

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2026 | SALT PALACE CONVENTION CENTER

INTERMOUNTAIN CRITICAL MINERALS SUMMIT

THE UNIVERSITY of UTAH

Utah Mining Association

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 111TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE UTAH MINING ASSOCIATION



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WELCOME TO THE SUMMIT



BRIAN SOMERS

President

Utah Mining Association

Utah's mining industry has a long and proud history, and I am pleased that we can continue to celebrate that tradition as we gather for UMA's 111th Annual Convention and the Intermountain Critical Minerals Summit.

Our industry continues to play an essential role in the state's economy and in supplying the minerals our nation depends upon. As demand for critical minerals grows, so does the need for responsible resource development, reliable domestic supply chains, and a skilled workforce.

Our collaboration with the University of Utah and our national laboratory partners is an important part of this effort. By bringing together industry experience, academic research, and scientific expertise, we can better address the challenges facing mineral development and identify opportunities for the future.

I appreciate the many speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and attendees who have made this event possible. Thank you for your continued support of Utah's mining industry, and I hope you find the discussions over these two days valuable and productive.



TAYLOR RANDALL

President

University of Utah

On behalf of the University of Utah, I am pleased to join the Utah Mining Association in welcoming you to the Intermountain Critical Minerals Summit and the Association's 111th Annual Convention.

Thank you to the Utah Mining Association for bringing this community together. A convention that has endured for 111 years speaks to the lasting importance of this industry to Utah, and this year's gathering comes at a pivotal moment for critical minerals.

At the U, critical minerals aren't something students simply study. They're something they experience—in labs, at mining sites and in processing facilities. Drawing on strengths from a variety of programs and career pathways across multiple colleges, we amplify research and prepare graduates to step into every stage of the critical minerals value chain. Efforts like the Institute for Critical and Strategic Minerals help us accomplish this. The result is graduates that are ready for impactful careers.

Together with our partners in industry, government, the national laboratories and fellow universities, we are building the talent pipeline America needs. Built in Utah. Built for America. We look forward to working alongside you to shape what comes next.

EVENT SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8:00–9:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast, *Sponsored by The Western Way*
9:00–9:10 AM	Welcome to the Summit
9:10–9:25 AM	Opening Keynote: Governor Spencer J. Cox
9:25-9:40 AM	Special Video Remarks
9:40–10:30 AM	Panel 1: Critical Minerals for Economic and National Security
10:30–10:50 AM	Networking Break, *Sponsored by Barney Trucking and DISA Uranium*
10:50–11:40 AM	Panel 2: Utah's Workforce Pipeline
11:40 AM–12:05 PM	Luncheon Keynote: Congressman Burgess Owens
12:15–1:15 PM	Lunch / Partner and Sponsor Engagement, *Sponsored by Lilac*
1:15–2:05 PM	Panel 3: Critical Minerals Processing and Smelting
2:05-2:35 PM	*The MINES Center: Strengthening America's Critical Minerals Future*, Dr. Adam Cohen, President & CEO, Associated Universities, Inc.
2:35–3:25 PM	Panel 4: Federal Policy
3:25–3:45 PM	Networking Break
3:35-5:45 PM	Reverse Expo (For Pre-Registered Members)
3:45–4:35 PM	Panel 5: From Ore to Innovation
5:00-5:30 PM	Headshots for Members and Partners
5:30–7:00 PM	Welcome Cocktail Reception, *Sponsored by Pace Analytical*



EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:00–9:00 AM	Breakfast and Networking, Sponsored by *Jennmar*
9:00–9:10 AM	Opening Remarks
9:10–9:20 AM	Opening Keynote: President Taylor Randall, *University of Utah*
9:20-9:40 AM	Fireside Chat: *The Future of Critical Minerals Research & Innovation*, University of Utah President Taylor Randall and Dr. Jud Virden, Director, National Laboratory of the Rockies
9:40–10:30 AM	Panel 1: National Laboratories and Universities
10:30–10:50 AM	Networking Break, *Sponsored by DISA Uranium and Barney Trucking*
10:50–11:45 AM	Panel 2: Building America's Critical Minerals Supply Chains
11:45 AM–12:30 PM	Utah Mining Association Business
12:30–12:40 PM	Announcements / Transition to Lunch, *Sponsored by Lilac*
12:40-1:30 PM	Luncheon Panel (Banquet Room): *The Next Generation Speaks Panel Sponsored by Revival Gold and Utah Potash*
1:40–2:30 PM	Panel 3: State Policy
2:30–3:20 PM	Panel 4: Critical Minerals Projects in Utah
3:20–3:40 PM	Closing Keynote: Congresswoman Celeste Maloy
3:40-4:00 PM	Closing Session: Summit Commitments and Next Steps



