

Lignite Coal Industry Study: Substantial Economic Impact in Texas

Lignite Coal Advances Texas Economies While Providing Much Needed Affordable, Reliable Energy

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 13, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- According to a newly released study conducted by the Center for Economic Development and Research (CEDR) at the University of North Texas, lignite coal mining, the manufacture of activated carbon from lignite coal and coal-fired electric power generation creates just over \$7 billion in economic activity in Texas annually in addition to supporting 24,290 total jobs in the state that pay \$1.8 billion in labor income and injecting more than \$693 million in revenue to state and local governments.

"This evidence supported study proves once again that lignite mining and related industries are essential to the production of the goods, services and infrastructure that stoke the engine of our economy and contribute to the comfort and convenience of our daily lives." said Ches Blevins, TMRA's executive director.

Commissioned by the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association (TMRA), the study confirmed that lignite coal mining and coal-fired electricity generation are important economic engines in Texas, and that economic activity from these industries spark business activity up and down their respective supply chains, creating jobs and income for Texas residents including many small communities. Moreover, as a reliable source of fuel for electric power generation, Texas lignite coal is an important component of our power source diversification efforts, which makes the U.S. more energy independent and Texas a more competitive place to do business.

"Lignite coal operations help drive the Texas economy and are necessary to provide a stable, affordable energy mix for the state," said University of North Texas CEDR Senior Research Associate, Dr. Michael Seman. "Beyond the numbers, lignite coal mining operations are important components of their surrounding communities," stated Seman.

"From employees volunteering at local schools and as first responders to the wide range of employment opportunities and careers provided in rural regions of the state, the holistic value of lignite coal mining in Texas is significant."

A complete version of the study, *Coal Mining and Coal-Fired Power Plant Generation in Texas: Economic and Fiscal Impacts*, may be found online at www.tmra.com.

Texas Mining and Reclamation Association

TMRA is the voice for the Texas mining industry and exhibits integrity, clarity and vision in its efforts to create a balance between mineral production, environmental protection, economic strength and public welfare. The association educates the public, regulators and policymakers on the value of mining to our state's economy and advocates on issues including environmental regulation, legislation and public perception.

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