country has. The Wyoming delegation is committed to making sure coal remains a part of our energy future.”

U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis said every politician needs to see the energy the people gathered at the celebration have given to complete this project. “It’s about the energy and power of the human spirit shown by this power plant,” she said. “Electricity from this plant will be used by people all over the region. Electricity from coal makes it possible for us to achieve our dreams.”

Ron Harper, Basin Electric CEO and general manager, said more than \$336 million has been invested for environmental controls, making the plant one of the cleanest in the country. “The emissions limits for this plant were established by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ). They did their job well,” he said. “Issuing a permit for a plant like this is a monumental undertaking. Staff from WYDEQ reviewed hundreds of documents, attended hearings, and spent countless hours analyzing technical data regarding the environmental controls for this power plant. Wyoming has some of the strictest environmental rules in the country, and protection of the environment is a fundamental commitment; it’s an integral part of who we are at Basin Electric.”



Construction on the Dry Fork Station began in 2007, more than three years after the plant was announced. The workforce peaked at about 1,300 in 2009.

The Dry Fork Station is owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, N.D. (92.9%), and the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency, Lusk, Wyo. (7.1%).

Cliff Gjellstad, president of Basin Electric's board of directors, said the dedication ceremony is a significant birthday present for the cooperative. "It (the dedication) really wasn't planned to coincide with our 50th birthday, but it sure is a fitting tribute to who we are and what we do," he said. "The vision of our founders was to be a supplemental power supplier over and above what our members were getting from the hydro facilities along the Missouri River. We didn't build this power plant because we were looking for something to do. It was built to meet a growing need of our 135 member systems in nine states. Since we were formed in 1961, the need for more electricity has been growing."

Mike Easley, CEO of Powder River Energy Corporation, a member cooperative of Basin Electric, said humility, integrity and thoughtfulness are three aspects of the Dry Fork project. These are also the values of the cooperative movement. "The cooperative movement is one of the most influential in the nation's history. The customers are the bosses of every cooperative we have. It's about neighbor helping neighbor," he said. "The energy from this power plant is not only electricity but human energy to keep it going."

Steve Hughes, chairman of the Campbell County Commission, said the landscape has changed significantly since the groundbreaking ceremony in 2007. "The conversion of our vast coal resources is a solid investment in the future of Campbell County and the state of Wyoming," he said. "We're proud to call you neighbors."

Tom Murphy, mayor of Gillette, said two of the state's biggest industries—tourism and energy development—can live side-by-side. Reading from a list of humorous Wyoming stereotypes, he said to thunderous applause, "Not only do we (Wyoming) have electricity, but without Wyoming, you wouldn't have any."

"This plant provides jobs for hard-working Americans. Producing electricity takes hard work and coal helps make this country great. The last thing this country needs is expensive electricity."

Murphy said it's nice to see a plant that is "made in America."



Dave Freudenthal, former Wyoming governor, was a speaker at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Dry Fork Station. At that event, he said the growth of the American economy and the growth of the economy in this region are linked to reliable and available supplies of electricity. He continued with that theme.

He said Wyoming is the single best location for developing energy. “When Dry Fork was announced, we knew that developing coal was under attack, and there were even thoughts that it would be the last coal plant built in the country. I hope it’s not. It took perseverance by many dedicated men and women to complete this project. They deserve a lot of credit. Basin Electric did it right.

“We in this state have nothing to be ashamed of. We should be proud,” Freudenthal said about basin electric power cooperative.

Basin Electric is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck, N.D. It generates and transmits electricity to 135-member rural electric systems in nine states: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. These member systems distribute electricity to about 2.8 million consumers.