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KEYNOTE **SPEAKERS**



SPENCER J. COX
Governor of Utah

Gov. Spencer J. Cox is a husband, father, farmer, recovering attorney, and Utah's 18th governor. He also served as the 2023-2024 chairman of the National Governors Association.

Gov. Cox has a long track record of public service, serving as a city councilmember, mayor, county commissioner and state legislator before being appointed as Utah's lieutenant governor in 2013. He was sworn in as governor on Jan. 4, 2021.

During his first term in office, Gov. Cox cut $1.1 billion in taxes, implemented landmark changes in water law, water conservation and infrastructure planning, locked in record funding for education and teachers, enacted universal school choice and secured funds for affordable housing. A long-time advocate for suicide prevention and mental health resources, he's become a national voice on protecting youth from the harms of social media. He also signed early education and workforce program funding, launched the One Utah Health Collaborative, and expanded opportunities for women, diverse communities and those living in rural parts of the state.

With a focus on solutions, Gov. Cox promotes respect in politics and innovation in government, works across party lines to find common ground and regularly participates in hands-on service projects. These elements were the foundation of his NGA Chair's Initiative, "Disagree Better: Healthy Conflict for Better Policy."

A sixth-generation Utahn, Gov. Cox was born and raised in Fairview, a town of 1,200 in the center of the state. He met First Lady Abby Palmer Cox at age 16 and they married after he returned from serving a two-year mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mexico. He attended Snow College, Utah State University and the Washington and Lee University School of Law, then clerked for U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart and worked at a Salt Lake City law firm. Several years later, Gov. Cox and First Lady Cox moved back to Fairview to raise their four children – Gavin, Kaleb, Adam, and Emma Kate – on the family farm. The governor and first lady currently reside in the Kearns Mansion, also known as the Governor's Mansion, in Salt Lake City.



TAYLOR RANDALL
President, University of Utah

Taylor Randall is the 17th president of the University of Utah and the first alum in 50 years to lead the U. President Randall has an infectious energy and passion for his alma mater. Since stepping into the role in August of 2021, he's been on a mission to make the U a top-10 public university with unsurpassed societal impact. Under his leadership, the university launched Impact 2030, a strategic plan to revolutionize the student experience, change the world through research, and serve the state through the university's teaching, research, service, and health care missions. Initiatives underway include the Eccles Health Campus and Eccles Hospital in West Valley, a second campus for Huntsman Cancer Institute in Utah county, a campus master plan that builds college town magic, the One-U Responsible AI Initiative, and research funding programs that drive innovation and launch solutions into the real world faster.

Taylor Randall is a true champion of higher education. He believes the University of Utah can chart a new course for how universities can improve lives and change society for the better. And he is excited to lead the U into its best era yet.

KEYNOTE **SPEAKERS**



BURGESS OWENS
U.S. Representative for Utah's 4th Congressional District

Burgess grew up in a successful, segregated black community in the 1960's Deep South. He received a scholarship to play football at the University of Miami, where he earned a BS in biology and chemistry. Burgess was a first-round NFL draft pick in 1973, playing safety for ten seasons with the New York Jets and the Oakland Raiders, and won the Super Bowl with the 1980 Raiders. After retiring from the NFL, Burgess worked in the corporate sales world and eventually moved the Owens family to beautiful Utah.

Before being elected to Congress, he started Second Chance 4 Youth, a non-profit dedicated to helping troubled and incarcerated youth. Burgess now serves as Vice Chair of the House Education and Workforce Committee and a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Burgess believes in dreaming big and follows the four guiding principles of faith, family, free markets, and education.



