

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JUAN MINING & RECLAMATION CONFERENCE WILL BE AUG. 4

Special to the Mirror

DURANGO—Ouray Silver Mines Chief Operating Officer Brian Briggs and environmental consultant Briana Greer will present a miner's approach to environmental stewardship at the San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference in Durango, Colo. on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2016. Briggs and Greer will talk about efforts to bring the historic Revenue-Viriginus mine back into production with a focus on community engagement and environmental protection, including the recently permitted passive treatment system for mine discharge.

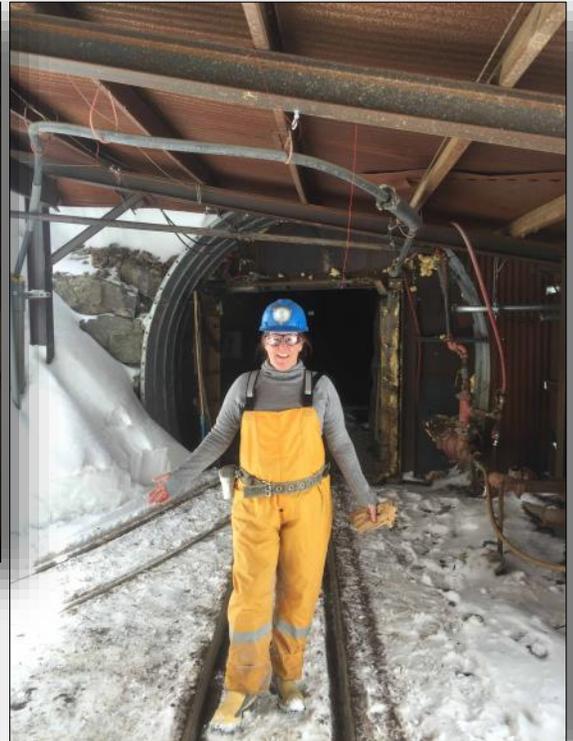
The annual conference, which was in Telluride in 2015, brings together diverse representatives from the mining industry, engineering firms, government agencies, nonprofits and citizens groups to discuss collaborative approaches to addressing long-term impacts of mining in the San Juan Mountains. This year's gathering at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Durango was purposefully planned one year after Silverton's Gold King Mine spilled millions of gallons of heavy metal pollutants into the Animas River.

The conference's keynote address, given by mining consultant and Colorado School of Mines adjunct professor Terry Braun, will be about unintended consequences related to abandoned underground mines. Braun of the international firm, SRK Consulting, will speak about the practical limitations on preparation and stakeholder expectations related to the lingering environmental impacts of abandoned mines. He has worked on such projects as planning, permitting and implementing the large-scale closure of the BHP Copper San Manuel mine and plant sites in Arizona. He has also led teams in mitigating legacy mining impacts at active and inactive mine properties in the western United States.

The conference begins with a free reception open to the public at the Powerhouse Science Center on Wednesday, Aug. 3, which will celebrate the Animas River and successes in addressing river health over the last year. Then, on Thursday, the morning presentations will focus on the



Colorado School of Mines Adjunct Professor Terry Braun, above, will present the keynote address. Ouray Silver Mines environmental consultant Briana Greer, right, will offer a miner's approach to environmental stewardship. Courtesy photos.



sheds around the San Juans as well as lessons from the Gold King Mine spill. The afternoon will focus on tools for environmental and water quality monitoring and innovative solutions for mine site remediation.

Speakers will come from a wide range of organizations including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, U.S. EPA, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, La Plata Emergency Management, and San Miguel Watershed Coalition. The schedule will include opportunities for questions and dialog including a panel discussion at the end of the day. Several sponsors and companies involved in mining or reclamation will have exhibits and representatives available to provide information.

The conference ends on Friday, Aug. 5 with a visit of the Silverton mining district, and tours of Mineral Creek-Kohler Mine, Carbon Lakes, Growler, Brooklyn, Browns Gulch, Mayflower Mill and Tailings, Sunnyside Gold, Cement Creek, Elk Tunnel, Gladstone District, and Red and Bonita Mines. Tour guides include Bev Rich of the San Juan County Historical Society, Peter

Butler of the Animas River Stakeholders Group and Kirsten Brown of the Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (DRMS).

In its sixth year, the San Juan Mining and Reclamation Conference is organized by the [Mountain Studies Institute](#), [Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety](#), [Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership](#), [Willow Creek Reclamation Committee](#), and [www.animasrivercommunity.org](#). 2016 sponsors include Harrison Western, Idarado - Newmont, Ouray Silver Mines, Colorado DRMS, AMEC Foster Wheeler, Colorado Mining Association, Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, HECLA/Rio Grande Silver, Mountain Pine Manufacturing/WoodStraw, SRK Consulting, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Western Small Miners Association, Triton Environmental, Mining & Environmental Services, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Trout Unlimited, and Trust for Land Restoration.

For conference information and registration, go to <http://www.mountainstudies.org/sjmrc/>. For a full agenda, go to <http://tinyurl.com/2016SJMRCAgenda>.