JUD VIRDEN
Laboratory Director, National Laboratory of the Rockies

Dr. Jud Virden serves as Director of the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR), bringing more than 30 years of experience in energy research, technology development, and scientific leadership. Before joining NLR in 2025, he served as Associate Laboratory Director for Energy and Environment at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, overseeing approximately 1,700 scientists, engineers, and staff. Throughout his career, he has advanced major initiatives in grid modernization, energy storage, and public-private partnerships.

A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Virden holds bachelor's and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Washington.



ADAM COHEN
President & CEO, Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI)

Dr. Adam Cohen serves as President and CEO of Associated Universities, Inc. (AUI), bringing more than 30 years of experience in scientific research management, energy policy, and national laboratory leadership. Before joining AUI in 2017, he served as Deputy Under Secretary for Science and Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy, overseeing basic science, applied energy research, technology development, and stewardship of 13 national laboratories. He previously held senior leadership positions at Argonne National Laboratory and Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory.

Dr. Cohen also serves as a Senior Associate with the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Energy and National Security Program. He earned his bachelor's degree in materials engineering from Columbia University, his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, and his Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Northwestern University.

KEYNOTE **SPEAKER**



CELESTE MALOY

U.S. Representative for Utah's 2nd Congressional District

Celeste Maloy is committed to cutting red tape and restoring accountability to government so that Utahns have the freedom to succeed. Born in Cedar City, Utah and raised in Hiko, Nevada, she grew up in the small-town West before attending Southern Utah University, where she earned a degree in agriculture.

Celeste began her career as a soil conservationist, spending a decade working directly with Utah families and farmers. She went on to earn her law degree from Brigham Young University and built a distinguished legal career focused on public lands and water issues. She served as a deputy Washington County attorney, public lands attorney for the Utah Association of Counties, and staff attorney for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. Most recently, she served as Chief Legal Counsel to Representative Chris Stewart before being elected to Congress in 2023.

In Congress, Representative Maloy serves on the House Appropriations Committee, where she fights for a balanced federal budget and delivers on Utah priorities. She also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee, defending Utah's rights to use and access its natural resources and public lands.

As Chair of the Congressional Western Caucus—one of the largest caucuses in Congress—Congresswoman Maloy leads efforts to amplify rural voices and Western priorities on the national stage. She is passionate about cutting red tape, restoring accountability to government, and protecting local communities from federal overreach.

Congresswoman Maloy is honored to represent Utah's Second Congressional District and remains committed to the principles that define the rural West: freedom, self-reliance, and the right of communities to chart their own future.

PANEL 1

9:40 - 10:30 AM

Critical Minerals for Economic and National Security

MODERATED BY

IVY ESTABROOKE



Independent Director, Rare Earths Americas



NATHAN CARDINELL

Senior Staff Materials Engineer Lockheed Martin



GREG GREGORY

Former President Materion Natural Resources



CORY SMITH

Principal Advisor – Process, Research & Development Rio Tinto Copper



TAYLOR SULIK

CEO Mithril Mining

PANEL 2

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

10:50 - 11:40 AM

Utah's Workforce Pipeline:
Preparing Students and Workers for Critical Minerals Careers

MODERATED BY

VIC HOCKETT



Associate Commissioner
Talent Ready Utah



JASON KAISER

Dept. Chair of Geosciences, Professor of Geology
Southern Utah University



PEARL SANDICK

Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and Dean of the College of Science
University of Utah



ASHLEY SCHULTZ

Program Manager in Workforce Training and Continuing Education
Salt Lake Community College



BRIAN STEED

VP for Government and External Relations
Utah State University

PANEL 3

1:15 - 2:05 PM

Critical Minerals Processing and Smelting:
Closing the Midstream Gap

MODERATED BY

MICK McCASLIN



Principal
McCaslin Consulting



PETER FLANAGAN

Senior VP of Sales & Key Accounts
FLSmidth



MIKE FREE

Professor Metallurgical Engineering, Dept. Chair, Director Institute for Critical and Strategic Minerals at the University of Utah



CURTIS MOORE

VP Marketing & Corporate Development
Energy Fuels



RYAN WALTON

Principal Advisor Processing
Rio Tinto Copper Technical

PANEL 4

2:35 - 3:25 PM

Federal Policy:
Building a Predictable Path from Discovery to Production

MODERATED BY
MEGAN HOUDESHEL



Partner,
Specializing in Environmental Law and Mining
Dorsey & Whitney



JUSTIN ANTHONY

Deputy Chief of Staff
Senator Mike Lee



DANA DEAN

Acting Director
Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining



PARKER KASMER

VP Government Affairs
Mariana Minerals



TRENT STAGGS

Region 8 Advocate
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Advocacy

PANEL 5

3:45 - 4:35 PM

From Ore to Innovation:
Research, Technology, and Commercialization

MODERATED BY
CHARLES MUSGRAVE



Dean of Engineering,
Professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
University of Utah



ANTHONY BURRELL

Research Advisor,
Materials Science
National Laboratory of the Rockies



HONGYOU FAN

Manager, Geomechanics and Geochemistry Department and Critical Minerals Program
Sandia National Laboratory



CALEB HILL

Senior Manager,
Critical Minerals & Geothermal Energy
Idaho National Laboratory



MIKE FREE

Professor Metallurgical Engineering, Dept. Chair,
Director Institute for Critical and Strategic Minerals at the University of Utah



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PANEL 1

9:40 - 10:30 AM

National Laboratories and Universities:
Turning Research into U.S. Capability

MODERATED BY
DAWN WELLMAN



Senior Fellow – Critical Minerals and Materials, Savannah River National Laboratory



SHANNON M. BRAGG-SITTON

Associate Laboratory Director, Idaho National Laboratory



WILLIAM TUMAS

Deputy Lab Director, Science & Technology, & Chief Research Officer National Lab of the Rockies



JIM REDMOND

Center Director (Acting) Sandia National Lab

PANEL 2

10:50 - 11:40 AM

From Resource to Reality:
Building America's Critical Minerals Supply Chains

MODERATED BY
BEN KOLENDER



Chief of Staff World Trade Center Utah



BROCK ALEXANDER

Vice President Government and Defense 5N+, Inc.



MATTHEW LENGERICH

President and Executive General Manager - Jervois USA



DARIAN OROZCO

VP of Development and Engineering Mariana Minerals



ROYCE FERGUSON

Senior Advisor, Non-Gov DARPA

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

LUNCHEON PANEL

12:40 - 1:30 PM

The Next Generation Speaks:
Student Perspectives on Critical Minerals

MODERATED BY
KIM BRANNON



Senior HR Director, NOVAGOLD



TRAVIS BACH

Mining Engineering, University of Utah
Field Intern at Ames Construction



BRAYDN BATH

Mining Engineering, University of Utah



LOLA NIELSON

Mining Engineering, University of Utah
Field Intern at Ames Construction



CARSON SMITH

Mining Engineering, University of Utah

PANEL 4

1:40 - 2:30 PM

State Policy:
Creating Competitive Conditions and Infrastructure for Critical Minerals Development

MODERATED BY
BRIAN SOMERS



President, Utah Mining Association



BEN HART

Executive Director Utah Inland Port Authority



STEPHANIE MILLS

Metallic Minerals Section Manager and Senior Geologist Utah Geological Survey



EMY LESOFSKI

Director of the Utah Office of Energy Development, Energy Advisor to Governor



DAVID SCHALLENBERGER

Representative Utah House of Representatives

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

PANEL 5

2:30 - 3:20 PM

MODERATED BY
PRATT ROGERS



Department Chair, Mining Engineering University of Utah

Critical Minerals Projects in the Intermountain West:
From Resource Potential to Operating Supply Chains



JONATHAN LINDLEY

Head of Strategy & Business Development
Intrepid Potash



MARK MULLIGAN

Vice President Engineering & Projects
Lilac Solutions



ANDRE ZEITOUN

Founder & CEO
Ionic Mineral Technologies



NICK PROCTOR

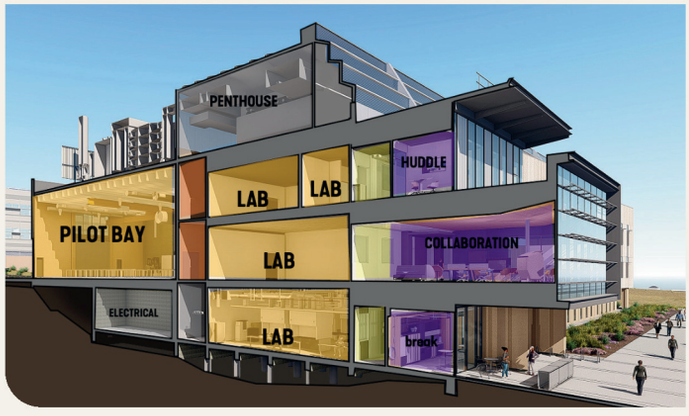
Director of Resource
DISA Uranium

National Laboratory of the Rockies

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Contact Us: criticalminerals@nlr.gov

More About EMAPS:

docs.nlr.gov/docs/gen/fy26/101966.pdf

Critical Minerals at National Laboratory of the Rockies:

nlr.gov/critical-minerals

The National Laboratory of the Rockies is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, operated under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308.

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Congratulations to our 2026 UMA Safety Award recipients, recognized at our March Awards Gala for their exceptional safety performance in 2025.
We applaud their commitment to keeping Utah's mining workforce safe and setting a high standard for our industry.

We encourage all UMA members to apply for the 2027 Safety, Environmental Stewardship, and Innovation in Safety Awards! Scan the QR code to access application materials and learn how to submit your accomplishments for recognition.

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2026 AWARD WINNERS

HONORED AT THE UMA AWARDS NIGHT ON MARCH 27, 2026



GENERAL PATRICK E. CONNOR AWARD - DR. KIM MCCARTER

Dr. M. Kim McCarter has dedicated more than five decades to advancing Utah's mining industry through engineering, education, and leadership. After beginning his career at Kennecott, where his work in slope stability and mine planning contributed to improved safety, he joined the University of Utah faculty in 1978. He served as Chair of the Department of Mining Engineering for 26 years and continued mentoring future mining professionals until his retirement in 2018. His lasting contributions to mining education and the industry have helped shape generations of mining professionals.



FRIEND OF UTAH MINING - REP. CHRISTINE WATKINS

Representative Christine Watkins has been a steadfast advocate for Utah's mining industry and rural communities throughout her legislative career. Representing House District 67, she has championed policies supporting responsible resource development, economic growth, and the industries that sustain rural Utah. Her leadership on committees overseeing natural resources, energy, and economic development has made her a valued voice for Utah's mining community.

COMMUNITY PARTNER - THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

The University of Utah has played a vital role in Utah's mining industry for more than a century through education, research, and workforce development. More recently, the University has helped advance Utah's leadership in critical minerals through collaboration with UMA and other stakeholders, including efforts supporting the creation of the Minerals for Industrial, National, and Economic Security (MINES) Center. This award recognizes the University's continued commitment to innovation, industry partnerships, and the future of mining in Utah.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP - SIMPLOT VERNAL MINE

Simplot Vernal Mine was recognized for an innovative reclamation initiative focused on restoring sagebrush habitat critical to sage grouse and other wildlife. In partnership with the Ashley National Forest, Simplot collects locally adapted sagebrush seeds near reclamation areas and propagates them for replanting. The project has produced more than 3,300 seedlings, helping improve the success of post-mining reclamation and support healthy, sustainable wildlife habitat.

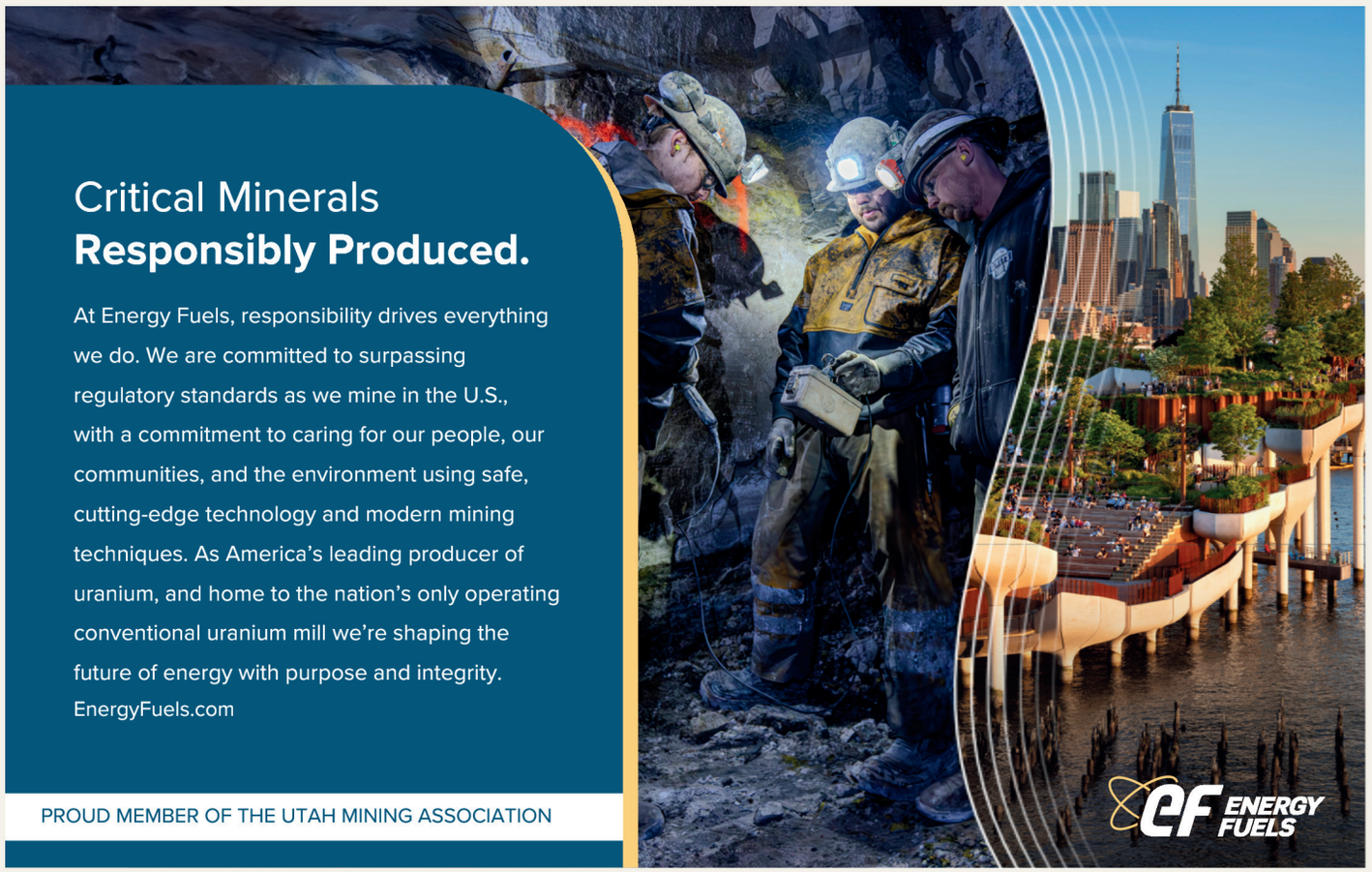


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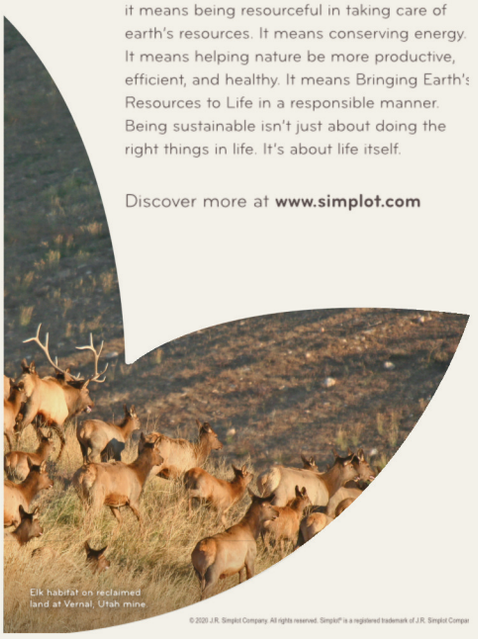
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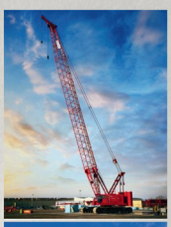
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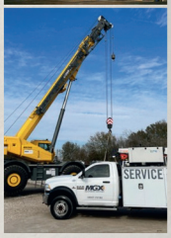


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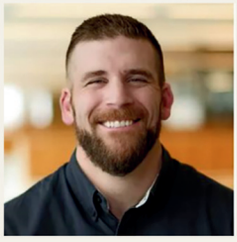
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